
Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

11014

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation

Countries

Regional, Gabon, Namibia

Agency(ies)

WWF-US

Other Executing Partner(s)

Enduring Earth

Executing Partner Type

Private Sector

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Climate finance, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Conservation Trust Funds, Biomes, Wetlands, Desert, Rivers, Tropical Rain Forests, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Communications, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, SMEs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Innovation

Sector

Mixed & Others

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

72 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

2,037,220.00

Submission Date

4/14/2022

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-2-7	GET	22,635,780.00	96,393,542.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	22,635,780.00	96,393,542.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To catalyze sustainable, long-term investment in globally significant conservation areas in two target countries and enable scaling out of the Enduring Earth approach in additional countries, contributing to 30x30 goals

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Deploying Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) for priority conservation areas in Gabon and Namibia	Investment	1.1 Conservation goals, funding package and project conditions agreed by key stakeholders (including government, donors, NGO partners) in target countries, for improved financial sustainability and management of priority conservation areas	<p>1.1.1 Institutional capacity assessments, capacity strengthening plan and training for key organizations responsible for the priority conservation areas, to design, receive and execute the PFP</p> <p>1.1.2 Conservation plan, community engagement plan and financial model for target country PFPs</p> <p>1.1.3 Operating manual, including institutional and governance arrangements for each PFP</p> <p>1.1.4 Single close signed by parties to the deal</p>	GET	18,600,000.00	74,223,027.00

1.2 Enhanced capacity for domestic resource mobilization in Gabon to achieve PFP goals and commitments

1.2.1 Prioritized list of potential sustainable finance mechanisms and detailed feasibility assessments (political, legal, social, institutional, financial) of prioritized financial mechanisms, including revenue projections and existence of key enabling conditions (Gabon)

1.2.2 Engagement, outreach, and advocacy strategy (including communication materials) aimed at securing support and commitments to sustainable financial mechanism implementation (Gabon)

1.2.3 Roadmap for the implementation of sustainable financial mechanisms endorsed or institutionalized by government (Gabon)

1.3.1 Establishment and capitalization of a transition, sinking and/or endowment fund in each country for improved management of priority conservation areas

1.3 Transition, sinking, and/or endowment fund(s) capitalized to invest in improved management effectiveness in priority conservation areas

Component 2: Global support to scale out PFP	Technical Assistance	2.1 PFP enabling conditions assessed and necessary conditions developed for PFP readiness in additional country(ies)	2.1.1 Viability/feasibility assessment of enabling conditions in one country/region	GET	1,600,386.00	11,567,225.00
		2.2 Improved knowledge base for PFPs among key stakeholders (global)	2.1.2 Development of necessary capacity and enabling conditions for PFP readiness in one country/region			
			2.2.1 Assessments of organizational structure and capacities of Conservation Trust Funds and their partner organizations to build lessons for future PFPs			
			2.2.2 Analytical report disseminated on financial mechanisms/structures for domestic resource mobilization to enable PFP resource flows			
			2.2.3 Knowledge exchange across the EE portfolio			

Component 3: M&E and KM	Technical Assistance	3.1 Effective project knowledge management and M&E contributes to efficient decision making and adaptive project management	3.1.1 Project lessons and KM products 3.1.2 Project M&E Plan informs adaptive project management	GET	1,357,500.00	5,783,613.00	
Sub Total (\$)					21,557,886.00	91,573,865.00	
Project Management Cost (PMC)							
					GET	1,077,894.00	4,819,677.00
Sub Total(\$)					1,077,894.00	4,819,677.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)					22,635,780.00	96,393,542.00	

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Civil Society Organization	TNC	Grant	Investment mobilized	60,000,000.00
GEF Agency	WWF US	Grant	Investment mobilized	16,100,000.00
GEF Agency	WWF US	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,716,293.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Namibia: Ministry of Environment, Tourism, Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,352,000.00
Civil Society Organization	WWF Namibia	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,225,249.00
Civil Society Organization	Enduring Earth	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	96,393,542.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The above are conservative estimates [1]. Fundraising for the Gabon and Namibia transition and endowment funds will continue until the full funding is secured. Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified: TNC investment mobilized is identified as grant funds including: \$35 million from Bezos Earth Fund for Gabon PFP deal development and transition fund (secured) \$5 million from TNC discretionary allocation for transition fund (secured) \$12 million from private foundations, including Good Energies Foundation, Hempel Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and Wyss Foundation for Gabon transition fund (anticipated) \$8 million from private individual donors for Gabon PFP transition fund (anticipated) WWF US investment mobilized is identified as grant funds including: \$15 million from Bezos Earth Fund for Namibia PFP endowment fund (secured) \$1 million from Acacia Fund (\$800k for endowment; \$200k for deal development) (secured) \$100,000 from individual donor for endowment (secured) WWF Namibia indicative grant funds include: WWF Switzerland SDC \$378,000 (secured) WWF Netherlands NPL Dreamfund \$258,128 (secured) WWF Netherlands \$99,093 (secured) WWF Germany \$140,502 (secured) WWF Netherlands wildlife credits \$231,878 (secured) WWF Sweden SIDA \$2,117,647 (anticipated) [1] The potential disbursement timeframe for project co-financing will be between January 2022 - January 2030. This includes the project preparation phase (January 2022 - July 2023), and a six-year implementation phase starting in January 2024.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
WWF-US	GET	Regional	Biodiversity	BD Global/Regional Set-Aside	22,635,780	2,037,220	24,673,000.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					22,635,780.00	2,037,220.00	24,673,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

300,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

27,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
WWF-US	GET	Regional	Biodiversity	BD Global/Regional Set-Aside	300,000	27,000	327,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,967,580.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
624,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Gabon-areas TBD			624,000.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,343,580.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Gabon-areas TBD	TBD		2,020,000.00						
Namibia-areas TBD	TBD		3,323,580.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

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

1,383,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
--------------	------	------	------

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
164,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Gabon -areas TBD			164,000.00			

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

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

1,219,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
--------------	------	------	------

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Gabon-areas TBD	TBD		1,219,000.00						

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
516000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

516,000.00

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

--	--	--	--

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

--	--	--	--

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

--

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
-------	-----------

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
----------------------	----------	----------------------	-------------------	------------------

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	41600000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
----------------------	----------	----------------------	-------------------	------------------

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	41,600,000			
--	------------	--	--	--

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024
Duration of accounting	6

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

Total Target Benefit (At PIF) (At CEO Endorsement) (Achieved at MTR) (Achieved at TE)

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)
Anticipated start year of accounting
Duration of accounting

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

Total Target Benefit Energy (MJ) (At PIF) Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement) Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR) Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)

Target Energy Saved
(MJ)

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
------------	---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	263,901			
Male	263,901			
Total	527802	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

It is envisioned that the PFP in Gabon will deliver the following outcomes over the medium- to long-term: PAs created (IUCN Cat I – VI) – 3,120,000 ha of forests, wetlands and freshwater areas under conservation PAs (IUCN Cat I – VI) under improved management – 10,100,00 ha of forests, wetlands and freshwater areas under improved management effectiveness MPAs created – 820,000 ha in new MPAs plus 10-15% of existing MPAs moved into a higher protection level designation Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (non-PA Ramsar sites) – 2,580,000 ha MPAs under improved management – 6,095,000 ha 30M metric tons of CO2 mitigation delivered annually through climate-smart forestry practices through 30,000 km2 of working forests with improved management (FSC, RIL-C) Number of direct beneficiaries – 300,000 people with improved livelihoods from new sustainable forestry and value-add timber product jobs, CBC in forestry & fisheries and lessened human-wildlife conflict It is envisioned that the PFP in Namibia will deliver the following outcomes across the entire conservancy system over the medium- to long-term: PAs (IUCN Cat I - VI) under improved management – 16,617,900 hectares in conservancies 11.6M metric tons of CO2 mitigation delivered annually through the management of approximately 4,000,000 ha of forests. Number of direct beneficiaries – 227,802 persons living in conservancy areas from enhanced livelihoods and lessened human-wildlife conflict The targets provided in the core indicator table are a conservative estimate (20% of the full scope outlined just above) of what will be delivered by close of this proposed GEF project, and these targets will be validated and updated during project preparation phase. METT scorecards will be completed for a first tranche of protected areas and conservancies during project development phase, to establish a management effectiveness baseline.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

a) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

Project Scope

The Enduring Earth Partnership (“EE”) is an ambitious collaboration to support governments and communities to conserve the resources that sustain life by accelerating inclusive area-based conservation measures in furtherance of 30x30 and other development goals through the Project Finance for Permanence (“PFP”) approach. Under a PFP approach, target countries define a unique set of commitments from multiple stakeholders in a single closing to ensure that, over the long term, large-scale systems of conservation areas are well-managed, sustainably financed, and benefit the communities who depend on them. The proposed Enduring Earth GEF Project (“the project”) will catalyze PFP initiatives in Gabon and Namibia, as well as initiate a PFP design in one additional geography yet to be determined, and undertake global work to promote enabling conditions for sustainable financing for protected and conserved areas. The proposed project will scale out the PFP approach, learning from PFPs underway in Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia and Peru, to accelerate PFP development in the additional countries.

Enduring Earth partners are working with governments and other stakeholders and rightsholders to use Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) as a vehicle to generate new sustainable funding sources to secure durability of conservation interventions. PFP is a funding model adapted from the financial sector that enhances the effectiveness and amplifies the scale of biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation. PFPs expand and strengthen conservation areas by bringing together all stakeholders (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, governments, philanthropic investors and NGOs), and securing full funding, conservation and community development commitments in a single close. Deal capital funds flow directly to organizations on the ground that are responsible for PFP administration and implementation. This model is an engine for delivering funds to local communities and governments that need access to sustainable finance to reach their 30x30 ambitions. By establishing the conditions for durable biodiversity protection and climate mitigation—including community engagement, sustainable finance mechanisms, political commitment, philanthropy, and capacity-building of local and national organizations—PFPs ensure lasting conservation while de-risking investments.

Gabon represents an incredible opportunity for conservation and climate mitigation as one of very few countries that are carbon positive. Gabon’s forests, rivers and ocean are some of the continent’s most biodiverse, with many species that are unique to the region, and many more that are still unknown or just being discovered by science. The country’s natural ecosystems harbors 6.4Gt of carbon. Resilient tropical forests cover 88% of the country and absorb 100M tons of net carbon a year from the atmosphere. Gabon has formally designated 11% of its land area as National Parks (NP), an additional 10% as Ramsar sites, and 26% of its Exclusive Economic Zone as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Gabon is one of the most forested countries in the world and has significant wildlife values, including the largest population of forest elephants and western lowland gorillas.

In Gabon, the GEF project will catalyze government commitments toward a comprehensive and ambitious nation-wide PFP and advance durable protection for Gabon’s important biodiversity and carbon stocks, thus helping to close land and freshwater protection gaps and contributing to the protection and effective management of 30% of its terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems by 2030. The Government of Gabon aims to transition from an oil-based economy to a more sustainable, inclusive low-carbon, blue-green economic model. Conservation of this 30% coverage will provide biodiversity, climate, and livelihood benefits in line with this vision. Also, this project will directly contribute to the achievement of Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF”) Target 3 currently in design as part of the Post-2020 GBF – that is, to ensure that at least 30% globally of land and sea areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Gabon is a particularly strong case for a PFP given its high biodiversity and carbon storage potential; low population density and highly (90%) urban population; political stability; commitment to 30x30 via the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People; strong baseline of nature conservation initiatives; and government support and leadership for a PFP. The ambition for the Gabon PFP is to raise funds from donors for the single close, and channel those funds through a transition fund (with a target capitalization to be determined during project development) governed by an independent Conservation Trust Fund. The Transition Fund will cover costs of establishing new protected areas and effective management of the full network of these protected areas. The project will create new sustainable financing mechanisms so that the Government can increase the flow of funds to protected areas over time. Payments from the transition fund will diminish over time as the Government meets key disbursement milestones and institutionalizes in-country sustainable finance mechanisms that will ensure permanence for conservation of 30% of its land, waters, and oceans.

Namibia is one of the few dryland countries in the world with internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots. The ecosystems of Namibia are classified into four terrestrial biomes (Desert; Nama and Succulent Karoo; Acacia Savanna; and Broad-leafed Savanna), and two aquatic biomes (Coastal Marine; and Wetlands)[1]. Namibia is a wildlife-rich country, with the largest free-roaming population of black rhino in the world, the largest cheetah population in the world, and a population of desert-adapted elephants. In 1996, the Namibian government granted communities the right to create conservancies - areas with defined borders and governance and management structures outside of parks - where communities have the right to manage and benefit from their wildlife. There are now 86 communal conservancies which make up Namibia's conservancy system. The conservancies are self-governing entities legally recognized by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).[2] The conservancy model has empowered rural communities to manage their lands and wildlife sustainably, resulting in recoveries in wildlife populations, including lions, rhinos, cheetahs, and giraffes. The conservancies cover about 20.2 percent of the country (166,179 km²) and encompass approximately 227,802 community members (9% of Namibia's population). As Category VI Protected Areas under the IUCN Protected Area Categories System, conservancies have greatly contributed to the protection of Namibia's major biomes, vegetation types and wetlands. Specifically, conservancies have increased the protection of savanna landscapes by 70%, and river systems, lakes, dams and flood plains by 68%, respectively, of what is protected under the State Protected Areas system.

This conservancy or Community-based natural resource management system has created incentives for communities to live with wildlife and to set aside vast tracts of wildlife habitat, contributing to the mainstreaming of a wildlife conservation-based economy in rural communities across the country. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, conservancies collectively generated ~\$10 million annually in revenue and in-kind benefits, including wages from conservancy jobs or joint venture tourism partnerships, and fees from tourism, among other things[3]. Conservancies and various joint ventures between local people and private sector partners form part of a broader wildlife economy which contributes US\$65M per annum to the national economy (2019), (compared to \$370M and falling for beef production). When adjacent to national parks or forming part of corridors between parks, conservancies enhance the viability of the national Protected Areas (PAs) system comprised of 20 national PAs, covering 17 percent of Namibia's terrestrial area (140,394 km²).

In Namibia, the project aims to develop the first PFP in the developing world to focus on community conservancies as an area-based management strategy. It will channel resources to an endowment (target capitalization to be determined during project development) that would fully-fund the provision of critical extension services in perpetuity to strengthen community-based natural resource management in Namibia and deliver community-driven protection and conservation impact in approximately 100 communal conservancies covering an estimated 20M hectares of land. A sinking fund would support the provision of extension services during the project cycle.

Global Environmental Problem

Recent studies have estimated that nature provides the equivalent of \$120T in services each year (globally),[4] and that half of the world's GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature.[5] Nevertheless, pressures on nature are intensifying and species, habitats, and ecosystem services are being lost at an alarming rate, faster than ever in human history.[6]

Gabon harbors rich biodiversity and significant wildlife, including over 60% of the continent's remaining forest elephants, as well as other globally significant species such as leopards, giant pangolins, mandrills, chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, and myriad other endemic fauna and flora species. While poaching, bushmeat hunting, illegal fishing and illegal timber harvest are not as rampant as in other countries of the Congo Basin, these types of activities remain of concern, particularly in some regions of the country. Recent increases in industrial agriculture, new mining concessions, and large infrastructure developments such as hydropower dams, raise concerns about the impact these activities could have on the health and condition of natural ecosystems if they are pursued without clear respect for the highest industry sustainability standards.

As in many other parts of the world, climate change may exacerbate the impacts of current pressures on the condition of biodiversity, ecosystems, and carbon stocks in Gabon. As the second most forested country in the world, with a stable, low annual deforestation rate (making it one of the few remaining High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) counties), Gabon plays an important role in climate mitigation. Yet, emissions from the land use sector represent the largest share of Gabon's carbon emissions, primarily due to forest degradation, including sub-optimal harvesting practices and illegality in the forest sector. Addressing and curbing the impact of these practices is a priority for Gabon. The project will contribute to this effort by strengthening the management of the protected areas system (representing the areas of highest conservation value), and by strengthening conditions for sustainability to underpin the development of a green and inclusive economy that respects and values the country's natural capital.

Environmental problems that the project will help to address in Namibia include loss/degradation of wildlife habitat, and disruption of wildlife corridors. Namibia is home to the largest population of the critically endangered South-Western Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*). Under-protected species include: wild dogs, hyenas, pangolin, and vultures. Commercial poaching and human-wildlife conflict are also perennial problems.

Threats and Root Causes

Gabon

Gabon has demonstrated strong environmental leadership over the last two decades, and decisive action from past and current administrations has helped to keep in check some of the major threats to species and natural ecosystems, particularly given the evident pressures across the Congo Basin region.

Nevertheless some pressures remain. In the regions bordering Cameroon and Congo, elephant poaching for ivory is still a priority issue. Poaching of other valuable species like turtles, crocodiles, pangolin, wild river hog, forest buffalo, or monkeys and apes to supply the commercial bushmeat market has yet to be fully controlled. The killing of elephants is sometimes considered a self-defense/last resort when farmers see their livelihoods threatened by elephants raiding their crops. Unsustainable artisanal fisheries for commercial purposes – both in coastal and in inland waters – are also problems that impact key species (such as shark and tuna) and aquatic habitats. Overall, pressure on endangered species and habitats varies by region, with some areas closer to urban centers or in regions harder to access by law enforcement agents seeing more pressure. Similarly, the level and type of threats over specific protected areas is uneven, depending on existing infrastructure and the capacity of the national parks service (ANPN) agents to monitor and enforce laws and regulations.

While the last decade has seen a remarkable decrease of large scale unsustainable and illegal logging, mostly through the implementation of policy reform like the ban on the export of raw logs, the promotion of forestry certification, and a strong focus on cutting corruption that was widespread throughout the sector, illegal logging activities still target high valuable timber species.

As part of the strategic development plan of Gabon (called “Emerging Gabon”), there is a desire to further develop the economy through diversifying sources of income, away from the oil and fossil fuel sector that powered growth for the past 70 years. However, some of the new sources of activities pursued can have a tremendous impact on natural ecosystems if not done properly or left unchecked. Industrial agriculture, mostly for palm oil, could significantly increase deforestation if it follows a similar pathway as other tropical forest countries around the world (fortunately, Gabon has committed to develop oil palm plantations only in degraded habitats). More worrisome is the recent surge of mining concessions (for manganese, nickel, iron and gold), given their very destructive practices. Mercury-using gold mining (mostly done illegally at an artisanal scale) is of particular concern given the very negative impact on human and wild species’ health.

Finally, large infrastructure projects such as hydropower dams can have an irreversible impact on freshwater ecosystems by altering the natural dynamic of rivers (flow and sediment regime, connectivity for migratory species, etc.) and wetlands, and all species in affected areas. One hydropower dam built in 2013 with poor environmental oversight has already started to cause significant impact in neighboring populations and habitat. Depending on their location and design, proposed future projects could compromise the ecological condition of areas of high conservation value. In sum, large infrastructure development and mining upstream and surrounding protected areas, poor harvesting practices in forestry concessions, and illegal logging, all contribute to the degradation of forest and freshwater habitat in Gabon.

Namibia

In Namibia’s rural areas, human settlement patterns, i.e. linear along roads, inhibit wildlife movements. Overgrazing, livestock encroachment into areas set aside exclusively for wildlife, over-extraction of water (from ground water and rare rivers, exacerbated by climate-driven rainfall seasonality changes or drought) also threaten wildlife. The project area also faces threats from unsustainable agricultural production including slash-and burn techniques and the encroachment of small-scale plots into communally managed wildlife areas, illegal timber harvesting (particularly in the Northeast, bordering Angola), and, at times, damaging development projects, all of which contribute to the above-referenced environmental problems.

Namibia’s communal conservancies collect data on the number of incidents reported by community game guards. The largest number of incidents reported are attacks on livestock, averaging approximately 6,000 incidents per annum since 2015.[7] The incidence of human-wildlife conflict is likely to increase as less funding is available to support patrols protecting community areas. Similarly, poaching of Namibia’s iconic rhinos and elephants (commercial, syndicate-driven poaching) in conservancies, has largely been under control, although conditions are expected to worsen in light of the decrease in patrolling by conservancy game guards and an absence of tourist activities, which prior to the COVID-19 pandemic had provided strong incentive for protection.

The downturn in tourism and loss of associated revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has translated to insufficient resources to pay more than 1,000 people in critical conservation and operational roles in the conservancy system. The wages of an additional 1,400+ community employees working at joint venture tourism lodges and hunting concessions are also at risk as a result of reduced tourism numbers. It is possible that some businesses will close permanently. The loss of these jobs could increase poverty in conservancies. With limited opportunities to generate income in other ways, previously employed individuals and their families could be forced to rely more heavily on natural resources to sustain their livelihoods.

Finally, while there are prospecting licenses (including for uranium, oil and gas, copper, gold, iron, among other resources) issued in most of the country, including in conservancies, most of these are not in actual use. Should they be activated, the expansion of mining and prospecting, and associated infrastructure projects has the potential to degrade ecosystems and contribute to habitat loss.

Barriers that need to be addressed

At the global level, key main barriers to durable conservation of globally significant biodiversity are (a) insufficient protected and conserved areas, and (b) lack of effective management of protected and conserved areas, in part due to lack of secured funding.

Well-governed and effectively managed protected and conserved areas are proven policy tools for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services. Significant progress has been made in area-based conservation over the past twenty years. Currently, ~16% of the land and 7.4% of the ocean is in areas designated or proposed for protection, although only 2.5% of the ocean is in highly/fully protected areas. Yet, despite this, around 4,900 or 33% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) remained without protection in 2019.[8] Moreover, the majority of protected areas are state-governed, and protected area networks have tended to be underfunded. In many legally established protected areas, levels of management have been insufficient to halt degradation resulting in “paper parks”.

A significant barrier to area-based conservation in many countries is underfunding of protected area systems and OECMs. A conservative estimate of the current annual global financial shortfall for area-based conservation probably exceeds the multi-billion dollar mark. Insufficient funding means that both the network and individual protected areas have inadequate staff, equipment, and other management necessities. Management effectiveness assessments have been conducted across only ~18% of the area covered by protected areas, and it is likely that many do not meet the standards for full effectiveness.[9]

As countries move towards the 30x30 target, funding will become even more critical to keep pace with the expansion and management needs of conservation areas. Experience has shown that domestic resource mobilization is often one of the most challenging elements of a PFP for developing countries.

Gabon

In Gabon, the critical barriers to achieving 30% conservation, and effective management, across the marine, freshwater and terrestrial areas of Gabon, include:

1. Gaps in representation of key habitats in areas with formal high biodiversity protection designation

Gabon has formally designated about 50 protected areas representing: 11% of its land area as terrestrial National Parks (NP) (for a total of 13 NP), an additional 10% as Ramsar sites (for a total of 9 sites), another 2% terrestrial in other designation categories (presidential reserve, world heritage sites, hunting domains, etc), and 26% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

However, not all designations carry the same legal backing in national legislation, and in some cases, like with Ramsar sites, the designation is recognized internationally, but the country has yet to develop national policy and legislation to provide clarity with respect to allowed/unallowed uses to enable enforcement. In the case of MPAs, the 20 designated areas fit in two categories. First, marine parks (there are nine), which are considered a high protection category with a clear biodiversity protection purpose and strong provisions relating to limitations on use. These represent less than 1% of the EEZ. The rest of the MPAs (eleven) are designated as “aquatic reserves,” with no precision in the legislation regarding allowable uses. In these areas, the management plan prescribes the protection and management activities to be enforced. Because these plans need to be revised every three years, any agreement on restrictive uses inside these MPAs can be easily overturned.

Freshwater protection (like in many places around the world) is considered to be covered through terrestrial designations. But this assumption tends to result in the underrepresentation of key freshwater habitat in the system, and management measures for protected areas seldom address the unique needs of aquatic ecosystems. Largely, the current network of protected areas in Gabon was designed without regard to the representation of freshwater ecosystems, and the existing and available protection designations in Gabon do not capture the dynamic and interconnected nature of freshwater systems (flow and sediment regime, conditions for migratory movements, etc.). Lack of sufficient data and scientific information, and clear consideration of management requirements for this unique ecosystem type have inhibited a filling of the gap in representation.

2. Lack of resources and capacity for effective management

Gabon's protected areas system lacks adequate funding, leaving gaps in proper enforcement and threat abatement. Only the national parks (13 terrestrial parks and the small marine parks) have dedicated budget support from the government, and this support is far from sufficient to pay for management, security, community relations, and monitoring, among other needs. In addition, government funding is not processed automatically each year, with the result that ranger salaries and/or other costs may go unpaid for months. There is a need to change this so that the funding flows regularly on a monthly basis. Other Marine Aquatic Reserves, Ramsar sites (outside of National Parks) and other protection designations receive no dedicated funding from government. Gabon is reliant on donor grant cycles and project-based funding, which does not allow for longer term financial sustainability for the establishment and management of marine, terrestrial and freshwater conserved and protected areas. There are currently no existing sustainable financial mechanisms for generating income for conservation in a durable manner. While there is good potential for tourism, this has largely been unrealized due to barriers such as poor road and travel infrastructure, difficult visa processes, and the high cost of living in Gabon. A key effort of this proposed project will be to identify and implement sustainable finance mechanisms for the protected areas of the country.

While the National Parks Agency (ANPN), has some basic infrastructure and a workforce of rangers to deploy in most parks, they are not enough to provide proper coverage of all the parks, particularly in the most remote areas of Gabon. Funding to secure proper maintenance of equipment and infrastructure is unreliable. This lack of adequate funding causes hardships for the ANPN to "make ends meet," putting extra stress on committed staff and/or leaving gaps in the ability to provide proper enforcement. As noted, not all of the Aquatic Reserves, Ramsar sites and other designated areas have management plans or staffing.

There is a critical need to unlock investment and technical capacity to ensure the protected areas system is both functional and durable, and to strengthen the political framework to increase effectiveness of designation and guidance for protection and management.

3. Lack of coherent policies and incentives for broader community participation

The threats to biodiversity and ecosystems protection described in the previous section are exacerbated by poor articulation of policies across sectors. Gabon remains committed to the "Green Gabon" pillar of its "Emerging Gabon" strategic development plan, and given potentially conflictive developments, it has become clear how important it is to have a thoughtful, integrated land use and conservation plan, and articulated policies across sectors that address current incompatibilities. Biodiversity and habitat protection, and the establishment and effective management of protected areas need to be an essential component

of Gabon's national land use plan, currently in development. A more effective articulation of a cross-sectoral policy framework is also needed to build durability of the conservation interventions. Addressing some of these "foundational system" requirements will be considered and built into the closing conditions of a PFP.

Just as important as a coherent sustainable development policy framework, is the need to have required resources and capacities to properly implement it. In the case of the protected areas network, limited resources for enforcement and management in some parks leaves the the door open to poaching, illegal logging and gold mining, and illegal and unregulated fishing. Lack of proper plans (and associated resources) to address the livelihoods of communities living near and surrounding national parks constitutes another barrier to the durability of protected areas. Small scale farming, hunting, and fishing are important subsistence activities in remote areas, particularly surrounding protected areas, and when following best practices, they represent significant opportunities for low income, rural and marginalized communities to improve their livelihoods. However, there hasn't yet been enough focused and decided actions to promote these types of activities as part of the conservation agenda in Gabon – a significant gap that needs to be overcome in order to build socially and ecologically resilient landscapes, where local communities see a clear benefit from well managed and protected areas.

Similarly, in many rural areas surrounding parks, when communities come into direct conflict with wildlife (as when elephants destroy agricultural plots which significantly affects their livelihoods and negatively affects community support for conservation), the park administration has little to no means and alternatives to provide to the aggravated communities. Enforcement of the legal restrictions within protected areas must be complemented with the development of new models of sustainable resources use for communities living around them, and more broadly, with the creation of new "green and blue jobs" that can ultimately trigger broader support for conservation.

Overall, to guarantee improvements in the effectiveness of the oversight, enforcement, protection, and management of Gabon's protected areas, it is fundamental to increase the amounts and reliability of the resources available for the operation of the protected network. But it is also critical to provide resources and conditions to catalyze new sustainable activities for rural communities near protected areas, so they can become the best stewards of their resources. The ability to build a "blue-green," nature-based economy will determine the future of one of the world's last strongholds of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Namibia

Underlying factors contributing to the environmental problems that the EE project will address in Namibia fall into three categories: "insufficient financing for effective management," "lack of effective management & governance," and "lack of incentives for conservation." In general, government and the NGO sector lack the resources and staff required to respond to the growing need for operational and governance support services among the conservancies. As the costs of conservation rise and public budgets and ODA funds available to Namibia decline, there is a widening gap between conservancy needs with respect to programmatic support and the skills and technical and financial support available to them, which leads to suboptimal conservation performance and impact.

Insufficient financing for effective management

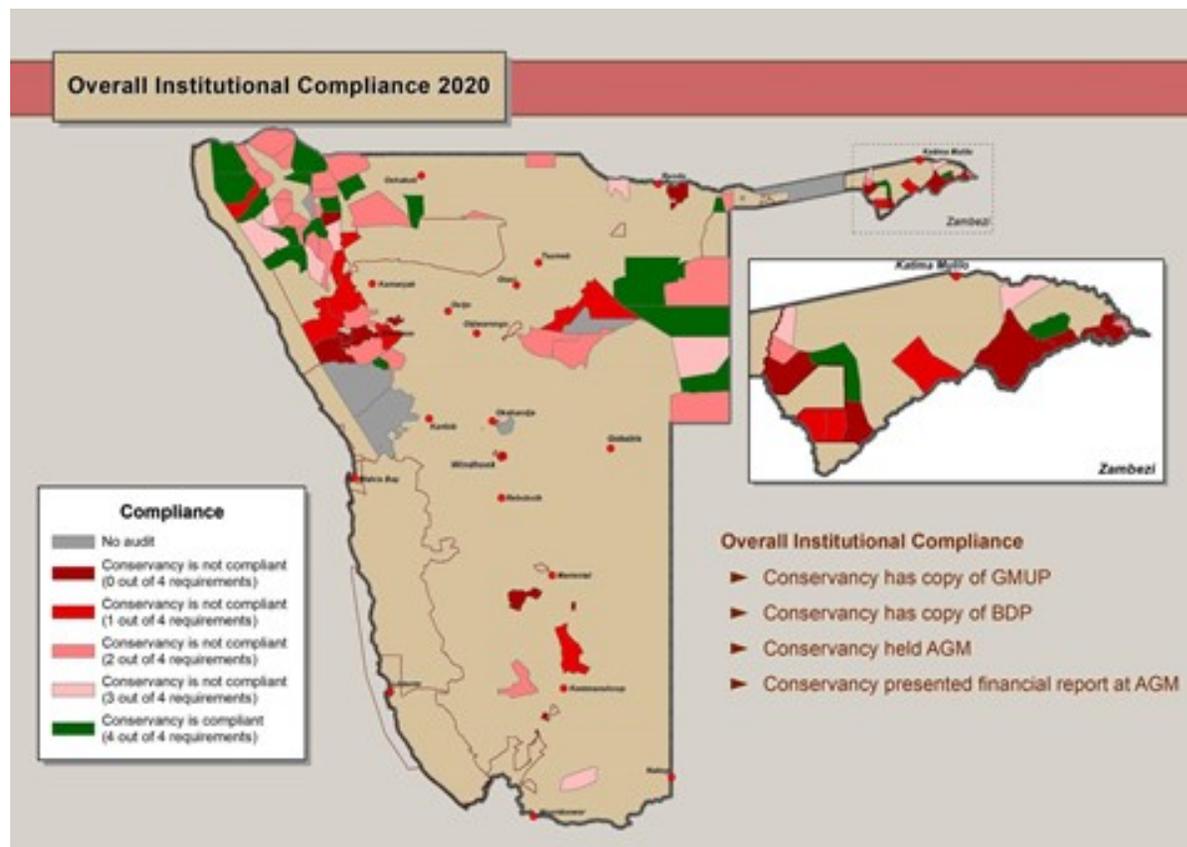
Although government recognizes the importance of community-based natural resource management as a rural development strategy, public investment in the system is low. NACSO is a consortium of Namibian civil society organizations that work together to support, promote and strengthen community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Full and associate members give direct support to conservancies in the form of training, advice, technical and logistical support, and advocate for sustainable development by developing links to the tourism industry. However, support to conservancies tends to be

piecemeal, short-term, donor funded, and project based. Members focus most of their effort on those conservancies that they can raise funding for. Lack of coordination and limited financial resources in the NGO sector inhibits optimal natural resource management and monitoring as well as institutional development and governance. The rising cost of conservation and downturn in tourism and associated revenues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic puts even greater strain on the limited financial resources available to the CBNRM / conservancies system.

Lack of effective management & governance

Financial resources constraints to the provision of critical extension services, contribute to suboptimal natural resource management and institutional effectiveness at the system and conservancy levels. Conservancies have identified limitations in the following areas: mapping, management planning, quota setting, hunting concessions, harvesting systems, human wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, anti-poaching systems, game censuses and introductions, monitoring systems, and law enforcement support, among other things. These services are provided by "extension service providers" (NACSO members and technical staff of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)) but unequally due to the factors noted above, namely, reliance on short-term project funds that NGOs can fundraise for.

With respect to institutional effectiveness, lack of resources to NACSO/the conservancy support system has impacted the ability of conservancies and partners to: strengthen management effectiveness and governance in conservancies, and to a lesser extent, to expand the network of conservancies due to lack of legal and policy support; engage stakeholders; resolve conflicts; build capacity through learning exchanges and training, e.g. regarding conservancy governance; and hire enough skilled managers, among other things. Map 1 below illustrates the extent of compliance across the system with key institutional performance indicators prescribed in CBNRM policy. Indicators include: whether a conservancy convened an annual general meeting; whether they have a benefit distribution plan; whether there's a game management plan; and whether conservancy management presented a financial report at the annual general meeting.



Conservancy Management Committees are elected according to conservancy constitutions. Committees make decisions and provide guidance for permanent conservancy staff members, which include a manager, office administrators (for some conservancies) and game guards. The staff members are responsible for day-to-day management and report to the committee, which in turn reports to the broader membership at community meetings. Conservancy governance has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years and support is needed to improve transparency and community involvement in decision making and accountability within CBNRM. Although some progress has been made, challenges remain, including: poor information flow between conservancy management committees and conservancy members, weak financial management, and inequitable sharing of benefits in conservancies.

The extension services to be funded through this project will be in direct alignment to the above mentioned conservancy capacity constraints and technical support needs. At present, these services are being provided mostly by the NGOs that are organized under NACSO (Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Services), and technical staff of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) to varying degrees. The extent and consistency in service provision is largely influenced by the availability of funding to render these services, which unfortunately has been generally short-term and driven by the interest of the funding source. This led to selective provision of support, both geographically and thematically; thus not always even or driven by local needs. The hope is that

the provision of predictable long term funding through an endowment facility, as planned through this project, will allow joint planning and identification of the most critical support needs by the conservancies and service providers, to ensure that the provision of extension services will be primarily responsive to locally identified and jointly agreed priority needs.

Lack of incentives for Conservation

Many rural communities in Namibia live alongside wildlife, which can damage crops and harm livestock, contributing to a perception that biodiversity is a direct threat to their livelihoods rather than a potential source of livelihood support. In order to offset this perception, communities need to derive benefits from wildlife and from conservation, for example, from tourism and associated income, including crafts, and from conservation hunting, among other things. These provide important sources of income in rural communities with few job opportunities – the most intense human-wildlife conflict occurs in some of the poorest parts of the country – the current level of returns and benefits from wildlife do not cover the losses generated from human-wildlife conflict. However, if the benefits from wildlife are perceived to be sufficiently high, conservancy residents appear to be more tolerant of problem causing species. In Nyae Nyae Conservancy, for example, elephants regularly damage infrastructure, compete with people for bush foods, and pose risks of bodily harm[10]. Nevertheless, people say that they wish to live with elephants because they represent income and employment through tourism and trophy hunting. Conservancies work with MEFT and non-governmental organizations to help farmers that suffer losses to wildlife and implement mitigation methods – e.g. predator-proof kraals and elephant-proof water points.

While many do, not all conservancies generate cash income, either because they have not yet developed sufficient income generation capacity, or they have little potential to generate income from hunting or tourism.[11] Similarly, while joint ventures between conservancies and private sector actors (in the tourism sector) present opportunities for the Conservancies to profit from the sustainable use of natural resources under their management, they also present pitfalls. There have been instances of conservancies signing on to “bad deals” with the private sector due to a relative lack of knowledge of contracting and negotiation. To address these limitations, many conservancies and communities need technical assistance support in the following areas: tourism planning, business planning and feasibility assessments, marketing, environmental assessments, tax assistance, contracts, insurance, product development, as well as training on: finance and administration, communications, negotiations, and infrastructure maintenance, among other things.

[1] <https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/namibia.pdf>

[2] Namibia's Nature Conservation Amendment Act (Act 5 of 1996) grants rights to manage and benefit from wildlife to communal area residents who choose to voluntarily organize themselves as conservancies. These communal conservancies are recognized as Category VI areas by IUCN.

[3] The two main income streams for communal conservancies are photographic and hunting tourism. Sales of indigenous plant products and handicrafts also provide some income for harvesters and crafts producers working in conservancies. Conservancies will ordinarily sign joint-venture agreements with private lodge and/or hunting operators after negotiations regarding revenue sharing, employment creation and other details. A few conservancies own lodges and contract the management out to private companies. See: <https://conservationnamibia.com/factsheets/communal-conservancies.php>

[4] Source: [Why 30%? – Campaign for Nature](#)

[5] [Half of World's GDP Moderately or Highly Dependent on Nature, Says New Report > Press releases | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#). See also: [Area-based conservation in the twenty-first century | Nature](#) (noting that the direct value generated by visits to protected areas is estimated to be US\$600 billion per year).

[6] IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondízio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

[7] <https://communityconservationnamibia.com/the-big-issues/human-wildlife-conflict>

[8] Source: [Area-based conservation in the twenty-first century | Nature](#)

[9] <https://livereport.protectedplanet.net/chapter-1>

[10] <https://communityconservationnamibia.com/the-big-issues/human-wildlife-conflict>

[11] There are currently 54 joint-venture lodge agreements and 56 conservation-hunting agreements on communal conservancies. Not all conservancies are suited to photographic tourism and some new conservancies do not have enough wildlife yet to sign hunting agreements. Consequently, only 69 of the 86 conservancies generated returns in 2017 and 39 were able to cover their own operating costs. See: <https://conservationnamibia.com/factsheets/communal-conservancies.php>

b) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline Programs;

Enduring Earth baseline

Enduring Earth is an ambitious partnership that aims to rapidly scale the PFP model and complete many more PFP deals in a fraction of the time to help countries to achieve biodiversity conservation targets. It is a collaboration between three conservation NGOs—The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)—and private philanthropist and investor Ben Walton through ZOMALAB that share a desire to collectively accelerate the expansion of the PFP approach globally to deliver benefits for biodiversity, people, and climate. Since March 2020, the four founding organizations have formalized their collaboration and worked together to articulate a vision for scaling up PFPs. Other key partners include bilateral, multilateral, and private philanthropic funders and national partners specific to individual PFP initiatives, such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments, and local NGOs.

EE's goal is to develop and close 20 PFPs by 2030 to protect the Earth's most important marine, freshwater, and terrestrial natural areas, engage and benefit local communities who steward and depend on those places, and deliver lasting climate benefits. This will enable sovereign nations (political and Indigenous) to accelerate durable conservation of 30% of their natural systems and benefit local communities, impacting over half a billion hectares. EE's five-year outcome is to secure eight deals in implementation and nine deals in development by 2026, setting the stage for achieving 20 PFPs by 2030. The partnership has undertaken analysis to identify countries where PFPs are feasible and where initial interest in the PFP approach has been expressed, which identified Gabon and Namibia as key opportunities. At this stage, thirteen countries meet these two criteria. The Partnership has set a fundraising target of \$4 billion to support deal development (funding to support the scoping and development of PFPs), and deal capital (funding for the transition funds of a series of PFPs). To date, the founding partners have secured a combined \$403 million.

A Portfolio Manager will coordinate EE's monitoring efforts, looking across the partner organizations and PFPs to track impact and evaluate the composition of the portfolio, among other things. The partners are building a system for long-term evaluation of PFP impacts. With World Resources Institute, WWF is analyzing existing tools and methods to help inform streamlined and effective monitoring. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) include total carbon mitigation; total extent (ha) and condition of areas covered by PFPs; and social benefits delivered (e.g. reduced vulnerability and increased resilience as measured by improved and sustained food, water, and income security) and the beneficiaries identified.

McKinsey & Company is providing support to Enduring Earth both on the individual project level and on the partnership level. For example, the McKinsey team is developing a guide for Enduring Earth to use across the portfolio on innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms, such as debt swaps, concessional loans, green bonds, and others. The team is also supporting individual projects with financial modeling (including cost and revenue projections), socio-economic analyses, and stakeholder presentations.

National Baseline: Gabon

Gabon has a system of protected and conserved areas including: 26% coverage of its marine area (established in 2017), including 1% in high protection designation; about 22% terrestrial/freshwater protected areas, including 11% in high protection designation (as National Parks designated in 2007); and an additional 10% under Ramsar designation, as detailed below. Gabon has nine Ramsar sites, of which three fully and three partially overlap with National Parks.

Land - Existing (~25% in total):

- 11 % National Parks (about 30,000 km²)
- 10 % as Ramsar sites (about 25,800 km²) not overlapping with National Parks (some Ramsar sites overlap with national parks and are counted in the figure above as NP is a stricter protection category)
- 2-3% small additional areas (e.g., presidential reserve, "domaine de chasse" (hunting domain)). These smaller categories are only paper designations and do not strongly focus on biodiversity protection.

Freshwater - Existing:

- ~11% running through or bordering national parks (2,300 km) not necessarily managed for biodiversity
- 14% (3,000 km) running through Ramsar sites

Marine - Existing:

- 26% designated MPAs. Only 1% of the designated areas are in high biodiversity protection status (marine parks) with some management capacity in place. The other 25% are in a low biodiversity protection designation with no management capacity.
- Gabon's current leadership is committed to building an equitable, clean, and robust economy that no longer depends primarily on aging oil deposits. The forest and fisheries sectors are poised to become new drivers of growth that can also help honor Gabon's commitment to building a nature-positive future. In early 2020, Gabon joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People that seeks to increase conservation to reach 30% coverage and effective management of marine and terrestrial areas by 2030. Since then, the current administration has indicated that it intends to implement a comprehensive conservation and sustainable development plan to protect 30% of ocean, 30% of land and 30% of freshwater ecosystems – making Gabon one of the first

countries to make explicit reference to protection targets for freshwater systems.[1] Gabon will do that while transitioning the nation's oil-based economy to one driven by sustainable forest management that will provide much-needed jobs to Gabon's underemployed youth.[2]

Gabon is an important voice in the global arena. It made history as the first African country to receive payment for reducing emissions and to draft its own ambitious climate law. More recently, Gabon has taken the banner of biodiversity champion as part of the ongoing negotiations for a new global framework for biodiversity (GBF) Post-2020, and led a group of African countries and like-minded countries in demanding stronger ambitions during recent negotiations in Geneva. [3]

The Ministry of Water and Forests, the Sea and the Environment (MinEF), a key partner to the development of the PFP, is responsible for developing and implementing the Gabonese government's policies on water, forests, the sea, the environment and wildlife and protected areas. Responsibilities of the Ministry include (i) to develop and lead the implementation of forest policies, including to protect and restore forest ecosystems and to preserve biodiversity and to enhance forest resources and ecosystems; (ii) to develop and lead the implementation of the wildlife and protected areas policy; to conduct an ongoing inventory and management of wildlife resources and protected areas; to reconcile development imperatives with the preservation of wildlife and protected areas; (iii) to develop cooperation and partnerships at the subregional and international levels; and (iv) to inform and raise public awareness about the exploitation of forest resources, wildlife, and protected areas.

The National Parks Agency (*Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux, ANPN*), formally established in 2009, is the executing agency, operating under the Ministry of the Environment, with the mandate to oversee the national park system and protect the national park resources and wildlife. ANPN coordinates research activities, promotes tourism and has law enforcement powers. ANPN is responsible of the day-to-day operation of the National Parks, and will be a key partner, executing and benefiting from this project.

TNC has a strong relationship and a decade-long track-record of close collaboration with the MinEF and the ANPN, and will build on that experience to support the development of the PFP.

Moreover, TNC is currently collaborating with the Ministry of Finance in Gabon for the TNC Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation program, which assists coastal nations such as Gabon to refinance a portion of their national debt and create long-term sustainable financing for 30% marine protection, sustainable economic development and climate change resilience. TNC leverages upfront philanthropy to catalyze as much as forty-times more in additional investments for nature and people, by creating new financial flows from the debt restructuring. In Gabon, this work will support further extension of the MPA to reach 30%, increase the protection level of at least 10 % under high protection status, and develop strong management capacity.

As part of the current BlueBonds project, TNC and the government (MinEF, Presidency, and Sovereign Wealth Fund) are working together to develop a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to manage the funds resulting from the debt restructuring transaction, and the ensuing endowment fund that will continue generating funds to support marine conservation once the debt is repaid. The CTF is being designed to capture, and deliver on, multiple purpose funding streams, including the ability to channel the resources secured through the PPF. The CTF is being developed following best practices and standards for trust funds, including strong governance and transparency principles.

In addition to providing institutional support and collaboration, and helping design innovative financial mechanisms, TNC brings state-of-the-art conservation planning for the protected areas system. The BlueBonds project includes a strong stakeholder-driven Marine Spatial Plan (MSP). TNC is also building on the work deployed over the past nine years in freshwater conservation to develop planning for durable freshwater protection (DFP) outcomes, with a focus on connectivity, protection of freshwater species and their movement, and management of sediments and environmental flows. TNC and GoG will then determine how best to designate freshwater areas to conserve these values. TNC is analyzing the legislation to identify what policy mechanisms could be applied that would address the main threats without compromising the needs for sustainable social and economic development. The work under DFP will provide a solid

foundation to the PFP conservation plan. TNC has also provided support to local stakeholders (government, NGOs, communities, private sector) in the development of sustainable fisheries management plans and planning for the hydropower sector to reduce impacts to freshwater systems – which will be key elements to consider in the creation of compatible economic activities surrounding protected areas.

More recently, TNC has been asked by the Government of Gabon to support work in the forestry sector, specifically around climate compatible sustainable management of its forests through Reduced Impact Logging for Carbon (RIL-C). With government and private sector, TNC has piloted this approach in a subset of logging sites and is working to expand it across more forest concessions.

The Government of Gabon is a partner in the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI). CAFI was established in 2015 and is comprised of a coalition of donors (Belgium, EU, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Korea and UK), six partner countries and a series of implementing organizations. Three programs are currently funded by CAFI in Gabon: assessing deforestation and degradation trends and drivers; expansion of protected areas and optimization of land use for food crops; and forest certification. Ongoing work funded by CAFI includes a clear process to establish participatory mapping around forest areas, including mapping livelihoods as well as the forest and biodiversity values. The latest component of CAFI (CAFI-3, yet to be launched) for which TNC will be a lead partner, includes a significant component on developing community forestry.

National Baseline: Namibia

For nearly 30 years, Namibia's conservancy system comprised of 86 communal conservancies, covering about 20.2 percent of the country (166,179 km²), encompassing approximately 227,802 community members (9% of Namibia's population) has empowered rural communities to manage their lands and wildlife sustainably, resulting in remarkable recoveries in populations of lions, rhinos, cheetahs, and giraffes.

This conservancy or Community-based natural resource management system has created incentives for communities to live with wildlife and to set aside vast tracts of wildlife habitat in rural communities across the country. As self-governing entities, conservancies – through management committees – decide how to use the income their activities generate (after conservation related costs have been covered). Financial benefits take the form of either cash pay-outs or community projects (e.g. grants for education, various other social programs). Conservancies must carefully plan to balance operating costs with potential benefits and their allocations in order to optimize their resources. In this sense the individual conservancies operate much like business entities.

The mission of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) is to promote biodiversity conservation in the Namibian environment through the sustainable utilization of natural resources and tourism development for the maximum social and economic benefit of Namibian citizens. The government is committed to retaining its CBNRM staff and funding levels to provide support services to conservancies (for Wildlife & Protected Area Management; Protection & Management of key species and natural resources habitats; Infrastructure development, maintenance and M&E; and Policy coordination and support services) in line with the national CBNRM policy launched in 2013. A national incentive scheme is currently under development to promote a culture of good governance in conservancies.^[4] The government also continues to explore opportunities to secure external funding, from both bilateral (i.e. KfW, GIZ, etc.) and multilateral funding partners (GEF, GCF, etc.) to support the sector. In support of the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, the government is also now exploring how financial institutions can extend credit to parties looking to invest in communal areas and to accelerate concessions on wildlife and tourism in communal areas and in state protected areas, with the goal of attracting investors to Communal Areas in Namibia.

Conservancy Management Committees are elected according to conservancy constitutions. Committees make decisions and provide guidance for permanent conservancy staff members, which include a manager, office administrators (for some conservancies) and community game guards. Staff members are responsible for day-to-day management and report to the committee, which in turn reports to the broader membership at community meetings. All conservancies must hold annual general meetings according to their constitutions. Many also hold district, village or block meetings to increase representation and to give a voice to members unused to speaking in large meetings. Annual financial statements are presented, discussed and approved at the AGM, and provided to the MEFT for purposes of monitoring and oversight. Annual Benefit Distribution Plans describe how the Conservancies will equitably distribute benefits. Plans should aim to disburse at least 50% of income as benefits. Finally, all conservancies manage their wildlife as per the Game Management and Utilisation Plan (GMUP) and submit a Wildlife Utilisation Report annually to the MEFT.

The Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG) has conducted several training courses at conservancy and national level, as well as implementing mentorship and induction sessions for newly elected committees.[5] Training has included financial management and gender mainstreaming. Although training targets Conservancy Management Committees with the hope that the results trickle down to conservancy members and improve governance, this has not always been the case. There is still often a disconnect between members and the CMC, disengaged community members and poor support for conservancy activities. Increased capacity within the IDWG and the MEFT is required to address this issue.

The MEFT, NACSO's IDWG and other partners including German Development (GIZ) have developed support tools. Three pilot projects on 'Membership Engagement' were implemented in northern Kunene, north-central regions and in Zambezi. Various tools including community radio programs, village meetings, household surveys, and youth-centered activities are used to engage members. Dashboards – simple spreadsheets – have been developed to assist both conservancies and NGO support staff to understand and manage governance issues.

Similarly, the NACSO Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG) and Business, Entreprizes and Livelihoods Working Group (BEL WG) are rendering training and on-site support to conservancies in the thematic areas most relevant to their expertise. Specifically, the NRWG provides training and technical support in mapping, management planning, quota setting, hunting concessions, harvesting systems, human wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, anti-poaching systems, game censuses and introductions, monitoring systems, and law enforcement support, among other things. The BEL WG provides training and technical support in tourism planning, product development and business planning, and contract negotiation and management of joint venture contracts with private sector investors, among other things.

The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) was established in 2017 as a sustainable funding mechanism for CBNRM-targeted conservation. Its mission is to promote the sustainable development of communal conservancies, community forests and related natural resource management entities with a similar legal mandate that contribute to: conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and biodiversity, including the sustainable use of natural resources; and relief of poverty and the improvement of livelihoods for the benefit of the members of communal conservancies. CCFN is governed by a seven member Board of Directors representing the public and private sectors. Day to day operations are managed by a Chief Executive Officer. The CCFN Board has approved three financing windows in line with its operational scope: 1. Minimum Support Package (MSP), 2. Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and 3. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

WWF Namibia's strategy for rendering support to conservancies is in collaboration with, and through local, field-based NGO partners. This has greatly enhanced local ownership and sense of shared responsibility in raising the needed funding to render services to conservancies. WWF technical staff participate in the CBNRM working groups, i.e. IDWG, NRWG and BEL WG, including as technical advisors to these working groups. Through both technical and financial support to the working groups, WWF is contributing to the development of planning frameworks, monitoring and management systems, training materials, standardized approaches to technical support provision to conservancies, coordinated knowledge management system at national level to

coalesce experiences and results / impacts generated across the country, and documentation and communication of achievements, challenges and future plans. WWF is in the process of hiring a consultancy to assess the feasibility of establishing a socioeconomic development fund to invest in sustainable nature-based enterprises that employ conservancy members (in sectors such as sustainable tourism, agriculture, livestock, and collection of natural resources) and sustainable local-level green industry and infrastructure investments (e.g. solar power). This consultancy, which will be completed in the third quarter of 2022, will analyze similar recent initiatives in Namibia, identify specific industries for sustainable economy, and make recommendations on the thematic scope, size, design, and funders for a fund that significantly improve the socioeconomic well-being for Namibia's communal conservancy members.

Key projects currently supported by KfW include the Integrated Wildlife Protection Project (IWPP) managed by WWF, and housed, and implemented through the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). This project aims to combat wildlife crime in the northern regions. Two other projects managed by the CCFN relate to mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and provision of COVID relief support through the Community Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF). Another major support by the KfW is aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of State Protected Area management, managed through a PMU within the MEFT.

[1] See speech delivered by Minister White as part of the Pre-COP15 event hosted by Colombia, on 30 August 2021 (fast-forward to the 6:47:51 time mark of this link):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_LorZx7Wjg&list=PLjpSs1uejVAlmyXK6E1V17bfVUyaUDE00&index=1&t=25818s

[2] Sustainable forest management in commercial timber concessions is unlikely to count toward the 30% under the current IUCN guidance, but it does count towards maintaining the current 100M tons of carbon stored and further 30M mitigation. Biodiversity will also benefit from improved forestry practices.

[3] See recent articles here: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/02/what-really-happened-at-crucial-geneva-biodiversity-talks-cop15-summit?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

[4] <https://communityconservationnamibia.com/the-big-issues/governance>

[5] <https://communityconservationnamibia.com/the-big-issues/governance>

c) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the Program;

The proposed project objective is *to catalyze sustainable, long-term investment in globally significant conservation areas in two target countries and enable scaling out of the Enduring Earth approach in additional countries, contributing to 30x30 goals.*

Theory of Change

Assuming that key criteria for PFP viability and feasibility/readiness are met in the target countries, the theory of change is that:

If all parties agree to the scope (geography) and goals of the project that the PFP will fund and support, the costs and associated funding gaps for a well-managed and representative conservation area network of the project will be identified.

If the funding gaps are identified, then transition, sinking, and permanent funding sources can then be identified to fill the gaps.

If sufficient one-time funding sources are identified, and are overseen by an independent fund administrator with a Board / oversight committee that includes representation from donors, NGOs, and government, the steering committee will have considerable leverage to ensure that negotiated commitments from partners actually occur, and that funds are spent appropriately. This would result in increased conservation area financing, increased capacity for conservation, and increased conservation area enforcement, and potentially the necessary policy changes regarding conservation area designations and registrations, and space for innovative funding sources and civil society co-management of conservation areas.

If sufficient transition, sinking, and permanent funding is in place, and the donors, government and other partners follow through with funding and policy commitments, then there should be sufficient capacity to manage the conservation area network (from government agencies, local communities, and/or in-country NGOs, depending on the specific network), patrol conservation areas, enforce conservation regulations, and monitor compliance and conservation area status.

If sufficient conservation area funding is in place, and the government and other partners follow through with its commitments for capacity and policy changes, then there should be effective management of the conservation areas, including high-quality and implemented management plans, participatory management, resource assessment, and sustainable resource use planning. Additionally, there should be effective enforcement of conservation area regulations and monitoring of government commitments, management effectiveness, and biodiversity status.

If conservation areas are effectively managed, then threats to the integrity of the conservation areas should be managed as well, resulting in reduced or non-existent natural ecosystem conversion and degradation, which in turn will result in safeguarded or enhanced ecosystem services flowing to local people who depend on them.

The Theory of Change will be implemented through in-country investment in Gabon and Namibia (Component 1), a global scale out of PFP in Component 2, and project level M&E and KM in Component 3. Project Component 1 will develop a multi-partner strategy for long term financial sustainability of the marine, freshwater and terrestrial protected and conserved areas of Gabon, and the terrestrial conservancies of Namibia. "Project Finance for Permanence" (PFP) will be the approach used to deliver long term financial sustainability. The PFP approach will be tailored to the scope and characteristics of each country. Initial assessments suggest that PFP will be viable in both Gabon and Namibia. If inherent risks or other factors jeopardize either deal, the project support will still be used to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Gabon's protected area system and for support services to Namibia conservancies. In Gabon, this would be complemented with a revision in the scope of the conservation plan, focusing the available resources in a subset of jointly agreed priority areas and interventions. In Namibia, this could occur either through a scaled down level of sustainable financing for extension services for conservancies, or through directly funding those extension services. Component 2 will assess the viability of a PFP in an additional geography(ies) and also facilitate learning and exchange among countries with PFPs in implementation or design. Component 3 will conduct project level knowledge management and will ensure effective project monitoring and evaluation.

PFP in Gabon

In Gabon, the PFP will support establishment and management of 30% of the country's terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas in protected and conserved areas. A key element of the approach is to secure the government's commitment to increase funding for protected and conserved areas nationally, and to create innovative new sustainable sources of funding in the period while the transition fund is drawn down, until the government funds and the revenues generated from the new mechanisms fully cover all needed management costs. Sources for increased government funding will be explored in project implementation, with initial possibilities including through direct augmentation of treasury allocations and the identification and implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms, including taxes on oil and gas sector, tourism revenues, carbon finance, Blue Bonds, sustainable bonds, biodiversity offset compensation, etc. The GEF project, co-financed with Bezos Earth Fund grant money, will provide technical support to the government, including legal advice and strategic guidelines, to catalyze the design of the PFP and generate the necessary conditions for its effective and efficient implementation.

Gabon has based its economic growth over the last seven decades on the extraction and export of fossil fuels. The sharp drop in oil prices of the past few years has been particularly hard for Gabon's economy, heavily impacting investments in social development. The COVID-19 pandemic of the last two years has exacerbated the country's economic struggles. Gabon aims to transition its economic growth model to build durability based on its natural capital. TNC, Enduring Earth, and the Government of Gabon will use PFP as a vehicle to help drive this transition and generate new sustainable funding sources to secure durability of conservation interventions.

By providing PFP deal capital, GEF will help catalyze Gabon's ambitious "30:30:30" vision to protect 30% of marine, terrestrial, and freshwater areas by 2030. In a **formal letter of support**, the government of Gabon indicated its intent to work with TNC and the Enduring Earth partners on a PFP to elevate investments that ensure the country's protection and sustainable development plans are robust and fully financed in perpetuity.

PFP in Namibia

The goal for Namibia is to establish an endowment to provide critical extension services to the system of community conservancies to support them in delivering community-driven, permanent protection for up to 20M hectares of land and so to reap a range of social, cultural, environmental and financial benefits, as well as contribute to the achievement of national development goals. These could include:

- Advancing sustainable development and "green" recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting improved livelihoods, creation of new jobs and income through smart partnerships with the private sector and government. Resources may, for example, contribute to the launch and improvement of joint-venture tourism operations and conservation hunting programs that provide income to conservancies which can finance social programs or cash payouts to community members.
- Promoting broader participation in conservancy governance and management,
- Reduction in land degradation through enhanced natural resource management and the promotion of environmental responsibility through natural resource monitoring and community owned management structures. Investments in the development of sustainable natural resource use as a viable land use can counter pressures on land use change that degrades ecosystems, e.g. by the mining sector, unsustainable agriculture, etc.

As in Gabon, the GEF project, co-financed with Bezos Earth Fund grant money, will provide technical support to the government including legal advice and strategic guidelines to catalyze the design of the PFP Initiative and generate the necessary conditions for its effective and efficient implementation.

Outcome 1.1 Conservation goals, funding package and project conditions agreed by key stakeholders (including government, donors, NGO partners) in target countries for improved financial sustainability and management of priority conservation areas

Under this outcome the GEF project budget and co-finance will support costs for workshops, meetings, consultancies and legal assistance for (i) building institutional capacities to undertake PFP; (ii) developing the conservation plan and financial model, (iii) preparation of an Operating Manual to guide implementation of the PFP; and (iv) defining a Single Close Agreement between the partners, which details the roles and responsibilities of the parties, the closing conditions for the Initiative and the milestones for the disbursement of resources.

Output 1.1.1 Institutional capacity assessment, capacity strengthening plan and training for key organizations responsible for the priority conservation areas, to design, receive and execute the PFP

Under this output, the capacities of key organizations, including government agencies, to fully engage in the design and execution of a PFP will be assessed, and a plan will be developed and implemented to build out capacity and close any gaps. This will contribute to generating institutional capacities in the responsible public institutions that will take ownership and lead the design and implementation work during the PFP timeline and beyond. Champions of the PFP will be identified across numerous Ministries and partners and actively engaged in the PFP process. Under this output, the project will fund strategic capacity building of the **Gabon** Ministry of Environment and ANPN managers and other government stakeholders to participate in the following outputs, including preparation of the long term conservation strategy and the financial model, establishment of a governance structure, development of an Operating Manual, scoping of sustainable financing mechanisms and effective participation in the implementation of the PFP operation, including capacity for compliance to environmental and social safeguards. In **Namibia**, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), NACSO, and other key stakeholders will be supported through capacity building to engage in the development of the conservation plan, financial model, governance structure, Operating Manual and the implementation of the PFP operation, including capacity for compliance to environmental and social safeguards.

This output may include, through co-finance, the analysis, creation and legal establishment of a best-in-class Conservation Trust Fund institution, staffing and staff training, in Gabon. In Namibia it may include the strengthening of the existing CCFN.

Output 1.1.2 Conservation plan, community engagement plan and financial model for target country PFPs

Under this output, for **Gabon**, the Ministry of Environment, TNC and other partners will undertake the work described below from GEF funds and co-finance. For **Namibia**, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), WWF, and other partners will undertake the work described below with GEF funds and co-finance. The following activities will be undertaken in Gabon and Namibia:

Conduct the underlying work for a conservation plan and financial model:

- define the geographic scope and timeframe of the PFP;
- identify the detailed baseline of management across the conserved and protected areas in scope;
- define the management goals for the suite of areas within the PFP scope;
- assess feasibility of expansion of the system;
- show the associated costs – both in terms of one-time investments and recurrent costs – to reach the anticipated level of management across all areas within the PFP scope for the timeframe;
- assess the funding gap (based on the assessment of additional needs to reach the management goal per protected and conserved areas) under the assumption of a stable baseline of public allocations;

- develop a detailed financial/cost model to estimate the required revenues from different sources, in order to meet project funding needs on a year-by-year basis and ensure that enough revenues are available to meet the annual financial needs and fulfill the financing commitments for the PFP conservation plan for the defined time period;
- as needed, define the criteria to establish the order of priority and timeline for disbursement of the endowment, sinking, and/or transition fund

Based on the above analysis, project partners will prepare and generate agreement on a conservation plan and financial model to guide the activities of the PFP with a cooperative, outcome driven focus. A community engagement plan, with consideration for livelihood opportunities, participatory management and rightholders engagement, will be developed to guide the PFP implementation.

Output 1.1.3 Operating Manual, including institutional and governance arrangements for each PFP

Towards creating the necessary conditions for effectively and efficiently operationalizing the PFPs in Gabon and Namibia, under this output the project will fund the design and set up of governance structures, including: defining the roles and responsibilities of different actors (e.g. government agencies, donors, fund administrator, etc.) in PFP implementation and management, and developing necessary financial information and planning systems. The Operating Manual will define:

- *Agreement on roles and guidance for operations*, for each of the two PFPs, to outline the composition, rights, and responsibilities of the PFP governing and management bodies and guide operations and management of the fund/s.
- *Environment and social safeguards*: outline the responsibilities of the organizations involved for roll out of any mitigation plans and for safeguards implementation and monitoring
- *Governance structure*: define key elements or prescriptions with respect to the Conservation Trust Funds (see Output 1.1.1), including the composition, functions, and responsibilities of the governing and management bodies; as well as the composition of Board or Steering Committee (SC) and advisory committees following international best practice and made up of key representatives from government, NGO, donor and community institutions.
- *Fund/s administrator*: Identification of the fund administrator and set up of the fund/s.

Output 1.1.4 Single close signed by parties to the deal

Following the completion of the conservation plan, financial model, and agreement on institutional arrangements and governance (Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3), GEF project funding and co-financing will cover technical assistance, meeting/workshop costs, and recruitment of a specialized law firm to help PFP partners define and negotiate a number of closing conditions (i.e., financial, organizational, legal and governmental closing prerequisites) that, once met, will enable the PFP partners to close the deal. Through a 'single close agreement' partners will ensure that all the resources necessary to fund the PFP goals are committed at the time the initiative is launched.

Actions to deliver this output may include:

- Negotiate and agree on the closing conditions between the member organizations of the PFP

- Develop a legal term sheet, detailing the closing conditions
- Develop a memorandum of understanding (MoU)
- Organize and hold an event for the single close agreement and to sign the MoU between partner organizations.

Outcome 1.2 Enhanced capacity for domestic resource mobilization in Gabon to achieve PFP goals and commitments

Mobilizing resources or generating additional funding for improved management is a condition of the **Gabon** PFP, and is a critical element to long-term financial sustainability of the protected and conserved areas of Gabon. This will not be a condition of the Namibia PFP and outputs appearing under this outcome will not be produced for Namibia.[1] Under this outcome, and co-finance by a Bezos grant, the GEF project will provide support in Gabon to TNC, Ministry of Environment, and other government and non-government partners to develop new options to bring income for management and/or improve existing revenue-generating mechanisms that support the costs of management. This outcome will help ensure that the Government of Gabon can identify some viable financing mechanisms which will contribute to reducing the funding gap to meet the needs of effective management in the long term of the marine, terrestrial, and freshwater protected and conserved areas.

Output 1.2.1. Prioritized list of potential sustainable finance mechanisms and detailed feasibility assessments (political, legal, social, institutional, financial), including financial projections and support for development of key enabling conditions (Gabon)

This output will provide technical and financial assistance to identify a long-list of possible mechanisms and then explore, analyze and select a short-list of potential income-generating mechanisms at a national level. The project budget will support the development of in-depth feasibility studies on potential returns of this short list and will provide guidelines and make recommendations on implementation of these options.

For the short-listed mechanisms, GEF project funds will finance consultancies for targeted in-depth feasibility studies of new mechanisms to clarify their financial, social, and political viability, and thereby identify the mechanisms that prove to be viable from an economic, political, environmental, and social perspective. Legal advisory services will assess and recommend any necessary modifications to the regulatory framework to allow the implementation of each financial mechanism. Based on the results of the feasibility analyses, the shortlisted mechanisms will be ranked according to their overall feasibility, political support, and financial potential, and will be moved forward with technical assistance for the preparation of an action plan detailing all the activities needed for their implementation.

Output 1.2.2 Engagement, outreach and advocacy strategy (including communication materials) aimed at securing support and commitments to sustainable finance mechanism implementation (Gabon)

Towards securing government budget and to increase government contributions for the protected and conserved areas, wide, and to garner support for the finance mechanisms identified under 1.2.1, cross sectoral government support will be generated through a targeted advocacy strategy and communications materials. The strategy will address key decision makers and stakeholders in Gabon, including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Finance.

Output 1.2.3 Roadmap for the implementation of sustainable finance mechanisms endorsed or institutionalized by government (Gabon)

Consultancies will assist the government to develop the sustainable finance mechanisms (this might include developing a technical procedure, a regulation, etc), and where possible, technical assistance, workshops, field work to pilot or implement the mechanism.

Outcome 1.3 Transition, sinking, and/or endowment fund(s) capitalized and capacitated to invest in improved management effectiveness in priority conservation areas

Output 1.3.1 Establishment and capitalization of a transition, sinking and/or endowment fund in each country for improved management of priority conservation areas

The majority of the GEF funds will go to the transition fund for Gabon, and in Namibia, to an endowment and sinking fund. The funds will flow from the GEF Agency to each of these funds once the single close is executed. These funds can then be utilized for the activities to establish new areas and achieve effective management of all areas, depending on the definition of goals under the Conservation Plan (developed under 1.1.2), as well as for effective community engagement, capacity building of site-based managers and for managing and monitoring environment and social safeguards.

In **Gabon**, the project will capitalize a transition fund that will support terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in protected areas (National Parks, Ramsar sites and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)s protected area status). Depending on the definition of the Conservation Plan (Output 1.1.2), this may include support for establishment of new terrestrial and freshwater protected areas, increased protection status for some existing protected areas such as Ramsar sites, and improved management effectiveness across all these categories of priority conservation areas. The currently envisioned goal of the PFP is to conserve 30% of Gabon's terrestrial and freshwater systems through a strengthened Protected Areas system that includes National Parks, Ramsar sites and new OECMs, by 2030, safeguarding a globally critical hotspot for biodiversity and climate mitigation. The PFP will support increased capacity (staff, resources) to manage PAs and direct support to community forests and freshwater resources managed by villages. During project development, GoG and TNC will determine whether the first PFP support will go to an initial tranche of areas, and will define the first tranche.

In **Namibia**, the project will capitalize an Endowment Fund to support communal conservancy operations (natural resource management) and governance through the provision of extension services by NACSO and its membership to conservancies in the following themes:

1. *Natural Resource Management and Monitoring*, to include: Mapping, management plans, quota setting, hunting concessions, harvesting systems, human wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, anti-poaching systems, game censuses and introductions, monitoring systems, law enforcement support, etc.
2. *Institutional Development and Governance*. Financial support will contribute to compliant, transparent, and effective conservancy governance and management and may encompass:

- Legal and policy support, conservancy establishment, stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution, learning exchanges, training on: constitution implementation and amendments, Annual General Meetings, financial management and reporting, advocacy, support for training of managers, etc.

3. *Business, enterprise and livelihoods* (focusing on capacity building, not seed capital for businesses) Supporting emerging entrepreneurs to learn basic business concepts (markets, competition, supply and demand, business productivity, pricing), how to assess business opportunities, and business and financial planning. This support will help conservancies secure benefits from joint ventures with the private sector.

During project development, project partners in Namibia will determine whether the first PFP-supported extension services will be implemented with an initial tranche of conservancies, and will define the first tranche.

Component 2: Global Support to Scale Out PFP

The project will invest in technical assistance to build capacities to replicate and scale the PFP approach globally in order to advance 30x30 goals. This will include supporting the build out of a pipeline of deals ready for follow on funding; strengthening capacities within national institutions, including Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) and others; analyzing innovative mechanisms to mobilize capital to increase the level of funding available to achieve conservation goal(s); and facilitating south-south sharing of lessons across the Enduring Earth portfolio.

Outcome 2.1 PFP enabling conditions assessed and necessary conditions developed for PFP readiness in additional country(ies)

This outcome will support the evaluation of new geographies for PFP viability/feasibility. Countries will be GEF-eligible and will be identified in the project implementation phase based on the pipeline developed by the EE partnership. This includes support for activities necessary to build the readiness of a selected country or a multi-country region for a potential PFP.

Output 2.1.1 Viability/feasibility assessment of enabling conditions in one country/region

A series of consultations, workshops, and consultancies will be undertaken to deliver an assessment of PFP viability/feasibility against the following criteria:

1. Conservation priorities, programs, and challenges: Will a PFP contribute significantly to goals for nature and nature's services to people over the long term?
2. Political stability, legal and financial framework, and corruption: Is the country/region politically stable, is there a limited risk of corruption, and is there a reliable in-country legal and financial framework (to implement terms of a PFP initiative)? Is the economic structure risk acceptable?
3. Meeting international commitments: Does the in-country government(s) have a good track record of keeping international commitments?
4. History of conflict and existence of a complaint mechanism: Are appropriate actions being taken and risks mitigated regarding existing or potential conflict with local communities?

5. Long-term sustainable financing: Is there sufficient potential to develop long-term, sustainable sources of funding?
6. Potential for high-level political commitment: Is there potential for sustained in-country political commitment at the highest levels of government(s) (e.g., to change necessary policies, secure financing, etc.)?
7. Fundraising potential: Is there sufficient potential fundraising interest in the proposed PFP?
8. Capacity of implementing institutions to develop and implement a PFP: Do relevant in-country implementing institutions (e.g., the protected area agency, Ministry of Environment or other relevant authorities, etc.) have sufficient capacity to successfully plan and implement a PFP initiative, and absorb large amounts of new funding?
9. Capacity of in-country entities to assist design and coordination of a PFP: Is there an in-country entity with the capacity and relationships to help develop the PFP initiative, and coordinate in-country negotiations leading up to a deal?
10. Deal broker: Is/are there a trusted, independent deal broker(s) who can be a strong and effective negotiator(s)?

Output 2.1.2 Development of necessary capacity and enabling conditions for PFP readiness in one country/region

The viability/feasibility assessment of a potential PFP will identify areas that need additional support in order for the country or region to be ready for the development and successful implementation of a PFP project. This output will support the necessary activities identified by the viability/feasibility assessment in order to build the readiness of the place to develop a PFP. Activities could range from technical analysis to capacity building of partners and stakeholders to policy work.

Outcome 2.2: Improved knowledge base for PFPs among key stakeholders (global)

This outcome will develop a knowledge base and facilitate exchange of lessons towards developing the capacity of key stakeholders to engage across the PFP process, including country governments, conservation trust funds, other in-country stakeholders, donors and NGOs.

Output 2.2.1 Assessments of organizational structure and capacity of Conservation Trust Funds and their partner organizations to build lessons for future PFPs

CTFs are integral partners to successful PFP transactions that serve as fiduciaries for financial resources supporting the agreements, including transition funds, revolving funds and endowment funds. Consultancies under this output will evaluate institutional strengths and needs of CTFs and their partner organizations against global practice standards. The Practice Standards^[2] are a globally recognized set of evidence-based norms, covering core areas considered essential to the development of CTFs as effective institutions: governance (composition, functions and responsibilities of a CTF governing body or bodies and the content and role of governing documents); operations (strategic planning, grant-making; interactions with government, and partnerships with other organizations); Administration (organizational roles and responsibilities, operations manuals, use of financial resources and auditing); Reporting,

Monitoring and Evaluation (conservation impact monitoring; technical and financial reporting to donors; and dissemination of results); Asset Management (investment strategies, fiduciary responsibilities); and Resource Mobilization. Project resources will support assessments of CTFs across the EE portfolio to develop lessons for future PFPs.

Output 2.2.2 Analytical report disseminated on financial mechanisms/structures for domestic resource mobilization to enable PFP resource flows

This output will fund consultancies to identify and evaluate available financial mechanism/structure options to governments that could be channeled toward conservation objectives (promoting policy coherence). The report will include evaluation of potential mechanisms and case studies, with a target audience of national governments.

Output 2.2.3 Knowledge exchange across the EE portfolio

Series of analyses, webinars, case studies and workshops to present best practices on core competencies for PFP implementation and management of protected and conserved areas, and to facilitate south-south exchange of lessons and experiences among PFP countries. Indicatively, this may focus on:

- Sustainable finance mechanisms to mobilize domestic resources
- Global practice standards for Conservation Trust Funds
- Addressing policy incoherence
- Managing revenues
- IP&LC led conservation.

Component 3 Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation

The project will ensure effective monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management activities and training on key topic areas and will strengthen national and regional/global coordination among EE coalition members and stakeholders.

Outcome 3.1 Effective project knowledge management and M&E contributes to efficient decision making and adaptive project management

Under Outcome 3.1, activities will facilitate sharing of project level knowledge and lessons, and a monitoring and evaluation system will be designed and implemented during the project implementation.

Output 3.1.1 Project lessons and KM products

Under this output, networks will be established to facilitate knowledge sharing and information dissemination among project partners, especially protected areas and conservancy managers in Gabon and Namibia, and project briefs and lessons will be disseminated. This proposed GEF project will facilitate, and benefit from, ongoing sharing of lessons across the wider EE portfolio of PFPs.

Knowledge management is key for Enduring Earth's theory of acceleration, ensuring that information about overarching themes of relevance to the PFPs – such as community economic development, sustainable finance, best practices for conservation trust funds, and potential economic solutions such as ecotourism and sustainable fisheries—are shared across geographies. EE's multi-institutional structure allows for the broad sharing of knowledge and resources across member organizations and through organizational their respective networks. Enduring Earth has implemented several Knowledge Management activities to date, including webinars to share best practices and key learnings with a wide audience, and Communities of Practice to encourage more targeted knowledge-sharing among current PFP practitioners. These activities will continue to inform current and future Enduring Earth PFPs.

Strategic communications activities will be covered through Enduring Earth partner funding and managed by the EE Hub's Communications Director. Also, of note, project component 2.2 "Improved knowledge base for PFPs among key stakeholders (global)," will produce assessments of trust funds to build lessons for future PFPs, as well as analyses of sustainable finance mechanisms, including those that may enhance domestic resource mobilization efforts and relieve or resolve perverse subsidies/promote policy coherence. These products may be used to facilitate future PFP initiatives, and will be shared broadly, particularly, as noted in sub-Component 2.2.3 across the EE portfolio of countries.

Output 3.1.2 Project M&E Plan informs adaptive project management

Project level monitoring and evaluation will be funded under this output to track the project's progress and impact. The project results, corresponding indicators and targets (including GEF core indicators) in the Project Results Framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. A M&E staff will be part of the PMU to support the coordination and integration of the M&E system for the project landscapes. The project will implement the following M&E suite of activities: (i) collect and collate monitoring data to report on project performance indicators in the Project Results Framework (PRF); (ii) prepare six month and yearly Project Progress Reports; (iii) hold annual project reflection workshops with stakeholders to reflect on project strategies, risks and assumptions, and adjustments to achieve expected results and lessons learnt and to inform the PPRs; (iv) monitor and report on the implementation of the project's Gender Action Plan and conformance to the project's Environmental and Social Safeguards; (v) host regular Project Steering Committee meetings; and (vi) undertake independent project mid-term and terminal evaluation reviews. This output will be implemented at the country level and by the PMU housed in the Enduring Earth hub.

Incorporation of Lessons Learned from Previous PFPs Members of the WWF GEF Agency and Enduring Earth teams that supported PIF development for this project also supported the design and implementation of multiple previous project finance for permanence initiatives (e.g. in Peru, Bhutan, Colombia, Costa Rica and others). Their experience and knowledge of good practice with respect to PFP design is reflected in the project's theory of change, outcomes, and outputs. Likewise, these project elements were informed by the recently published GEF-funded publication "SECURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION AREAS: A Guide to Project Finance for Permanence," which provides a comprehensive description of the PFP approach, and captures the experience of practitioners and lessons learned to date. Among the important design decisions benefitting from previous PFP experience and knowledge: •the proposed project does not identify the specific individual sites that will receive GEF funds, as experience shows that this may result in the PMU focusing solely on those areas to the exclusion of the wider PFP scope; instead the funds will be pooled and cover the entire PFP scope, safeguards will cover all the funds in

each endowment or sinking fund, and a first tranche of recipient protected areas and conservancies will be identified in project development stage. •the proposed project strategy contains a contingency, whereunder if inherent risks or other factors jeopardize either PFP initiative, the GEF project support will still be used to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Gabon's protected area system and for support services to Namibia conservancies. •the proposed project provides for the assessment of institutional capacities (output 1.1.1), with a view to ensuring that national organizations in charge of overseeing, implementing, and providing sustainability to the PFP have the capacities needed for a successful PFP. The proposed project provides for the filling of gaps or shortcomings identified by these assessments. • the proposed project will invest in the identification of feasible sustainable finance mechanisms (output 1.2.1) in Gabon (where the PFP design calls for it) and support for their adoption/endorsement by government (outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). Experience has shown that these are critical early steps that should be completed as early as possible to avoid delays in decision-making later on. • the proposed project recognizes the importance of knowledge sharing, particularly with respect to how to deal with and solve PFP challenges, and so provides for south-south knowledge exchange to bring in countries such as Peru, Brasil, Costa Rica share their experiences with the new EE countries (output 2.2.3).

Among the important design decisions benefitting from previous PFP experience and knowledge:

- the proposed project does not identify the specific individual sites that will receive GEF funds, as experience shows that this may result in the PMU focusing solely on those areas to the exclusion of the wider PFP scope; instead the funds will be pooled and cover the entire PFP scope, safeguards will cover all the funds in each endowment or sinking fund, and a first tranche of recipient protected areas and conservancies will be identified in project development stage.
 - the proposed project strategy contains a contingency, whereunder if inherent risks or other factors jeopardize either PFP initiative, the GEF project support will still be used to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Gabon's protected area system and for support services to Namibia conservancies.
 - the proposed project provides for the assessment of institutional capacities (output 1.1.1), with a view to ensuring that national organizations in charge of overseeing, implementing, and providing sustainability to the PFP have the capacities needed for a successful PFP. The proposed project provides for the filling of gaps or shortcomings identified by these assessments.
 - the proposed project will invest in the identification of feasible sustainable finance mechanisms (output 1.2.1) in Gabon (where the PFP design calls for it) and support for their adoption/endorsement by government (outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). Experience has shown that these are critical early steps that should be completed as early as possible to avoid delays in decision-making later on.
 - the proposed project recognizes the importance of knowledge sharing, particularly with respect to how to deal with and solve PFP challenges, and so provides for south-south knowledge exchange to bring in countries such as Peru, Brasil, Costa Rica share their experiences with the new EE countries (output 2.2.3).
 - core Namibia PFP project team roles and responsibilities – including for the project lead, fundraising legal, planning, and other functions – were designed based on experiences with the Brazil, Bhutan and Peru PFP core project teams.
 - a formal feasibility assessment for the Namibia PFP – based on criteria informed by all PFPs closed to date – was completed in 2019, which evaluated whether enough enabling conditions were in place try to develop a PFP in Namibia.
 - the decision to develop a PFP for Namibia was made only after securing a large, pledged donation to start capitalizing the fund (which helps attract other funders), and cover some PFP development cost.
-

[1] In Namibia, funding for conservation that is generated by new or expanded market-based or government-managed sustainable financing mechanisms will likely be allocated directly to conservancies as benefits (as tourism revenue generated in conservancies currently is, acting as an incentive for conservancy members to support conservation), or be allocated to cover the government's costs of managing State Protected Areas i.e. parks, reserves and hot springs (which also need increased sustainable financing). Therefore, a donor-funded endowment is envisioned as the sole sustainable financing mechanism that would cover the cost of extension services that will be included in the PFP (which are essential to achieve biodiversity and community outcomes in Namibia), and an analysis of additional potential sustainable financing mechanisms to cover the cost of those extension services is not recommended.

[2] See <https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/practice-standards-for-ctfs>

d)Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies

The project will contribute to the following Biodiversity focal area objective:

2-7 "Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the [...] protected area estate"

by:

- 1) contributing to the effective protection of ecologically viable and climate-resilient representative samples of ecosystems in Gabon and Namibia and adequate coverage of threatened species at a sufficient scale to ensure their long term persistence;
- 2) enabling sufficient and predictable financial resources, including external funding, to support protected area management costs; and
- 3) ensuring sustained individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they achieve their conservation objectives.

In addition, the project will promote the participation and capacity building of local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected area projects as well as co-management models. In the case of Namibia, the establishment of an endowment for extension services for community conservancies will ensure that these institutions have the support they need to implement natural resource management projects and effective governance arrangements in perpetuity.

Finally, the project will investigate protected areas financing strategies both at the national level in Gabon (under component 1) and globally (under Component 2). In Gabon, the project will evaluate financial mechanisms that could support the delivery of the PFP, especially those elements relating to domestic resource mobilization. The global review will compile case studies and evaluate good practices with respect to protected areas finance strategies and mechanisms applicable to PFPs. These would include those emphasizing national policy reform (with a view to promoting policy coherence).

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

Building off a baseline of global and national-level interventions aimed at promoting the conservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity through improved management effectiveness and sustainable financing of PAs and PAs systems, the EE GEF project's incremental value will be to catalyze sustainable, long-term investment in globally significant conservation areas in two target countries (Gabon and Namibia) and enable scaling out of the Enduring Earth approach in additional countries, contributing to 30x30 goals.

The table below summarizes the situation at the baseline (“business as usual” scenario), the alternative scenario that the project will provide, and the additional global environmental benefits to be achieved through project interventions.

Summary of Incremental Value and Global Environmental Benefits

Component	Baseline (“business as usual”) Scenario	Alternative Scenario (with GEF project)	Global Environmental Benefits
<p>Component 1: Deploying Project Finance for Permanence for Priority Conservation Areas in Gabon and Namibia</p>	<p>Under the current baseline scenario, the available financial resources (i.e., budgetary allocations, self-generated resources, will not be sufficient to enable the effective management of PA systems in Gabon and Namibia and ensure the effective protection of biodiversity of global importance in the face of the threats described under the Project Justification section.</p> <p>In Gabon, the insufficient finance, the weak institutional and technical capacities and the incomplete policy and legislative frameworks will continue to result in a lack of PA coverage, enforcement, and effective management of protected areas that host globally significant biodiversity</p>	<p>In the alternative scenario, the EE GEF project will roll out a multi-partner strategy for long term financial sustainability of the marine, freshwater and terrestrial protected and conserved areas of Gabon, and the terrestrial conservancies of Namibia. The project will support all the steps of this multi-partnership strategy, from the design of the operation (design of conservation plan, financial model, institutional arrangements, and facilitation of single close with donors), the capitalization of the transition / endowment / sinking fund(s), and the work to secure opportunities for domestic resource mobilization. By these means, the project will ensure the financial gap of the protected areas systems is closed and will secure the long-term financial needs for the effective conservation of the globally significant biodiversity of Gabon and Namibia.</p> <p>In Gabon, the Project will provide deal capital to a PFP transition fund. The project will also work to secure domestic resources mobilization towards meeting the long term needs of the protected area system. The project will provide technical and financial support to the government, including legal advice and strategic guideline</p>	<p>GEF Funding will catalyze improvement of management effectiveness in a significant area of the Gabon and Namibia national protected areas / CBNRM systems.</p> <p>The beneficiary protected areas include important biodiversity, numerous endemic and threatened species, forests, and freshwater ecosystems, and ecosystem services of national, regional and global significance such as carbon sequestration and climate regulation.</p> <p>In Gabon, the project will improve the management of at least 3,240,000 ha of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected areas of global significance.</p>

	<p>globally significant biodiversity.</p> <p>In Namibia, the available financing for effective management of conservation areas, and the conservancies technical, governance and coordination challenges as well as current weak incentives for community conservation will not be sufficient to effectively protect the biodiversity of global importance in the face of the threats described.</p>	<p>s, to catalyze the design of the PFP, and generate the necessary conditions for its effective and efficient implementation.</p> <p>In Namibia, the Project will capitalize an Endowment Fund to support communal conservancy operations and governance through the provision of extension services to conservancies in topics such as Natural Resource Management and Monitoring; Institutional Development and Governance; and Business, enterprise and livelihoods, for conservancies to overcome identified barriers and ensure effective protection of targeted areas.</p>	<p>In Namibia, the project will ensure the permanent protection for up to 3,323,580 hectares of land and so to reap a range of social, cultural, environmental and financial benefits, as well as contribute to the achievement of national development goals.</p> <p>By increasing effective management of the PA systems in Gabon and Namibia, and preventing conversion of these areas to agriculture or other land use changes, and maintaining them in protection regimes, the project will ensure the carbon storage potential in these areas is preserved.</p>
<p>Component 2: Global Support to Scale Out PFP</p>	<p>Under the current baseline scenario, at the global level, many countries will continue to face challenges to meet 30x30 goals. Some of the most important barriers the governments in developing countries face are limited capacities to ensure long term finance for the effective management of their PA systems. Currently, at the global level, there are insufficient support systems to ensure developing countries, and especially those that host the most important levels of globally significant biodiversity, overcome the referred barriers.</p>	<p>In the alternative scenario, the EE GEF project will invest in technical assistance to build capacities to replicate and scale the PFP approach globally in order to advance 30x30 goals. This will include supporting the build out of a pipeline of deals ready for follow on funding; strengthening capacities within national institutions, including Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) and others; and analyzing innovative mechanisms to mobilize capital to increase the level of funding available to achieve conservation goal(s).</p> <p>The Project will also develop a knowledge base and facilitate</p>	<p>Finally, by expanding and/or improving the management effectiveness of protected and conserved areas in both Namibia and Gabon, the project will contribute creating job opportunities and enhancing incomes both directly and indire</p>

		exchange of lessons towards developing the capacity of key stakeholders to engage across the PFP process, including country governments, conservation trust funds, other in-country stakeholders, donors and NGOs.	directly for the communities that live in and around protected and conserved areas, and so contribute to a "green recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic.
--	--	--	---

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

The project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of globally significant biomes and will help Gabon and Namibia to reach GBF Target 3 goals. Additionally, the project will help scale out the PFP approach for sustainable financing for area-based conservation – including scoping additional PFPs and creating a connected community of practitioners to share lessons and improve approaches to PFP in countries in the Enduring Earth portfolio.

In the case of Gabon, the second most forested country in the world, the project will help to ensure the sustainability of the national protected areas system, helping to maintain the integrity of globally significant forested areas and the ecosystem services they provide. In Namibia, the project will help to protect crucial habitat for the critically endangered South-Western Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*) and other species including: elephants, wild dogs, hyenas, pangolin, and vultures.

The project will help to safeguard socio-economic benefits provided by nature to local communities as well as to national economies. In Gabon, the PFP will seek to invest in community-based activities surrounding the protected areas and catalyze private sector investments that can help create needed green and blue jobs. In Namibia, the project's support to conservancies may include technical assistance to enhance community capacities to develop joint ventures with the private sector, building upon a wildlife economy which (pre-COVID) contributed US\$65M per annum to the national economy.

The GEF EE project will contribute to the following Global Environmental Benefits:

- Terrestrial PAs created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness

In Gabon, the project will bring 2,020,000ha (tbc in PPG) of forests, wetlands and freshwater Protected Areas under improved management effectiveness.

In Namibia, the project will bring 3,323,580ha (tbc in PPG) of Protected Areas / Conservancies under improved management effectiveness.

- Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 2.2. Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness

In Gabon, the GEF project will bring 1,220,000ha (tbc in PPG) of marine protected areas under improved effective management.

- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)

Indicator 6.1. Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

The project will contribute to GHG emissions avoided through the improved management of the Protected Areas. The amount of emissions avoided in Gabon will be determined during project preparation. The amount of emissions avoided in Namibia, will be 2.3M of metric tons of CO₂. This figure will be reconfirmed during project development.

- Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

In Gabon, it is estimated that the project will benefit at least 300,000 persons, with improved livelihoods from new sustainable forestry and value-add timber product jobs, CBC in forestry & fisheries and lessened human-wildlife conflict.

In Namibia, it is estimated that the project will benefit at least 227,802 persons, living in conservancy areas from enhanced livelihoods and lessened human-wildlife conflict.

The targets provided above are a conservative estimate of what will be delivered by close of this proposed GEF project, and these targets will be validated and updated during the project preparation phase.

Additionally, the GEF project will be capitalizing PFP operations in Gabon and Namibia which will provide the following Global Environmental Benefits in the long term, beyond the lifetime of the GEF project:

It is envisioned that the PFP in Gabon will deliver the following outcomes over the medium- to long-term:

- PAs created (IUCN Cat I – VI) – 3,120,000 ha of forests, wetlands and freshwater areas under conservation
- PAs (IUCN Cat I – VI) under improved management – 10,100,00 ha of forests, wetlands and freshwater areas under improved management effectiveness
- MPAs created – 820,000 ha in new MPAs plus 10-15% of existing MPAs moved into a higher protection level designation
- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (non-PA Ramsar sites) – 2,580,000 ha
- MPAs under improved management – 6,095,000 ha
- 30M metric tons of CO₂ mitigation delivered annually through climate-smart forestry practices through 30,000 km² of working forests with improved management (FSC, RIL-C)
- Number of direct beneficiaries – 300,000 people with improved livelihoods from new sustainable forestry and value-add timber product jobs, CBC in forestry & fisheries and lessened human-wildlife conflict

It is envisioned that the PFP in Namibia will deliver the following outcomes across the entire conservancy system over the medium- to long-term:

- PAs (IUCN Cat I - VI) under improved management – 16,617,900 hectares in conservancies
- 11.6M metric tons of CO2 mitigation delivered annually through the management of approximately 4,000,000 ha of forests.
- Number of direct beneficiaries – 227,802 persons living in conservancy areas from enhanced livelihoods and lessened human-wildlife conflict

g) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation

The project will use the innovative Project Finance for Permanence mechanism in Gabon and Namibia, through which public and private funds will be pledged toward the goal of helping expand protections and improving the management status of a network of protected and conserved areas, based on an agreed conservation plan, in both target countries. Interventions will not focus on a specific site but rather on mechanisms and enabling conditions to build long term financial sustainability across entire systems (the protected areas system in Gabon, conservancy system in Namibia). In Gabon, the project will help materialize Gabon's pledge to include explicit protection to its freshwater systems to reach 30% protection across the three realms: terrestrial, marine, and freshwater, potentially being a global first. It seeks to do so while providing clear biodiversity, climate, and livelihood benefits. In Namibia, this project represents the first time a PFP approach will be applied in the developing world to channel support directly to community conservancies, promoting the mainstreaming of conservation as a rural development strategy and likewise producing biodiversity, climate, and livelihood benefits. The Enduring Earth Coalition itself is an innovative collaboration between three of the world's foremost conservation organizations and other public and private donors. The Coalition capitalizes on the individual institutional strengths and comparative advantages of these global conservation organizations to facilitate resource mobilization as well as deal execution, PFP implementation, and scaling up.

Sustainability

The project is expressly designed to counter the challenge faced in both target countries of over-reliance on short- or medium-term projects financed primarily by international public or private donors, which threatens the sustainability of results of investments in their respective protected and conserved areas systems. PFP, by definition, ensures that all policy changes and funding necessary to meet the specific conservation goals of a program over a defined long-term timeframe are secured, with the ultimate aim of achieving the ecological, social, political, organizational, and financial sustainability of that program.

This project will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the conservancy and protected areas systems in Gabon and Namibia, respectively, by supporting the development of a PFP (including conservation plan and financial model, appropriate institutional arrangements, *inter alia*) which will be ecologically, socially, financially and institutionally sustainable.

Ecological sustainability. The conservation plans for both countries will ensure the long-term health of the target ecosystems. Geographic areas will be sufficiently large and well protected to maintain biodiversity.

Social sustainability. In both countries, project investments will contribute to the social sustainability of the PFP by helping to realize a variety of social benefits that create strong incentives for conservation, stimulate community support. In Gabon, clear plans for community support and development, associated to the conservation plan, and identification of strategic investments for social enterprises (such as tourism and forest-products based industries) with collaboration of the private sectors should create a stronger and broader social support to the conservation agenda. In Namibia, extension services financed by the endowment may enhance community capacities to generate nature-positive livelihood opportunities by providing technical assistance in the following areas: tourism planning, business planning and feasibility assessments, marketing, contracts, insurance, product development, among other things.

Similarly, technical support enabled by the endowment to individual conservancies may provide a host of other benefits that contribute to social sustainability, e.g. human wildlife conflict mitigation. Finally, to promote broad support for the PFP, an inclusive process for developing the conservation plan will be followed, which engages a wide variety of stakeholders, including community groups.

Institutional sustainability. In each country, the PFP design will ensure that there are institutions with the capacity to successfully design, execute, and monitor activities that contribute to the PFP's conservation goal. Part of government's ongoing commitment in Gabon under the terms of the PFP will be to ensure appropriate capacities for project design, execution and monitoring are in place to ensure conservation targets are being met. In Namibia, extension services to the communal conservancies will help to ensure that conservation goals set in the conservation plan are being met.

Financial sustainability. The ambition for the Gabon PFP is to capitalize a \$100M transition fund (this is the current estimate; the final amount target capitalization will be confirmed during project preparation) that will incentivize the creation of new sustainable financing mechanisms that enable the government to increase the level of investment in protected areas over time. Payments from the transition fund will diminish over time as the Government meets key disbursement milestones and institutionalizes in-country sustainable finance mechanisms that will ensure permanence for conservation of 30% of its lands, waters, and oceans. A new conservation trust fund being created in Gabon will ensure appropriate controls over financial resources. In Namibia, the capitalization of an endowment fund will ensure that financial resources are available in perpetuity to support extension services to the 86 community conservancies currently comprising the system and any new conservancies that may come on stream. Strong funds management and control processes within an independent trust fund – the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia – will obviate the need for significant future fundraising for the specific conservation goals and activities of the PFP in Namibia.

Scaling-up

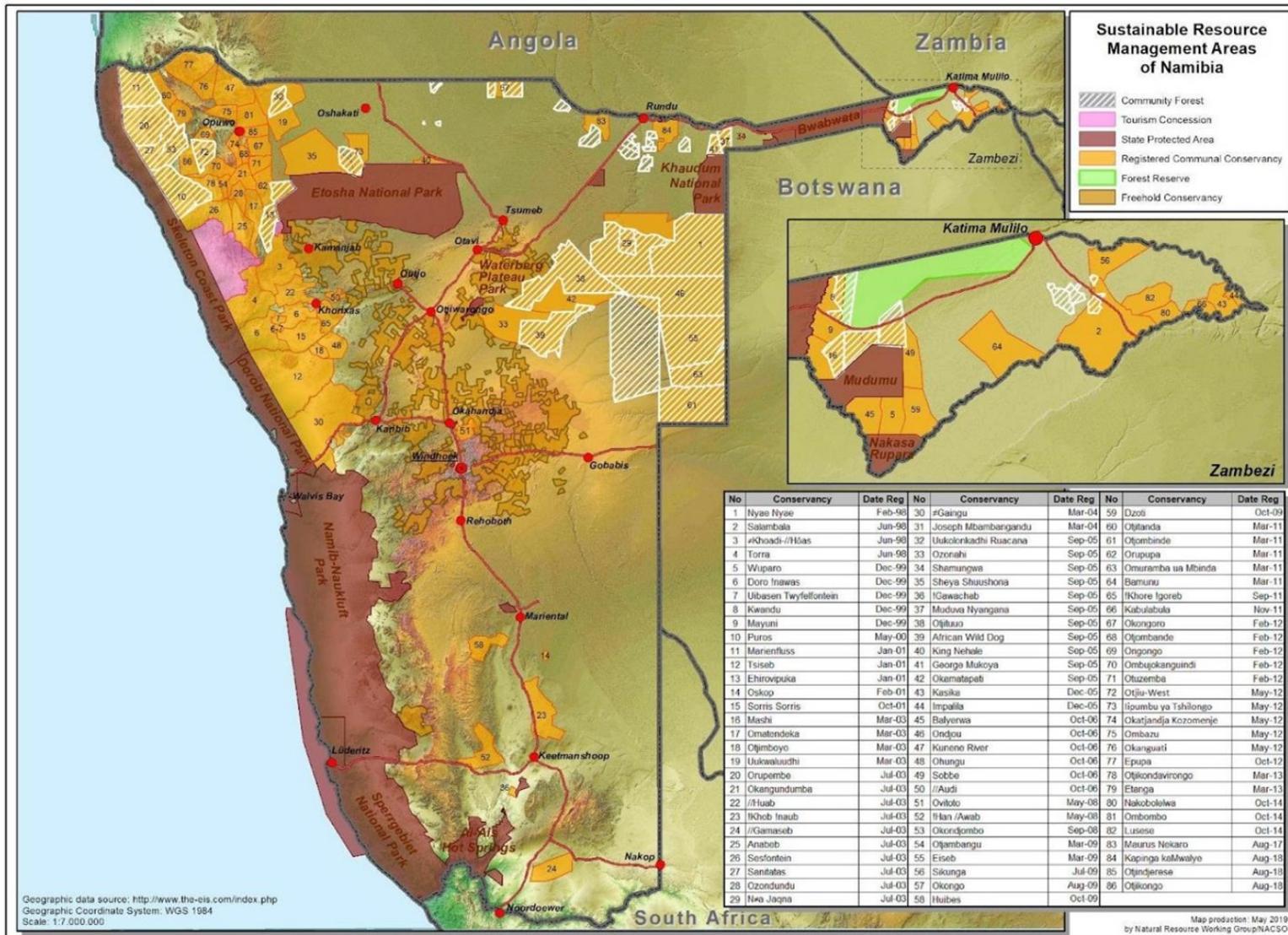
The project will invest in technical assistance for the express purpose of building capacities to replicate and scale the Enduring Earth PFP approach globally. Project investments under component 2 will support scaling out of the Enduring Earth/PFP approach in other geographies by: contributing to the development of a pipeline of deals ready for follow on funding; strengthening capacities within national institutions, including Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) and others; and analyzing innovative mechanisms to mobilize capital to increase the level of funding available to achieve conservation goal(s) to help countries to overcome the difficult challenge of mobilizing resources domestically. This will include deeper dive analyses of the capacities of CTFs and other national actors, as well as investigations of revenue generation mechanisms in prospective countries. This subcomponent also includes support for activities necessary to build the readiness of a selected country or a multi-country region for a potential PFP.

Finally, the project has a strong approach on knowledge management to ensure sharing of experience and good practices to facilitate replication and scaling. The project will finance a series of analyses, webinars, case studies and workshops to present best practices on core competencies for PFP implementation and management of protected and conserved areas, and to facilitate south-south exchange of lessons and experiences among PFP countries.

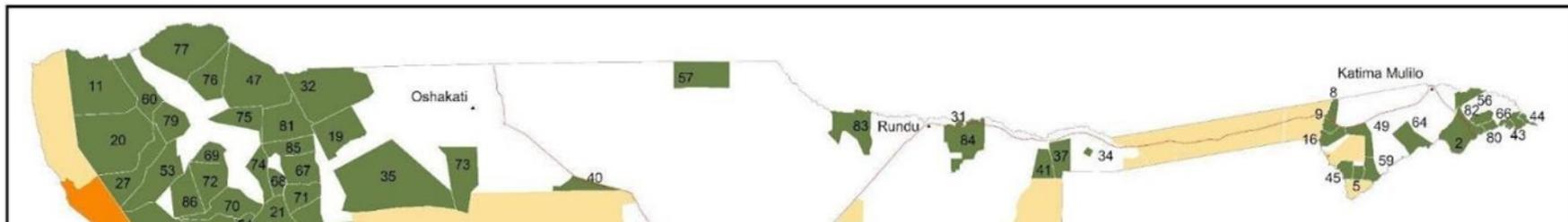
1b. Project Map and Coordinates

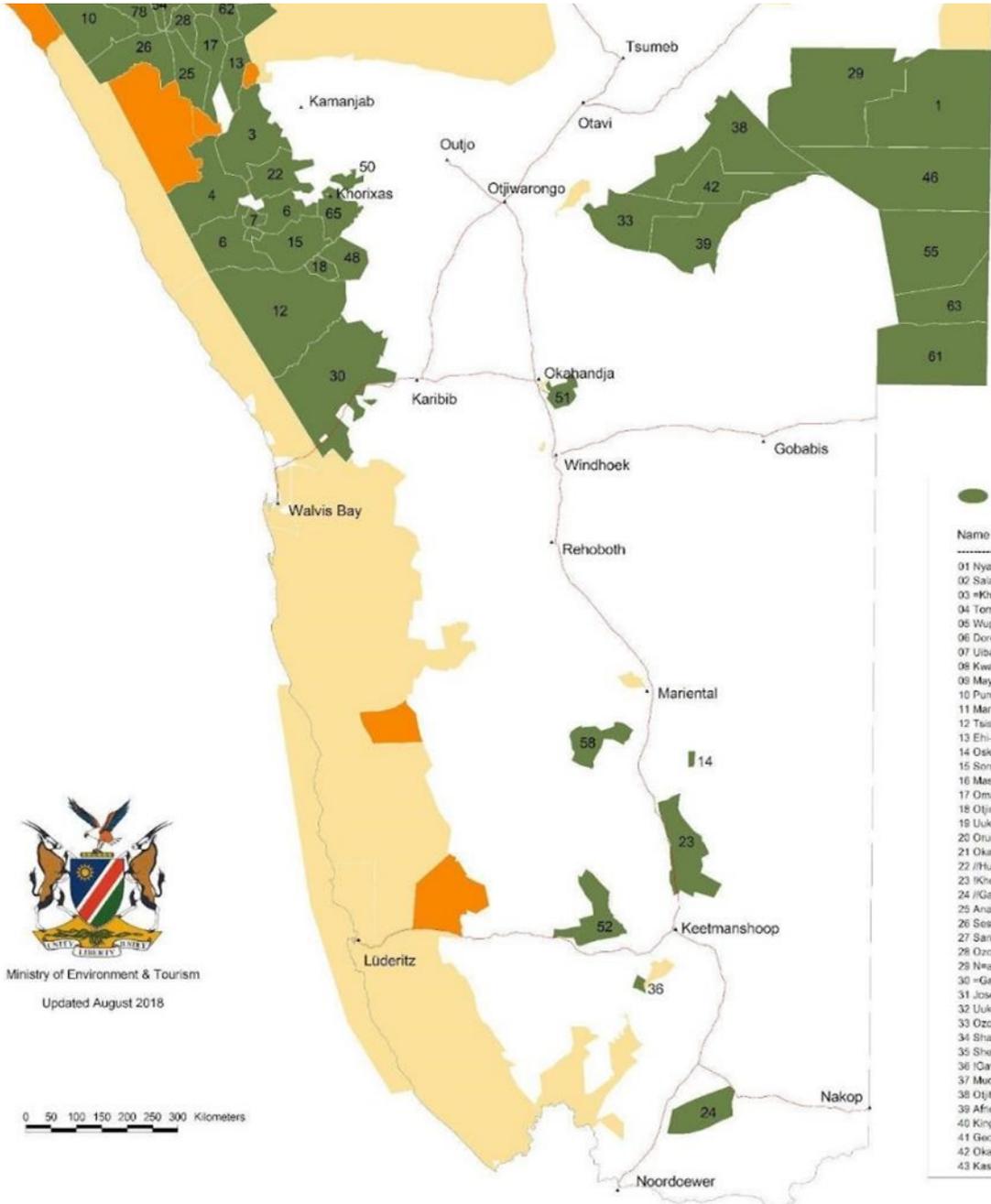
Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Namibia (22.9576° S, 18.4904° E)



Registered Communal Conservancies





Ministry of Environment & Tourism
Updated August 2018



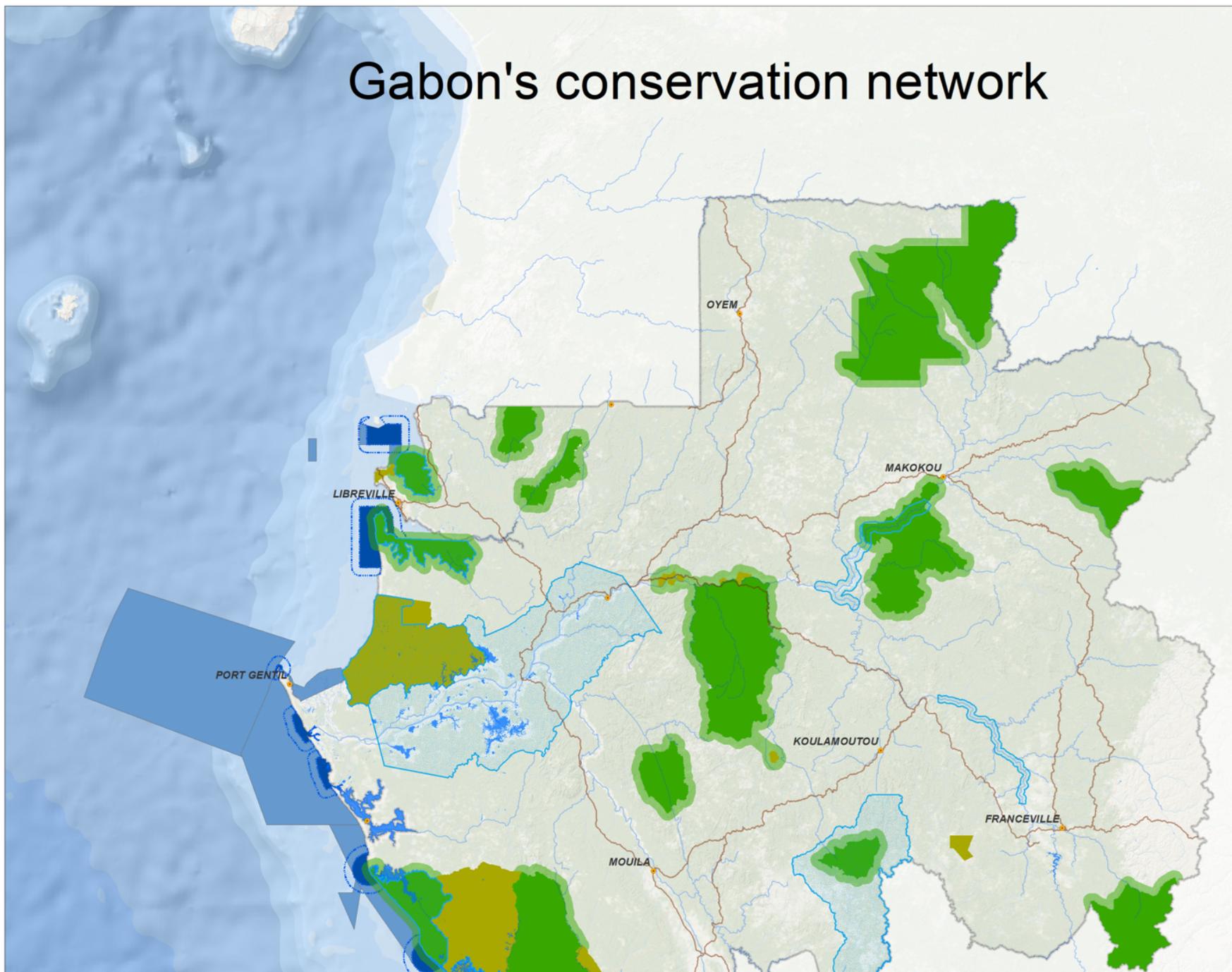
Registered conservancy

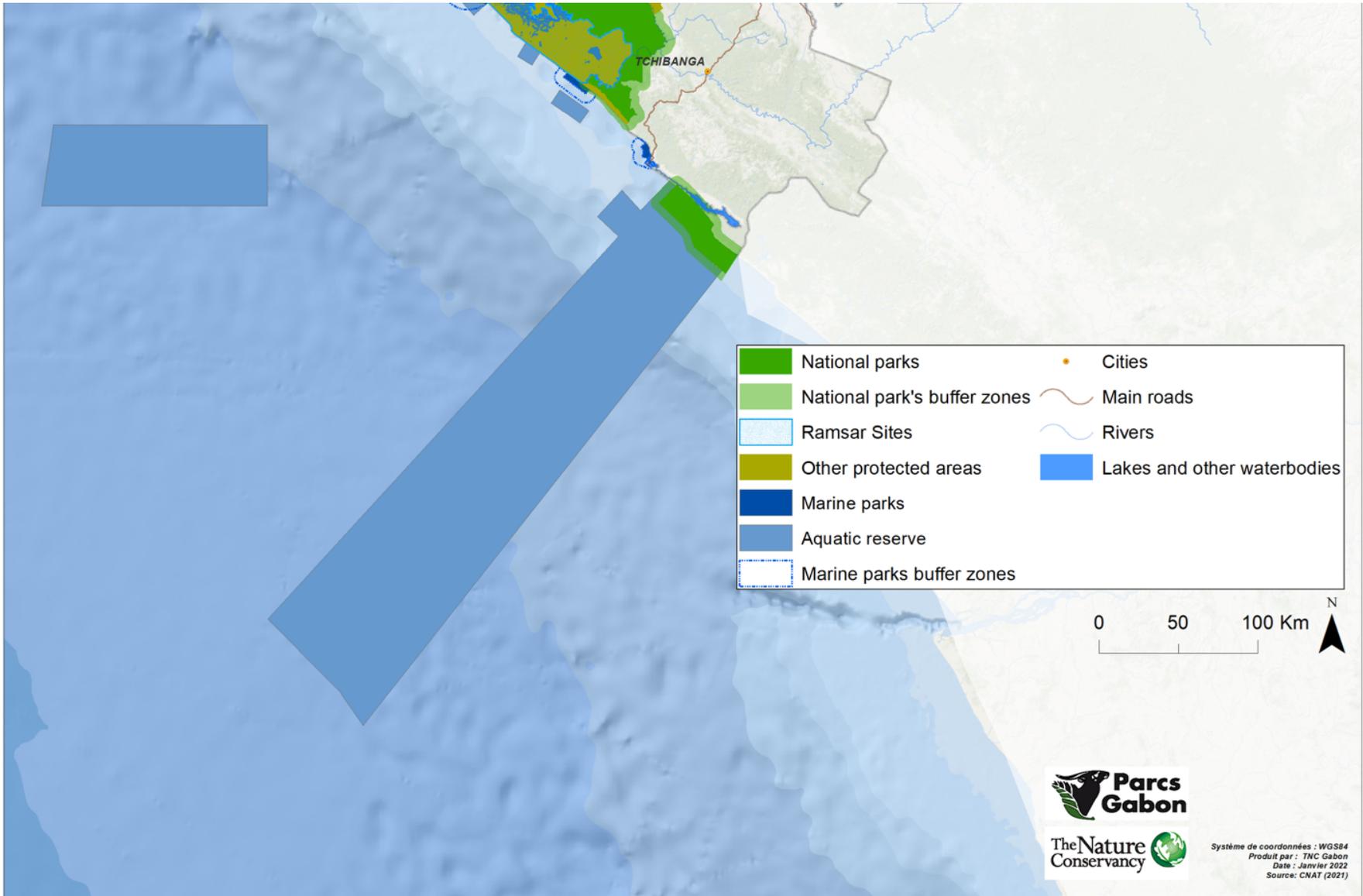
Name	Date Registered	Name	Date Registered
01 Nyae Nyae	1998 Feb	44 Impalla	2005 Dec
02 Salambala	1998 Jan	45 Baljenswa	2006 Oct
03 •Khoedi-/Hibas	1998 Jun	46 Ondjoi	2006 Oct
04 Torra	1999 Jun	47 Kunene River	2006 Oct
05 Wuparo	1999 Dec	48 Ohungu	2006 Oct
06 Doru Inawas	1999 Dec	49 Sotbe	2006 Oct
07 Uibasen Twyfelfontein	1999 Dec	50 //Audi	2006 Oct
08 Kwanda	1999 Dec	51 Ovitolu	2008 May
09 Mayuni	1999 Dec	52 //han //Awab	2008 May
10 Puros	2000 May	53 Okondjombo	2008 Aug
11 Marienfluss	2001 Jan	54 Otjambangu	2009 Mar
12 Tswab	2001 Jan	55 Eiseb	2009 Mar
13 Ehi-Rovipuka	2001 Jan	56 Sikunga	2009 Jul
14 Oskop	2001 Feb	57 Okongo	2009 Aug
15 Sorris Sorris	2001 Oct	58 Hulbes	2009 Oct
16 Mashi	2003 Mar	59 Dzoiti	2009 Oct
17 Omatendeka	2003 Mar	60 Otjanda	2011 Mar
18 Otjimbingwo	2003 Mar	61 Otjombindo	2011 Mar
19 Uukwaluudhi	2003 Mar	62 Orupapa	2011 Mar
20 Orupembe	2003 Jul	63 Omuramba ua Mbinda	2011 Mar
21 Okavangudamba	2003 Jul	64 Baramu	2011 Mar
22 //Huab	2003 Jul	65 //Kharo //Goreb	2011 Sep
23 //Kob //Naub	2003 Jul	66 Kabulabula	2011 Nov
24 //Gamaseb	2003 Jul	67 Okongoro	2012 Feb
25 Anabeib	2003 Jul	68 Otjombende	2012 Feb
26 Sesfontein	2003 Jul	69 Orongo	2012 Feb
27 Santlitas	2003 Jul	70 Ombujokanguindi	2012 Feb
28 Ozondundu	2003 Jul	71 Otuzemba	2012 Feb
29 //Na Jaena	2003 Jul	72 Otjiu-West	2012 May
30 //Gaiingu	2004 Mar	73 //pambu ya Tshilongo	2012 May
31 Joseph Mtambangandu	2004 Mar	74 Okajandja Kozorrenje	2012 May
32 Uukolerikadhi Ruacana	2005 Sep	75 Ombazu	2012 May
33 Ozonahi	2005 Sep	76 Okanquati	2012 May
34 Shamungwa	2005 Sep	77 Epupa	2012 Oct
35 Shaya Shushona	2005 Sep	78 Otjikondavirongo	2013 Mar
36 //Cawescheb	2005 Sep	79 Etanga	2013 Mar
37 Mudiwa Nyangana	2005 Sep	80 Nakabalewa	2014 Oct
38 Otjituu	2005 Sep	81 Ombombo	2014 Oct
39 African Wild Dog	2005 Sep	82 Lusese	2014 Oct
40 King Nehale	2005 Sep	83 Msurus Nekaro	2017 Aug
41 George Mukoya	2005 Sep	84 Kapinga Kamwalyo	2018 Aug
42 Okamatapati	2005 Sep	85 Otjinderese	2018 Aug
43 Kasika	2005 Dec	86 Otjikongo	2018 Aug

State Protected Area Concession

Gabon (0.8037° S, 11.6094° E)

Gabon's conservation network





2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

During PIF development, the project team engaged with stakeholders at the regional and national levels between July 2021 and April 2022. Global and Regional stakeholders were engaged and contributed to the PIF. A complete list of the meetings and conversations held can be found in Table 1 and Table 2.

The project will continue to engage stakeholders at the regional, national, and community levels during project development. An indicative list of these stakeholders – and the roles that they will play in project design – is provided in Table 3 and Table 4 below. The stakeholders and their contributions and roles will be confirmed during the project development phase. The project will also ensure that relevant initiatives and project representatives are regularly consulted to enhance effective and informed collaboration during the project development and implementation phases.

Table 1: Summary of the meetings and conversations held in Gabon

Stakeholders	Dates (only listing for 2022)	General Concerns and Commentaries	How concerns were addressed
Government			
Ministry of Water and Forests, the Sea and the Environment Including: -Minister White -Director General of Environment (and GEF OFF) -Director General of Aquatic Ecosystems	Recurrent, regular meetings Two workshops: -Jan 22-23 -Mar 26-27	During regular meetings with the Minister and the Director General, both Blue Bonds (BB) and PFP have been introduced as potential vehicles to materialize the Government's vision for 30:30:30 protection. Conversations have ranged from the strategic level, addressing institutional and resources mobilization aspects, and also at a technical level, addressing the best way to establish a robust conservation plan for Gabon.	Ministers identified the need to present the PFP as the vehicle for 30x30x30 (in the near future) to the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) for full endorsement There is also a concern about existing capacity within ministerial staff to engage in the planning. Experts and institutions (such as Sovereign Wealth Fund, FGIS) have been identified to join the process to provide most needed capacity.

		<p>The Jan 22-23 workshop allowed to introduce the PFP concept to a range of gov't institutions.</p> <p>The Mar 26-27 meeting was a deep dive on the PFP, to discuss deal hypothesis, deal outcome, indicative financial numbers, deal financing, potential fund sources.</p> <p>There is overall strong support from all members in this administration, including for GEF OFP.</p>	<p>There is a very strong engagement from the Minister as a champion for the PFP and he has been opening additional doors and identified potential additional supports for this project.</p>
<p>ANPN</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Executive Secretary (SE) -Deputy ES -Technical Director - 	<p>Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan 22-23 <p>Individual meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mar 22 	<p>The Jan 22-23 workshop allowed to introduce the PFP concept to a range of Gvt institutions.</p> <p>Further meetings have allowed to continue explaining the process of developing a PFP and the potential benefits.</p> <p>ANPN sees the benefit and is interested in seeing this project develop, but has currently very limited capacity to engage in this project.</p>	<p>One of the main purposes of the PFP is to increase the capacity of ANPN.</p>
<p>Presidency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Economic Advisor -Legal Counsel 	<p>Recurrent meetings</p> <p>Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan 22-23 <p>Strategic planning meeting:</p>	<p>During recurring meetings and workshop, we have introduced and advanced in the work to establish a BB, the CTF, and recently, the PFP.</p> <p>There is a very strong engagement from the Presidential Economic advisor who has play a leading role in helping advance the BB, the CTF and now the PFP.</p>	

	-Jan 28		
Prime Minister	Audience: -Mar 30	<p>During this Audience and facilitated by Minister White and Presidential advisor, TNC introduced the PFP and the BlueBonds (BB) project.</p> <p>There was interest from the Prime Minister to see these innovative mechanisms deployed in Gabon.</p>	Anticipate continued engagement with the PM as a potential champion of the PFP deal.
Ministry of Economy Including: -Minister Roboty -Special Advisor	Meetings: -Jan 24 -Mar 30	<p>Meetings with Ministry of Economy have primarily focused on the BB debt restructuring, as we launched that project before the PFP.</p> <p>Min of Economy is still new to these novel financial mechanism for a green economy, so is still learning and assessing how to best deploy them in Gabon. However, there is openness and willingness to jointly explore and develop a project that can benefit Gabon.</p>	Additional technical material has been prepared to communicate and explain both the BB transaction and the PFP project.
Sovereign Wealth Fund (FGIS) experts	Recurring meetings Strategic planning meeting: -Jan 28 Workshop: -Mar 26-27	<p>FGIS was brought on board given their excellent skills and experience in financial modeling and planning.</p> <p>During the meetings and workshop, TNC staff introduced and advanced in the work to establish a CTF that will serve the BB project and the PFP.</p> <p>They have engaged very actively and are facilitate fast tracking of the design of the CTF.</p>	

NGOs			
WCS	<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan 24 -Mar 28 	<p>The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.</p> <p>A subsequent meeting on Mar 28 allow to go deeper into identifying possible areas of involvement and support of WCS in the planning and implementation of the PFP.</p>	
WWF	<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan 24 -Mar 28 	<p>The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.</p> <p>A subsequent meeting on Mar 28 allow to go deeper into identifying possible areas of involvement and support of WWF in the planning and implementation of the PFP.</p>	
Panthera	<p>Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan 22-23 <p>Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Apr 2 	<p>The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.</p> <p>Panthera has a long experience with conservation planning and will bring that contribution to the PFP.</p>	

Space for Giants Forest Stewardship Council	Meeting: -Jan 24	The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.	
Private sector			
Compagnie des Bois du Gabon (CBG)	Meeting: -Jan 27	CBG is one of the 4 FSC certified primate concessionaires operating in Gabon, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to best forest management with biodiversity and social benefits. This meeting was to introduce the PFP and to better understand the challenges of the forestry sector and assess ways in which a PFP project could contribute and benefit from.	There is a need to clearly identify ways in which catalytic investment can promote a broader adoption in the forestry sector of the best practices that deliver biodiversity and climate benefits, while becoming a strong engine for growth.
Africa Conservation Development Group (ACDG)	Meeting: -Mar 29	ACDG has acquired the concessions for a large portion of land in southern Gabon and intends to develop a model of integrated sustainable landscape. It is seeking to develop new sources of funding for conservation, including Biodiversity Bonds. The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as the PFP process moves forward in its planning and development and to take advantage of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.
International Development / Diplomatic delegations			
European Union Delegation in Gabon	Meeting: -Mar 29	The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as we progress in PFP planning and development and take advantage of potential synergies, particularly

			of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.
UNDP Delegation in Gabon	Meeting: -Mar 29	UNDP has been supporting a national assessment for an Integrated National Financial Framework for sustainability. Also, UNDP will be the implementing agency for a new GEF 7 project in Gabon that could be articulated in support to this project. The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as we progress in PFP planning and development and take advantage of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.

Table 2: Summary of the meetings and conversations held in Namibia

Dates	Participants	General Concerns and Commentaries	How concerns were addressed
August 19, 2021	Director of Wildlife and National Parks, Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT); WWF Namibia	Confirmed MEFT's involvement in the CBNRM Sustainability planning process since 2007 and appreciated the status update on the PFP since July 2021. Recommended that MEFT needs to be fully reengaged in the PFP development process. Highlighted the need to revisit the conservancy extension services, as conservancy support needs may have evolved as conservancies are maturing.	Agreement reached to use existing platforms to engage stakeholders, e.g., the National CBNRM Forum (when reactivated, post-COVID); MEFT Senior Management Team (incl. Executive Director (ED), Deputy ED, Directors of - Wildlife and National Parks, Forestry, Tourism, Scientific Services, Environmental Affairs; and Deputy Directors from six MEFT regions.
August 30, 2021	NACSO Executive C	PFP status updates and overview di	

1	committee; with WWF	<p>discussed with the NACSO Exco.</p> <p>They appreciated the engagement and agreed to collaborate in organizing the first broader PFP Stakeholders Meeting.</p>	
October 8, 2021	Director of Wildlife and National Parks; Deputy Executive Director (MEFT); and WWF	<p>It is essential to coordinate synergies between the PFP and related initiatives, e.g., the GIZ-funded project "Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources" (CCIU).</p> <p>It is essential to engage conservancies directly and not only through field-based supporting partners.</p> <p>Advised to conclude the CCFN Stakeholders consultancy before the proposed PFP Stakeholders briefing.</p>	<p>WWF will participate in the planning of CCIU activities, i.e., the CBNRM Stocktaking exercise; and the National CBNRM Forum.</p> <p>Agreed to engage conservancies directly.</p> <p>Agreed to delay PFP Stakeholders briefing until after the CCFN Stakeholders Feedback meeting.</p>
February 23-24, 2022	Zambezi Regional Conservancies Biannual Meeting - 98 participants from conservancies, traditional authorities, government, NGOs (including WWF Namibia, and Combating Wildlife Crime Programme from WWF), private sector, KAZA partners.	<p>Appreciate the update and one-page brief on the PFP. They need time to discuss internally and continue engaging in the planning process.</p>	<p>PFP team members will continue attending conservancy meetings, at regional and individual conservancy levels, for continuous engagement.</p>
March 2-3, 2022	Over 20 participants, incl. NACSO members, MEFT, CCFN, and WWF (5).	<p>Participants agree with the proposed scope, assuming the socio-economic development component includes livelihoods.</p> <p>MEFT is onboard with the project and will work closely with all partners</p>	<p>Partners will be engaged by serving on a reference group / sounding board to help oversee/guide the development of the socio-economic component.</p> <p>The Conservation Plan will be ini</p>

		<p>and will work closely with all partners to meet the commitments.</p> <p>Re question on specific commitments and obligations from the government, it was indicated - Continued commitment to maintain and improve as needed by the rights holders, the existing legal framework; Maintain and enhance existing support services to conservancies; make a public statement in support of PFP.</p> <p>The GEF 7 project was discussed as a funding opportunity for the PFP, pending MEFT endorsement.</p>	<p>The conservation plan will be jointly developed with the partners over multiple sessions weekly over at least two months or more if needed.</p>
March 3, 2022	Executive Director, MEFT, and GEF OFP; Director of Wildlife and National Parks; and WWF Namibia	<p>MEFT is supportive of the PFP, including GEF 7 project.</p> <p>MEFT is ready to participate fully in project development, not only by signing endorsement letters.</p>	<p>A draft of the endorsement letter and the Enduring Earth Concept Note was sent to the ED / GEF OFP on March 16, 2022.</p> <p>The draft PIF will be shared with MEFT for their input as soon as it is ready.</p>
March 14, 2022	Over 20 participants, incl. NACSO members, MEFT, WWF, and KAZA rep.	<p>The partners convened a joint Environmental and Social Safeguards workshop to update each other on their different ESS processes, activities, and plans.</p> <p>Partners agree to work towards a coordinating structure to help streamline ESS management amongst our different organizations.</p> <p>To update a broader reach of staff in our organizations on the need for and application of ESS management frameworks.</p>	

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

Table 3. List of potential key stakeholders and their possible contributions and roles in Gabon.

Stakeholder Type	List of Stakeholders	Possible contributions and roles in the project
Government (central and provincial levels)	Ministry of Water and Forests, the Sea and the Environment National Parks Agency	Co-development of the PFP with TNC Primary implementers and beneficiaries
Local and indigenous community associations	Association of Fishing Cooperatives Community Forestry Organisations	
NGOs and CSOs	WCS, WWF, Space for Giants, Panthera, FSC National CSOs	Coordination across the marine, terrestrial and freshwater conservation portfolio in Gabon
Private Sector	Forestry concession holders and companies OLAM	Expansion of sustainable forestry, fisheries, and agriculture
Donors	Bezos Earth Fund	Co-finance and continued support to identify funding opportunities for the Gabon PFP
Bilaterals	UK, USAID, EU	Coordination across the conservation portfolio in Gabon, e.g., Biodiversity Landscape Fund (UK)

Multilaterals and GEF Agencies	GEF, GCF, UNDP	Coordination across the conservation portfolio in Gabon. UNDP has an interest in supporting blue-green economy
---------------------------------------	----------------	--

Table 4. List of potential key stakeholders and their possible contributions and roles in Namibia.

Stakeholder Type	List of Stakeholders	Possible contributions and roles in the project
Government (central and provincial levels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT). • Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. 	These government actors are very supportive and want to be involved in all the planning processes related to the PFP. They recognize the synergy between PFP goals and their existing and ongoing programs, including well-functioning community conservancies and reducing multi-dimensional poverty. There is also synergy between the PFP and the envisaged Protected Area Trust fund planned by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism
Local and indigenous community conservancies/associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five regional conservancy associations in Erongo, Kavango, Kunene, the north-central area, and the Zambezi act as representative umbrella organizations for conservancies in their areas. 	
NGOs and CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) – Umbrella association of 9 NGOs. • The Multi-disciplinary Research Centre and Consultancy. • University of Namibia (MRCC-UNAM). • The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN). 	These organizations are all very supportive as they contributed to the development of the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Sustainability Strategy, which inspired the development of the PFP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business, Enterprises, and Livelihoods Working Group (BELWG). 	
Academic Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities at the national level. 	
Multilaterals and GEF Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Environmental Facility (GEF). • The Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG). • The Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG). • The Business, Enterprises, and Livelihoods Working Group (BELWG). 	

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

The proposed project will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in several ways. Activities will be designed to consider the context of these two countries and to address key gender imbalances that relate to the project, e.g.: i) lack of participation in the decision making for the management of resources, ii) lack of access and control over resources and iii) the limited number of women in leadership positions. Additionally, this project has a training output to grow income-generating opportunities and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises. The project team will seek to ensure the inclusion and involvement of women from each selected community. Overall, gender issues will be included in the different outcomes, outputs, and activities of the project, which will be identified in the gender action plan. Finally, the GEF policy on gender equality will be applied throughout the development and implementation of the proposed project.

Gender Analysis:

Namibia:

Namibia has achieved significant progress in recent years in increasing gender equality and narrowing gender gaps in all sectors of life, including politics, social issues, and economics. This is most visible in the country's policy, legislative, and institutional environments, which have all improved significantly. The Republic of Namibia's Constitution altered the legal environment and status of gender equality in the country.[1]It prohibits discrimination, ensures affirmative action for women, and gives men and women equal rights.

Political representation and in decision making structures: Namibia has made significant strides in bridging the gender divide in political representation. Women currently make up 42% of parliamentarians in the National Assembly. Women are also strongly represented at the executive level of government administration, with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister both being women. While these are significant achievements, there are still significant gender discrepancies at other levels of government. Only 16%^[2] of the 121 constituencies in the Regional Councils are women, indicating a significant gender disparity. Similarly, the governance systems of traditional authority have significant gender discrepancies.

Occupation: In Namibia, women are concentrated in different occupations than men. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing (17 %), wholesale and retail trade (12 %), accommodation and food service operations (12%), private houses (13%), and education (8.9%) were the primary industries they worked in in 2016. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing (22 %), construction (6 %), and wholesale and retail commerce (14%) were the most common jobs for men.^[3] Men made up the great majority of subsistence farmers with paid staff (71%) in 2016. In contrast, women made up the majority of subsistence farmers without paid employees (61 %) in the same period. Women also made up the majority of domestic workers (75%), and unpaid family workers (61%).^[4]

Education: Namibia has nearly achieved gender parity in education, with females outnumbering males in pre-primary and secondary schools, and males outnumbering females in primary and tertiary schools. According to the 2011 Census, educational attainment for people aged 15 and older was nearly equal for boys and girls, with females somewhat more likely to complete elementary or secondary education than males. In comparison to the previous census in 2001, it also demonstrated a considerable improvement in educational attainment.^[5]Literacy rates are nearly equal between men and women, with 95% of females aged 15 and up and 93% of their male counterparts being literate.^[6]

Gender-based violence (GBV): GBV is a human rights issue in Namibia that has reached epidemic proportions. According to the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, 32% of all women aged 15 to 49 had suffered physical violence since they were 15, and 14% had experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months. In terms of sexual violence, 7% of women aged 15 to 49 had been subjected to it since they were 15, and 4% had been subjected to it in the 12 months prior to the poll. Sexual violence was slightly more common among urban women than among rural women.[7]

Dynamics around socio-economic status: Namibia has a population of 2.4 million people, with women accounting for 51% of the population. Female-headed households account for 44% of all households across the country, and 46% of female-headed households live in rural areas.[8] Only 23% of freehold commercial agricultural property is owned by women, according to the National Land Statistics Report released in 2018, whereas 77% is owned by men.[9] In a similar manner, only 4% of resettlement farms are designated for women. Agricultural households are dominated by women, even though women's access to land and rights to land are still limited. In Namibia, women make up 54% of the population of 907,715 agricultural families.[10]

Forest sector: Namibia's forests are vital resources for its people and the country. Men dominate the governing structures of organizations managing forest resources at the community level, particularly Community Forests, whereas women have low representation. This is clear from a 2016 study[11] that looked at a sample of seven Community Forests. Men frequently occupied the important posts of chairperson and vice chairperson in circumstances when women dominate governance systems, according to the study. Gender inequalities in access, control, monitoring, and use of forest resources persist, according to the report.

Project-specific gender information and considerations:

In Namibia, women are the main users of natural resources. In most rural villages, women and girls collect almost 75% of the water and firewood. [12] Conservancies are now Namibia's second-largest employer, and women's involvement in decision-making and employment is seen as a model for other industries. Women now make up around 35% of conservancy committee members on average, with three committee chairs and most conservancy treasurers being women. [13] Conservancies are a rare example of rural democracy in Namibia, and they may be the first of their kind. Members of the conservancy can vote for committee members.[14]

Each member has the potential to participate in the conservancy's constitution, which controls its operations. Female management committee members ranged from 0% in the Ehirovipuka Conservancies to 67 percent in Otjimboyo Conservancy.[15] Women account for more than half of conservancy members, resulting in women earning an equal or more significant share of membership payouts when a conservancy distributes them.[16] Women also benefit from many job opportunities created by ecotourism and conservancies, such as services connected to visitor housing and food and craft-making and sales. [17] According to the WWF, women are estimated to hold at least 3,000 of the documented part-time jobs (e.g., thatching grass harvesting and handicrafts manufacture).

Gabon:

Gabon has made some progress in terms of women's rights. However, gender equality is still a work in progress. Since December 2020,[18] only 27.9% of the metrics needed to track the SDGs from a gender perspective were accessible, with gaps in important sectors such as unpaid care and domestic work, key labor market indicators like the gender pay gap, and information and communications technology skills. Furthermore, there are no comparable approaches for regular monitoring in many areas, including gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women's access to assets (including land), and gender and

the environment.[19] Nevertheless, in September 2021, Gabon adopted new laws designed to reduce the risk of violence against women and prohibit discrimination in the economy, in particular by amending legislation to promote women's financial inclusion and access to more employment. These new provisions of the civil code highlight three important areas:

1. The elimination of violence against women, which will promote prevention, protection of women against all forms of violence and discrimination;
2. The modification and deletion of certain provisions contained in the old civil code, notably the obligation of obedience of the wife, the role of the husband as head of the family, and the right of the husband to choose residence for both husband and wife. From now on, the wife can decide on the choice of their residence or can ask for a divorce in a consensual way without needing to resort to a judge;
3. The modification of the penal code by bringing a wider opening of the right of voluntary interruption of pregnancy (IVG) so that the state of distress of the women would not need to be qualified as serious. Also, the requirement of a doctor's opinion to establish the state of distress of pregnant women is removed because women remain the only ones who can judge their state of distress at the time of the request.

Gender-based violence (GBV): Domestic violence is also prevalent in Gabon, especially in rural areas. A study shows that domestic violence is most common in the provinces of Ngounié and Ogooué-Lolo, with 67% of women participating in the study responding that they experienced marital violence (emotional, physical or sexual). In the past 12 months, 22 percent of women aged 15 to 49 reported being subjected to physical and sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner.

Health: In 2012, the adolescent birth rate was 91 per 1,000 women aged 15-19, down from 113.6 in 2010. Additionally, women of reproductive age (15-49 years) frequently confront impediments to their sexual and reproductive health and rights: in 2012, 44% of women used modern methods to meet their family planning needs.

Political representation and in decision making structures: women now control the portfolios of the Prime Minister's Office, the Economy, the Budget, Education, Labor, National Defense, and Justice, all of which are high responsibility government positions. The upper house of the Gabonese parliament, the Senat, is headed by a woman. However, despite their increasing numerical presence, and the commitment of the Gabonese State to reduce gender inequalities, women's participation in political life remains minimal. Their representation in parliament during the 2012-2017 legislature was 15%, currently it is 19.2%. As for the representation of women in the Gabonese government, it has increased from 29% in 2015 to 33% today.

Society[20]: Traditional gender norms shape Gabonese society. While men oversee earning money to support the family, women are in charge of household management and the upbringing of children. Girls get an education at a lower rate than boys. Gender-based income disparities contribute significantly to the deterioration of women's position in the country. Polygamy is prevalent, but often finances determine the number of wives a man can have, and it becomes a show of wealth as much as it is an indulgence. The divorce rate is very low in the country. Most marriages are not legally sanctioned as it requires visiting the mayor's office in a city to complete the process, and few do so. Children are highly valued in Gabonese society, and most couples have more than one child. Men with multiple wives often have five or more children. Although both boys and girls are sent to school, girls drop out faster than boys. School dropout rates are quite high, as low-income families often employ their children for labor rather than spend money on their education. The marriage age is quite low, and so is the childbearing age. Maternal mortality rates are high in Gabon.

Division of Labor: Men and women have different labor demands. Women are responsible for raising children, farming, food preparation, and domestic activities. If there are any cash crops, the men handle them, and they may work in fishing, construction, or in city offices. Women also work as secretaries in cities, and a limited number of women have ascended to positions of authority despite the workplace's underlying male dominance.[21]

Project-specific gender information and considerations:

According to the general report of the ten-year plan for Gabonese women 2015-2025, several state and private initiatives benefit women in a context where the state is committed to developing agriculture, fishing, and livestock to diversify the economy (OLAM, GRAINE program, etc.). Thanks to the Grand Prix du Président de la République, women's entrepreneurship is also growing in rural areas (which has been on hold for three years). Many of the laureates are establishing agricultural production and processing businesses. This entrepreneurship is also growing in the fields of trade and services, and it would benefit from increased government support. There has also been a delay in establishing the IGA Support Fund, which should allow poor women to become self-sufficient. Apart from microcredits for IGAs, state support for the development of women's entrepreneurship is still very limited and not very accessible to the majority of people.

Additionally, women and men play different but complementary roles in using and managing resources in Gabon. While men undertake most fishing activities, over 90% of the post-harvest labor in the fisheries sector is performed by women worldwide.[22] Despite this, women's perspectives in the fisheries value chain are often overlooked. Women face many barriers to access in the fisheries sector, including access to financial capital, social capital, and available time.

Project activities will be designed to take into account the context of the country and area and to address critical gender imbalances. To ensure gender equity in project activities, a gender analysis will be conducted as well as a gender action plan in a participatory manner, which will include gender-specific indicators to track progress.

Some key considerations that the proposed project will follow to ensure strengthening gender responsiveness activities are the following:

Recognize and increase women's leadership

- Ensure that women are effectively involved and equally represented in all decision-making processes and governance structures at all levels
- Develop strategies to improve women's access and control over environmental natural resources, assets, and technology.
- Use women's local knowledge and specialized skills in natural resource management.

Collecting sex-disaggregated data

- Improve the collection, analysis, utilization, and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. Engage gender experts to support this process.
- Build the capacity of other relevant stakeholders to collect sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics.

Gender-responsive programming

- Ensure that gender equality considerations are fully mainstreamed into the PFP development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Awareness-raising

- Increase the awareness of all relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, civil society, and the general public, including community members from indigenous groups, on the linkages between gender and climate change.
- Increase the participation of the public and civil society organizations and, particularly, women's organizations in climate reporting.

[1] Hubbard (2010) Celebrating 20 Years of Progress Towards Gender Equality: Retrieved from <http://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/Pdf/20yearsspeech.pdf>

[2] More on this can be found in Shejavali N. (2015) A thorn in the flesh for gender equality How the gender gap in Namibia's Regional Council Elections Undermines the Country's Otherwise Impressive Gender Equity Gains at Other Levels of Governance: Retrieved from https://ippr.org.na/wpcontent/uploads/2016/02/Briefing_Gender_Equality_web.pdf

[3] Namibia Statistics Agency (2017) Key Highlights of the Namibia Labour Force Survey 2016 Report, Windhoek. Available here: https://cms.my.na/assets/documents/Labour_Force_Survey_-_20161.pdf

[4] Id.

[5] Namibia Statistics Agency (2014), 2011 Census Fertility Report. Available here: https://www.ean.org.na:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/337/Namibia_2011_Census_Fertility_Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

[6] Namibia Statistics Agency (2016), Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2015/16. Available here: https://d3rp5jat0m3eyn.cloudfront.net/cms/assets/documents/NHIES_2015-1

[7] The Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Namibia Statistics Agency (2014), Namibia Demographic and Health Survey, 2013. Available here: <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR298/FR298.pdf>

[8] Namibia Statistics Agency (2012) Namibia 2011 Population and Housing Census. Retrieved from <https://cms.my.na/assets/documents/p19dmn58guram30ttun89rdrp1.pdf>

[9] Namibia Statistics Agency (2018) Namibia Land Statistics. Retrieved from <https://cms.my.na/assets/documents/NamibiaLandStatistics2018Draft.pdf>

[10] Namibia Statistics Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (2015) Namibia Census of Agriculture 2013/2014: Communal Sector: Retrieved from https://cms.my.na/assets/documents/NAC_2013.pdf

[11] Mogotsi I., Lendelvo, S., Angula, M., & Nakanyala J (2016) Forest Resource Management and Utilisation Through A Gendered Lens in Namibia

[12] Gender assessment - green climate fund. (n.d.). Retrieved March 30, 2022, from <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gender-assessment-fp024-eif-namibia.pdf>

[13] Id.

[14] Id.

[15] Id.

[16] Id.

[17] Id.

[18] [Country Fact Sheet | UN Women Data Hub](#)

[19] Id.

[20] [The Culture Of Gabon - WorldAtlas](#)

[21] [Culture of Gabon - history, people, clothing, traditions, women, beliefs, food, customs, family \(everyculture.com\)](#)

[22] <http://www.fao.org/blogs/blue-growthblog/promoting-gender-in-fisheries-activities-in-somalia/en/>

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The private sector is a key player and stakeholder in community economic development. Their activities may align with and support conservation outcomes and goals of the PFP, and, in certain cases, may directly fall within the scope of the PFP (e.g., sustainable forestry, ecotourism, etc.). The private sector may also be engaged at a partnership-level in areas such as: carbon finance, biodiversity offsets, and other private capital market financing solutions (e.g., debt for nature swaps, etc.), particularly in Gabon.

In Gabon, the private sector plays a key role in forestry, with over 50% of the forest under private concessions. There is a range of players, from exemplary professional operators, following all best practices (FSC certification, Reduced Impact Logging) and investing in biodiversity and community development initiatives, to very poor operators, with little regard for the ecological sustainability of their operation and the impacts on the livelihoods of surrounding communities. There is a need to “raise the bar” overall and make sure that all operators perform following best practices. Even after 30% of forests have been put under effective protected areas management, significantly high conservation and high carbon stock forest will remain outside of protected areas. It is important that PAs do not become “islands of excellence” surrounded by degraded landscapes. Gabon has the opportunity to make sure that significant swaths of forest outside formal protection can continue to provide habitat for endangered species (serving as corridors between parks for instance), and to sequester large amounts of carbon. These forestry concessions are also a foundation of the “green economy”, where investments throughout the whole value chain can provide reliable jobs. Private operators have a significant role to play in the construction of the conservation agenda. The PFP will seek to identify interventions that can catalyze joint ventures and strategic investments in support of maintaining healthy viable landscapes around the areas formally protected.

And while tourism is still an unfulfilled vision in Gabon, opportunities are tremendous and private operators can play a key role in spearheading strategic investments that can harness untapped potential and create new tourism projects with the possibility to generate new jobs and revenue for the protected areas.

In Namibia, the financial and developmental contributions of the tourism and wildlife enterprise operators who form joint venture partnerships with conservancies are already being tracked through the NACSO monitoring systems. These operators / investors will be engaged to solicit their perspectives on the existing and needed capacities of conservancies to facilitate functional and effective business partnerships. These will be considered during the discussion relating to extension services for conservancies. It is also important to facilitate the development and / or confirmation of a shared vision between conservancies and the private sector as existing and potential investors in the conservancies.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Table 5. Risks, Gabon

<u>Risk</u>	<u>Risk Level (Likelihood)</u>	<u>Severity Of Impact</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
Civil Society Capacity Gabonese civil society has limited financial, technical, and/or human resource capacity to contribute to this project without additional support.	Medium	Low	The project will help strengthen the capabilities (skills and knowledge, equipment, technologies, etc.) of relevant CSOs to better enable them to fulfill their role as stakeholders. Examples include developing a plan for stakeholder engagement and participatory management (under Outcome 1.1) and organizing a series of webinars, case studies and workshops to present best practices on management of protected and conserved areas, and to facilitate south-south exchange of lessons and experiences among PFP countries (under Outcome 2.2).
Institutional Capacity Existing Institutional Capacity to implement activities is mixed. Several institutions have strong experience implementing large scale projects, other partners have less experience or institutional capacity.	Medium	Medium	An integral component of the project design is establishing a strong training and capacity building implementation plan for each program. Under Outcome 1.1, the project will support government costs for workshops, meetings, consultancies and legal assistance for (i) developing the conservation plan and financial model, (ii) preparation of an Operating Manual to guide implementation of the PFP; and (iii) defining a Single Close Agreement between the partners. Also under Outcome 1.1, to support the development of the conservation plan and financi

			<p>development of the conservation plan and financial model, the project will fund strategic capacity building of the Gabon Agence Nationale des Parc Nationaux (ANPN) managers and other government stakeholders to participate in the preparation of the long-term conservation strategy and the financial model, establishment of a governance structure, development of an Operations Manual, and scoping of sustainable financing mechanisms</p>
<p>Institutional Governance Lack of institutional capacity, undefined responsibility chains and lack of project management and implementation protocols that meet international standards.</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>Under Outcome 1.1, the project will fund the design and set up of governance structures, including: defining the roles and responsibilities of different actors (e.g., government agencies, donors, fund administrator, etc.) in its implementation and management; establishing the endowment, sinking and/or transition fund; and developing necessary financial information and planning systems.</p>
<p>Government Leadership and Engagement in Favor of the Project Government Ministers and Agencies are not actively engaged and do not support the development and implementation of the project.</p>	Low	Low	<p>It is expected that the Minister of Forests, Waters, Environment and Climate Change, will continue to show strong leadership and support of the project, so risk is low. To maintain the current situation, engagement and support of existing positive relations with relevant government ministries will be continued.</p> <p>TNC have also been engaging additional/new champions for this project, with support at the Presidency level, the Prime minister, other key ministers, including finance minister, and the Sovereign Wealth Fund.</p> <p>President Bongo is very supportive of projects that strengthen Gabon's environmental leadership.</p>
<p>Local Communities Local communities may fail to support PFP collaboration and project implementation</p>	Low	Low	<p>The project will initially implement a targeted outreach program to raise awareness in all the communities about the potential benefits of, and obligations associated with, PFP. Under Outcome 1.1, a focus/plan for stakeholder engagement and participatory management</p>

<p>tion, due to distrust, lack of understanding of project, and/or perceived economic and social costs of activities.</p>			<p>ent will be developed. Under Outcome 2.2, there will be a series of analyses, webinars, case studies and workshops to present best practices on core competencies for PFP implementation and management of protected and conserved areas, and to facilitate south-south exchange of lessons and experiences among PFP countries.</p>
<p>Project Design/Complexity of PFP Approach</p> <p>Unable to secure commitment from the government to increase funding for the protected and conserved areas nationally, in the period while the transition fund is drawn down, until the government funds fully assume management costs.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Sources for increased government funding will be explored in project planning and implementation, with initial possibilities including through direct augmentation of treasury allocations and the identification and implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms, including taxes on oil and gas sector, tourism revenues, etc. The project, under Outcome 1.1, will provide support to the government in the form of technical and financial support, legal advice and strategic guidelines to catalyze the design of the PFP Initiative and generate the necessary conditions for its effective and efficient implementation. Specifically, the project will cover technical assistance, meeting/workshop costs, and recruitment of a specialized law firm to help PFP partners define and negotiate a number of closing conditions (i.e., financial, organizational, legal and governmental closing prerequisites) that, once met, will enable the PFP partners to close the deal.</p>
<p>Unable to mobilize resources or generate additional funding for improved management, a condition of the Gabon PFP and critical element to long-term financial sustainability of the protected and conserved areas of Gabon.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Under Outcome 1.1, the project will provide support to the government in the form of technical and financial support, legal advice and strategic guidelines to catalyze the design of the PFP Initiative and generate the necessary conditions for its effective and efficient implementation.</p>

<p>Government Elections Upcoming elections in Gabon (2023) bring the risk of losing high level government support for the Enduring Earth Partnership and furtherance of 30x30 and other development goals. Should the Gabon government priorities change, this may affect its role and commitment to the PFP collaboration.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Continuing to broaden support from the government through different ministries and agencies will be important to ensure that benefits from this project are appreciated and integrated into priorities across sectors and stakeholders, to ultimately reduce the risk of impact from a potential political shift.</p> <p>During PFP planning phase, a robust risk mitigation plan will be drawn and implemented to address this particular point, considering different potential scenarios as a result of the elections. One key element of the stakeholder engagement process to roll out in the early phase of the PFP is to engage well respected Gabonese citizens that can serve as additional champions and provide a politically balanced grounding to this project.</p> <p>Finally, strategic outreach materials designed to highlight the benefits the PFP can bring to Gabonese society and community members will be developed – to show the value of this project from an apolitical win-win perspective.</p>
---	------------	---------------	---

Table 6. Risks, Namibia

<u>Risk</u>	<u>Risk Level (Likelihood)</u>	<u>Severity Of Impact</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
<p>Communities withdraw support for conservancies</p>	<p>low</p>	<p>high</p>	<p>Ensure HWC is addressed through the extension support provided by the PFP. This can happen by providing grants for technical support partners to render training and on-site support to conservancies to implement HWC mitigation strategies, especially as provided for under the National Policy on HWC Management and accompanying Measures and Guidelines for I</p>

			<p>implementation of the policy. Compliance by conservancies includes i) implementing measures to avoid / reduce the impact of HWC; ii) documenting all incidences of conflict for monitoring purposes and administration of off-set claims where relevant; and iii) implementing the HWC Self Reliance Scheme as provided for in the Policy and Implementation Guidelines. A core part of the Self Reliance Scheme is the payment of off-set fees to partially cover the costs of damages caused by wild life, in accordance with clear claim, verification and payment procedures. The Self Reliance Scheme is mostly financed by the Game Products Trust Fund (capitalized from the sale of game and game products) and conservancy own funds (generated through trophy hunting and tourism). Committee members will be held accountable by the conservancy members (who elected them into power) during the Annual General Meeting, where the committee will report on all activities implemented during the previous year (including HWC mitigation) and present plans for the following year for endorsement by the conservancy members.</p>
Poor service delivery of critical services to conservancies	low	medium	<p>The GEF project/PFP staff at the national level / Fund Managing Entity should ensure the procurement of services are structured to ensure correct selection of skills and include accountability mechanisms, through clear funding / grants disbursement criteria and guidelines.</p>
Covid continues and impacts program design and/or implementation	medium	medium	<p>Funding can be contributed to the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilient Facility (CRRRF) where multiple funding partners collaborate to provide financial relief to CBNRM institutions, including communal conservancies affected by the pandemic. The facility will ensure continuation of key conservancy interventions, including anti-poaching activities, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, and management of natural resources. All 86 conservan</p>

			<p>cies should benefit from this facility to cover their core / operating costs, such as those related to deployment of community game guards and staff salaries to retain the main functions of conservancies and not lay off any conservancy employees. Support should be provided by the field based CSOs together with MEFT to ensure full accountability and reporting to the coordination task team on the use of these funds by the conservancies.</p> <p>Technical service providers should facilitate positive engagement between conservancies and their private sector partners, to find amicable solutions to payment expectations (where Joint Venture contracts require the private sector partners to make certain payments to conservancies), including “relaxing payment schedules and conditions” to allow for the tourism sector to recover. The technical service providers evolve and amend modes of operation, including conducting their meetings, workshops and training sessions online; and support conservancy meetings in line with Covid related restrictions and requirements.</p>
Government weakens the conservancies' rights / responsibilities due to conservancies not performing	low	high	<p>Ensure that the Conservancies receive a adequate extension services from the technical service providers in the three areas of NRM, Institutional Governance and Business and Enterprises. This will enable conservancies to be compliant to the MEFT's Guidelines for the Management of Conservancies and Standard Operating Procedures (2013). According to these, Conservancies are required to continually comply with the following: i) <u>holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) as per their own constitution</u> (this may stipulate quorum requirements, representativeness, etc.); ii) <u>new Management Committee election conducted in accordance with their constitution</u> (again, the constitution may stipulate composition of the Management Committee); iii) <u>submitting to the AGM</u></p>

			<p><u>annual financial statements (satisfactory to the community members present), showing expenditures kept within the community-approved budget; iv) managing wildlife as per the government-approved Game Management and Utilisation Plan, and submitting the utilization report to the MEFT; v) and distributing benefits according to their community-owned equitable Benefits Distribution Plan and procedure S.</u></p>
CCFN does not have the support of key local partners	low	high	Ensure that NACSO, Conservancies and MEFT are closely engaged with CCFN through engagement with the Board and the CEO
Disagreement/dissunity amongst the PFP partners about the objectives and priorities of the PFP	low	medium	Ensure complete transparency and agreements by all key stakeholders (ie. Conservancies, MEFT and NACSO members) as the project development team works with all key stakeholders in developing and agreeing to the closing agreement.
Perception that efforts to support CBNRM in Namibia are focused on the sustainability of NGOs as opposed to the sustainability of conservancies	medium	medium	Continuing and expanding on current efforts to provide direct payments to conservancies i.e., conservation performance and social economic grants, to be provided through co-financing, and exploring the ability to incorporate those elements in to the PFP
Government funding for conservancies decreases over time	medium	medium	Enhance technical capacities of conservancies to ensure they continue to comply with the legal provisions, even if monitoring and enforcement by government is weakened due to inadequate capacity for service provision within government. This will be ensured through the provision of extension services to conservancies (to be covered by capitalized fund).
High inflation erodes	medium	medium	Review the investment strategy of CCFN

des the value of the fund to deliver			closely to ensure this is addressed/accounted for and that investment advisory services adheres to internationally recognized good practice and are provided by highly qualified, internationally-recognized professionals.
Fraud/mismanagement of endowment fund(s)	low	high	Review, and if necessary, increase any financial systems that would prevent fraud. Have a representative on the Board.
Not respecting communities' rights to generate benefits for conservation and livelihoods from hunting	medium	medium	Engage donors that have a vision for community-based approaches, to ensure that external funding will not come with conditions that will disempower the ability of conservancies to manage and benefit from their wildlife. Complete ESSF assessments; develop and implement mitigation plans, including Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), and stakeholder engagement plan. The IPPF will clarify under what circumstances a more focused Indigenous Peoples Plan and/or FPIC would be necessary. Consider also the future opportunities to incorporate payment for ecosystem services/wildlife credit framework could help to mitigate the risk.
PFP Funds not sufficient to deliver on PFP objectives	low	high	Plan to provide extension services to 100 conservancies (86 current + 14 planned). It is not, and has never been the plan / intention of this or any project in the past to establish new conservancies. Conservancy formation is entirely community driven, with support services rendered on request by the communities concerned. Thus, although this project does not have an output or strategy to establish new cons

ervancies, it will plan to have adequate capacity to render support to communities when requested.

Table 7. Climate Risk Analysis

Country	Climate Risk	Climate Risk Impacts	How the Project Addresses This
Namibia	<p>On an Index that ranks a country's vulnerability and readiness to adapt to climate change, Namibia is ranked 107th out of 182 countries.[1] In Namibia, Wildfires occur in the Caprivi, Karas, Erongo, Kunene, and Kunene regions.[2]</p>	<p>It is estimated that 3.5 to 7 million hectares of forest and grasslands burn every year in Namibia.[3] Wildfires have impacts on biodiversity, forest degradation and pasture lands reducing the amount of fodder and crops available to communities.</p>	<p>This project aims to promote sustainable management of established globally significant conservation areas as well as aid in creating new conservation areas that will be set aside for wildlife use as natural habitat. The project will incorporate a more holistic and integrated approach to building resilience and adaptive capacity to counter climate induced threats such as drought, flooding, uncontrolled wildfires, and an increase in invasive species</p>
Gabon and Namibia	<p>On the same index ranking a country's vulnerability to climate change and readiness to adapt as above, Gabon is ranked 117th in the world.[4] Both Namibia and Gabon have seen an increase in annual temperatures. Extreme Heat and Invasive Species.</p> <p>Namibia's rangelands and grasslands are constantly under threat from invasive plants and extreme heat.</p>	<p>As a result of changing precipitation patterns and increased heat, trees in Gabonese forests are producing less fruit which affects the population of elephants. There have been more incidences of human conflict with elephants as elephants leave their traditional habitats in search of food.[5]</p> <p>Over the past century, the rangelands in Namibia have become degraded in response to a variety of species grazing, soil erosion and reduced water infiltration into the water table. Invasive species causing "bush encroachment" have resulted in a much lower carrying capacity of grazing animals, negatively affecting wildlife and livestock populations.</p>	<p>The project will incorporate a more holistic and integrated approach to building resilience and adaptive capacity to counter climate induced threats such as drought, flooding, uncontrolled wildfires, and an increase in invasive species</p>

<p>Gabon and Namibia</p>	<p>Severe drought in both Gabon and Namibia is a threat to people and biodiversity. In Gabon, droughts affect approximately 21,000 people annually and in Namibia approximately 780,000 of the population of 2 million are affected.[6]</p>	<p>Drying and disappearance of surface water or freshwater, increased instances of hunger, famine, and poor nutrition, decline in livestock health, and decline or loss of crop yields are all associated with severe droughts in the project area (in both Namibia and Gabon). In both Gabon and Namibia, the government has stepped in during severe droughts and assisted with regulating freshwater resources.</p> <p>Previous droughts have cost Namibia up to 175 M USD per year. One incident of drought between 2018-2019 The drought devastated crops, killed 90,000 livestock, and left a third of Namibians facing food shortages.[7]In Gabon, it is estimated that costs associated with droughts per year reach up to 185M USD. [8] Gabon relies heavily on rainfed agriculture, limiting food security when droughts occur.</p>	<p>five species.</p>
<p>Gabon and Namibia</p>	<p>Increased instances of disease/declining health have been linked to flooding events in Namibia.[9] Flooding has also become more frequent in recent years in Gabon and is estimated to impact 70,000 people annually. These events are expected to continue in response to sea level rise and flooding.[10]</p>	<p>An Increase in Diseases related to flooding and water-borne illnesses in Namibia has been observed, with the most prevalent diseases being malaria, dysentery, and cholera. During a flood in 2008 there was a cholera outbreak that caused 19 deaths.[11]</p> <p>In Gabon, flooding usually occurs along the rivers located near the international border during high tides causing the rivers to become brackish and contaminating drinking water. In Gabon, floods are most common in two areas- in Ogooué-Ivindo and Moyen-Ogooué provinces. Flooding affects 21% of the total population in the country, having serious detrimental impacts on the agricultural, water, oil, ener</p>	

Table 8. COVID Risks

Risk category	Potential Risk	Mitigations and Plans
Availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines	Continued or renewed efforts in COVID-19 containment are likely over the course of project development and possibly into implementation and may cause delays.	The project development work plan and team will be built with this in mind, for example, selecting local staff and consultants to conduct stakeholder engagement to minimize the risks associated with international or outside consultants physically interacting with isolated, and rural communities. When necessary/appropriate, the project will rely on remote technology to connect to in-country consultants and partners to design and consult on the project.
Financial Resources	Changes in baseline – there is a low risk that any of the co-financing or baseline will be decreased or delayed due to the Pandemic.	The additional need for resources to address the effects of the pandemic will not likely affect the co-financing available for this project. However, in Namibia, funding could be contributed to the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilient Facility (CRRRF) where multiple funding partners collaborate to provide financial relief to CBNRM institutions, including communal conservancies affected by the pandemic. The facility will ensure continuation of key conservancy interventions, including anti-poaching activities, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, and management of natural resources. All 86 conservancies should benefit from this facility to cover their core / operating costs, such as those related to deployment of community game guards and staff salaries to retain the main functions of conservancies and not lay off any conservancy employees. Support should be provided by the field based CSOs together with MEFT to ensure f

		<p>ull accountability and reporting to the coordination task team on the use of these funds by the conservancies. Technical service providers should facilitate positive engagement between conservancies and their private sector partners, to find amicable solutions to payment expectations (where Joint Venture contracts require the private sector partners to make certain payments to conservancies), including “relaxing payment schedules and conditions” to allow for the tourism sector to recover. The technical service providers evolve and amend modes of operation, including conducting their meetings, workshops and training sessions online; and support conservancy meetings in line with Covid related restrictions and requirements</p>
<p>Stakeholder engagement processes</p>	<p>With the risks COVID-19 poses, it may be difficult to do community-level consultations on the project in the development phase.</p>	<p>Local level consultation will only be undertaken if it complies to national to local government guidelines and WWF national office guidelines. For example, it is possible that a small number of staff engage stakeholders on a broader set of topics such as design, gender, social and environmental issues, in order to limit exposure. Staff conducting consultations can utilize PPE for themselves and for people they talk to in person. Additionally, COVID protocol will be developed and followed, such as testing, and supply of sanitizer and masks. In any case where either party is not comfortable to engage in discussions, it will not proceed. As much as possible/appropriate to circumstances and conditions in the target geographies, remote connections will be sought, for example via local government offices visiting communities.</p> <p>In all cases, continued attention will be given to ensuring the voices of IP, women, youth, and any underrepresented community members.</p> <p>Development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for i</p>

		<p>Implementation will also address such restrictions and mitigations.</p>
<p>Future risk of similar crises</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this project will have adverse impacts that might contribute to future pandemics, for example, there will be no focus on increasing the human-wildlife interface or any actions that cause degradation.</p>	<p>This will be closely reviewed in the ESSF screening and in safeguards analysis and documentation. There are some project activities that may reduce current forest degradation.</p>

Table 9. COVID “Opportunity analysis”

Opportunity Category	Potential and plans
Can the project do more to protect and restore natural systems and their ecological functionality?	The project will safeguard ecological functionality in protected areas and communal conservancies in Gabon and Namibia, respectively. The project will bring sustainable finance at a point in time where green recovery is important in Gabon and Namibia.
Can the project include a focus on production landscapes and land use practices within them to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts?	The project will have direct impacts in rural communities, many of which rely on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or live in close proximity to wildlife. In Namibia for example, the project will directly contribute to the mitigation of human/nature, specifically human-wildlife, conflicts by providing extension services/capacity building to communal conservancies for this purpose.
Can the project promote circular solutions to reduce unsustainable resource extraction and environmental degradation?	n/a
Can the project innovate in climate change mitigation and engaging with the private sector?	The private sector is a key player and stakeholder in community economic development. Their activities may align with and support conservation outcomes and goals of the PFP, and, in certain cases, may directly fall within the scope of the PFP (e.g., sustainable forestry, ecotourism, etc.). The private sector may also be engaged at a partnership-level in areas such as: carbon finance, biodiversity offsets, and other private capital market financing solutions (e.g., debt for nature swaps, etc.), particularly in Gabon. In Namibia, through the provision of extension services to individual conservancies, the project will develop/enhance the capacities in country to engage with the private sector, e.g. through the development of joint ventures with the tourism sector.

[1] UNISDR (2018). Disaster Risk Profile – Namibia. URL: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/63278>

[2] Climate Risk Profile: Namibia (2021): The World Bank Group

[3] Id.

[4] UNISDR (2019). Disaster Risk Profile – Gabon. URL: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Report_Gabon_Final-compressed.pdf CLIMATE RISK COUNTRY PROFILE: GABON

[5] Bush, E. R., Whytock, R. C., Bahaa-el-din, L., Bourgeois, S., Bunnefeld, N., Cardoso, A. W., ... Abernethy, K. (2020). Long-term collapse in fruit availability threatens central African forest megafauna. *Science*, eabc7791. doi:10.1126/science.abc7791

[6] Kapuka, A. and Hlasny, T (2020). Social Vulnerability to Natural Hazards in Namibia: A District-Based Analysis. Sustainability 12(12). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12124910>

[7] Id.

[8] Climate Risk Profile: Gabon (2021): The World Bank Group

[9] Kapuka, A. and Hlasny, T (2020)

[10] Climate Risk Profile: Gabon (2021): The World Bank Group

[11] Climate Risk Profile: Namibia (2021): The World Bank Group

[12] The World Bank Group (2021)

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Institutional Structure of the Project

Enduring Earth is an unprecedented partnership to rapidly scale the PFP model and complete many more PFP deals in a fraction of the time. It is a collaboration between three conservation NGOs—The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)—and private philanthropist and investor Ben Walton through ZOMALAB. The Enduring Earth partners share a desire to collectively accelerate the expansion of the PFP approach globally to deliver benefits for biodiversity, people, and climate. Since March 2020, the four founding organizations have formalized a collaborative.

The partners bring complementary expertise, essential to the theory of acceleration. TNC has a successful record of leveraging private investment and innovative financing, conservation and spatial planning, and Indigenous-led conservation. WWF brings proven PFP planning expertise and PFP knowledge sharing through the Earth for Life program, engagement with public finance sources through its status as a GEF and GCF agency, and experience building successful communal conservancy models. Pew has deep experience in policy and advocacy campaigns and Indigenous partnerships, and a long track record of contributing nonpartisan research. ZOMALAB brings deal experience and expertise in economic analysis and community economic development.

The partners have developed a shared management and governance structure. The following three bodies guide and align the partners:

- **CEO Council:** Comprised of the founding partner CEOs. Endorses the global PFP strategy and portfolio, financial allocations, annual work plan and budget; advises on deal development; approves new core partners; and advocates for partnership goals through fundraising, strategic guidance, and risk management.
- **Management Team:** Comprised of senior staff from each founding partner plus the Enduring Earth Managing Director. Responsible for overall execution and implementation of the global PFP strategy; approval and deployment of deal teams across organizations; oversight of the Collaboration Hub; and engagement of the CEO Council.
- Headed by the Enduring Earth Managing Director and includes key staff funded or seconded by founding members. Works with the Management Team and CEO Council to implement activities, including facilitating collaboration across the PFP portfolio, serving in a communications/secretary function, coordinating a community of practice and the deal bench, and documenting lessons learned.

Other key partners to Enduring Earth include bilateral, multilateral, and private philanthropic funders as well as those specific to individual PFP initiatives, such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments, and local NGOs.

Enduring Earth will house the global project management unit (PMU) and will undertake administrative and management functions for the Enduring Earth GEF Project, as well as implementation of Outcome 2.2 and project-level monitoring and evaluation coordination and knowledge management under Component 3.

Country level sub-project management units will be established in Gabon and Namibia, to be identified during project development phase. Management of the transition, endowment and/or sinking funds for the individual PFPs would likely be overseen by a mixed, public-private program board housed in an independent, non-governmental conservation trust fund in accordance with terms and conditions set out in PFP closing documents/financing instruments and recognized good practice for environmental funds.

Project partners, in country, may include:

- *Gabon*: Ministry of Forests, Waters, Environment and Climate Change; ANPN (Agence Nationale des Parc Nationaux); and TNC
- *Namibia*: Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN); Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO); (part of NACSO, together with nine other organizations); Ministry of Environment and Tourism; and WWF.

A ***Project Steering Committee*** will be established to serve as the oversight, advisory and support body for the project. Composition of the PSC will aim for gender parity, and include representatives of the different project partnering agencies and will be open to a GEF Secretariat representative. The PSC will provide overall guidance and direction to the implementation of the project and provides advice on appropriate strategies for project sustainability. It will advise on any conflicts within the project or on any problems with external bodies.

The ***WWF GEF Agency*** will provide implementation support and supervision for this project, including review of project technical and financial progress reports and yearly supervision missions to the project and project sites. The WWF GEF Agency will: (i) provide consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives and Results Framework, and provide other assistance upon request of the Lead Executing Agency; (ii) liaise between the project and the GEF Secretariat; (iii) ensure that both GEF and WWF policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e. reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, monitoring and evaluation-M&E); (iv) approve work-plans and budget revisions, certify fund availability and transfer funds and ensure proper use of GEF funds; (v) organize the final evaluation and review project audits; and (vi) certify project operational and financial completion; and (vii) arbitrate and ensure resolution of any conflicts during implementation that cannot be resolved in first instance by the EA.

Coordination with other GEF-projects and other initiatives:

The proposed Enduring Earth project presents the opportunity to complement GEF and other donor funded landscape protection initiatives contributing to the 30x30 goals, including (among others):

- The “Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve the Conservation of 1.25 Billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems” project targets marine and coastal ecosystems, supported by the GEF, CI, Pew, Minderoo and Ben and Lucy Ana Walton.

- Legacy Landscapes Fund, supported by BMZ, KfW, AfD, and a number of NGOs, which aims to (1) Build a global, diversified portfolio of 30+ legacy landscapes by 2030 (2) Protect more than 60.000km² of the world's most important biodiversity (3) Set-up a 1 Billion USD sinking plus endowment funds with public and private donors that will allow to support operational costs of up to 30 landscapes in perpetuity. The Fund focuses on iconic parks only (IUCN categories 1-2) and parks must be at least 200,000 hectares.
- Pristine Seas, led by National Geographic Society, is an exploration, research, and conservation project that aims to find, survey, and help protect the last healthy, undisturbed places in the ocean.
- Amazon Region Protected Areas for Life Project. This GEF-funded project utilizes a PFP approach to support the expansion and consolidation of strict protected areas in the Amazonian region to advance government goals to bring at least 10% of the Amazon biome under strict protection.
- The GEF-funded National Parks: Peru's Natural Legacy (or "PdP," its Spanish acronym) project, which utilizes a PFP approach to promote long-term financial sustainability for the effective management of the Peruvian National System of Natural Protected Areas in order to protect globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon biome.
- The GEF- and GCF-funded Bhutan for Life, a PFP initiative that will mobilize 35-45M to strengthen enforcement and management of protected areas; protect and monitoring wildlife and habitats; and support communities through job creation initiatives in Bhutan.
- The GEF-funded "National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3" medium-size project that will support planning in Namibia and four other countries to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed GBF Target 3.
- The GEF-funded "Integrated approach to proactive management of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime in hotspot landscapes in Namibia," the objective of which is to incentivize wildlife conservation through proactive management of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime, and delivery of wildlife-based benefits to rural communities in three hotspot landscapes.
- The proposed GEF-funded project Gabon: Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in the Bas-Ogooué-Bas-Nyanga Landscape will improve the management of natural resources in the Lower Ogooué/Lower Nyanga landscape by strengthening governance and enhancing the ability of forest-dependent communities to protect forest resources for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
- The Central African Forests Initiative (CAFI), through a \$150 million grant from Norway, will support Gabon in the implementation of the National Investment Framework (NIF) and commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions from forests by 50% by 2025 compared to a 2005 baseline level; this makes Gabon the first high forest cover and low deforestation country in Africa to be able to claim payments for emissions reductions and removals.
- The United Kingdom government's Biodiverse Landscapes Fund will provide over \$130M to support poverty reduction, biodiversity protection and conservation, and climate change mitigation across six critical landscapes. Approximately \$19M will be directed towards implementing organizations in Western Congo Basin landscape countries of Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.
- ECOFAC6 - Preserving Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems in Central Africa, an EU-funded programme targets direct support to 17 protected areas spread over 7 different states and 8 priority landscapes for conservation, while contributing to a green economy characterized by sustainable and inclusive economic development, and interventions to tackle climate change.

- The USAID-funded Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) began its third phase (CARPE III) in 2012 to maintain the ecological integrity of the humid forest ecosystem of the Congo Basin and to contribute to the goal of accelerating Central Africa's transition to climate-resilient, low-emissions development through sustainable management of biodiverse forests.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

<u>National Strategy</u>	<u>Alignment to Project</u>
Gabon	
<p>CBD National Report 6th National Report (2019)</p>	<p>Gabon adopted 24 national objectives relating to the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020. By capitalizing an endowment fund to support 30x30x30 goals and improved management of the marine and terrestrial protected area estate in Gabon, the project will contribute directly or indirectly to the achievement of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Objective 5 (calling for management of ecosystems impacting pelagic fish stocks); · Objective 9 (calling for conservation, through a national protected areas system of 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10% of marine and coastal areas, including areas that are particularly important for biodiversity and ecosystem services); · Objective 10 (calling for the improvement and maintenance of biological diversity, esp. that of threatened species); Objective 14 (calling for the development and maintenance of a national network of wetlands); · Objective 17 (calling for improved resilience of ecosystems and the contribution of biological diversity to carbon stocks in order to mitigate climate change and adapt to it); · Objective 22 (relating to strengthening human, legal, institutional and financial capacities to manage biological diversity in a sustainable manner); <p>and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 23 (strengthening international cooperation and concluding strategic alliances).
NBSAP (1999, 2004)	<p>The NBSAP available on the CBD website dated 1999, possibly updated or ratified in 2004 expresses Gabon's vision to "by 2025, ... ensure the conservation of biodiversity and guarantee satisfactory sharing of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from biological resources by raising awareness of the importance of its biological resources and by developing human and institutional capacities. It also calls for "Safeguarding Biodiversity by protecting genes, species, habitats and ecosystems." The project will contribute to the achievement of this vision by supporting the expansion and improved management of the marine and terrestrial protected areas estates in Gabon.</p>
UNFCCC National Communication/NDC (2016)	<p>In its NDC (2016), Gabon committed to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 50 percent from baseline scenario emissions in 2025. The commitment is to be achieved excluding carbon stocks from forests from the target. The NDC notes that land use change accounts for 60% of direct emissions in Gabon and would be a focus of its strategy to reduce emissions. This project will facilitate investment in the maintenance / enhancement / and expansion of conservation areas (with varying degrees of land use restrictions) helping to assure that high value forest and other ecosystems, including wetlands and mangroves, remain intact.</p>
Plan Gabon Vert	<p>Environment is one of three central pillars of the Gabon Emergent national development strategy. See: https://docplayer.fr/33187044-Plan-operation-nel-gabon-vert-horizon-donner-a-l-emergence-une-trajectoire-durable.html. "Green Gabon" aims to increase wealth and opportunities through the sustainable development of seven nature-associated value chains: the wood sector, Forest Products Non-Timber (NTFP), the bushmeat sector, fishing, aquaculture, agriculture and livestock. By capitalizing an endowment fund to support the management of the marine and terrestrial protected area estate in Gabon, the project will help to ensure that natural capital remains intact and generating services that contribute to/enable these development goals.</p>
Namibia	

<p>NBSAP 2 (2013-2022)</p>	<p>By capitalizing an endowment fund that will provide financial support to enhance the effectiveness of community-based natural resource management and the expansion of the conservancy system in Namibia by making investments in (among other things): quota setting, hunting concessions, harvesting systems, human wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, anti-poaching systems, game censuses and introductions, monitoring systems, law enforcement support, inter alia, the project will contribute directly to the achievement of a number of strategic goals set out in Namibia's NBSAP. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. <p>The endowment established by the project will provide direct support to a number of strategic initiatives under Goal C, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strategic Initiative 3.1.1 which aims to “ensure that all protected areas are managed using participatory and science-based site planning processes that incorporate clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programmes”; -Strategic Initiative 3.1.2, which is focused on developing capacities and infrastructure within protected areas to attract tourism and tourism investment; and -3.1.3: which aims to Consolidate integrated park management to enable it to generate economic benefits, tackle human wildlife conflicts and contribute to biodiversity protection integrated into the wider landscape. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation of NBSAP2 through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building, incl. , mobilization of financial resources from all sources
<p>CBD National Report, 6th (December 2018)</p>	<p>By capitalizing an endowment fund to support the effectiveness of community-based natural resource management and the expansion of the conservancy system in Namibia, the project will contribute directly to the achievement of Target 13, which aims to safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services and contribute to health, livelihoods and wellbeing.</p>

<p>The National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2013-2020) and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions document (2015) and updated NDC (2021)</p>	<p>The National Climate Change Strategy and Action plan set ambitious targets for climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as: 1. Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 89% by 2030; [...] 4. Reforesting 20,000 hectares annually from 2018; 5. Restoring 15 million hectares of grassland by 2030; 6. Practicing conservation agriculture on 80,000 hectares by 2030; 7. Implementing agro-forestry systems on 5,000 hectares of land commencing in 2018. Namibia's Updated NDC speaks specifically to the use of conservancies, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) as a key adaptation approach.</p>
<p>Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)(2017-2022)</p>	<p>Environment is one of four pillars of Namibia's national development plan. In line with the plan, the project will help to improve infrastructure, enforcement, combat poaching and illegal trade by enabling more resources to flow to CBNRM.</p>
<p>Harambee Prosperity Plan (2021-2025)</p>	<p>Action Plan of the Namibian Government Towards Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth. The Economic Progression Pillar (one of five pillars of the overall plan) calls for Optimizing Stewardship of Natural Resources and enhancing productivity in key sectors by, inter alia, reviewing policy and legislation to unlock the economic potential of communal land.</p>
<p>Human Wildlife Conflict Policy (2009, rev. 2018)</p>	<p>This policy recognizes that living with wildlife carries a cost and that there is an urgent need to find practical approaches and solutions to reduce the impacts of human-wildlife conflict, particularly in areas with the most vulnerable communities in Namibia. The endowment fund may provide resources designed to directly address such problems in community conservancies.</p>
<p>National Community-based Natural Resource Management Strategy (2013)</p>	<p>By mobilizing financial resources for extension services to support CBNRM and the conservancy system, the project will directly support the CBNRM policy which promotes the sustainable use of natural resources on state-land outside protected areas.</p>
<p>Constitution (1990)</p>	<p>Article 95(L) of the 1990 Constitution requires the State to take measures to promote and maintain the welfare of the people including "the mainten</p>

ance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future..." Project interventions will contribute directly to the maintenance of ecosystems and biological diversity in Namibia.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Lessons Learned from previous PFPs have been incorporated into this proposed project. Members of the WWF GEF Agency and Enduring Earth teams that supported PIF development for this project also supported the design and implementation of multiple previous project finance for permanence initiatives (e.g. in Peru, Bhutan, Colombia, Costa Rica and others). Their experience and knowledge of good practice with respect to PFP design is reflected in the project's theory of change, outcomes, and outputs. Likewise, these project elements were informed by the recently published GEF-funded publication "SECURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION AREAS: A Guide to Project Finance for Permanence," which provides a comprehensive description of the PFP approach, and captures the experience of practitioners and lessons learned to date.

Among the important design decisions benefitting from previous PFP experience and knowledge:

- the proposed project does not identify the specific individual sites that will receive GEF funds, as experience shows that this may result in the PMU focusing solely on those areas to the exclusion of the wider PFP scope; instead the funds will be pooled and cover the entire PFP scope, safeguards will cover all the funds in each endowment or sinking fund, and a first tranche of recipient protected areas and conservancies will be identified in project development stage.
- the proposed project strategy contains a contingency, whereunder if inherent risks or other factors jeopardize either PFP initiative, the GEF project support will still be used to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Gabon's protected area system and for support services to Namibia conservancies.
- the proposed project provides for the assessment of institutional capacities (output 1.1.1), with a view to ensuring that national organizations in charge of overseeing, implementing, and providing sustainability to the PFP have the capacities needed for a successful PFP. The proposed project provides for the filling of gaps or shortcomings identified by these assessments.
- the proposed project will invest in the identification of feasible sustainable finance mechanisms (output 1.2.1) in Gabon (where the PFP design calls for it) and support for their adoption/endorsement by government (outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). Experience has shown that these are critical early steps that should be completed as early as possible to avoid delays in decision-making later on.
- the proposed project recognizes the importance of knowledge sharing, particularly with respect to how to deal with and solve PFP challenges, and so provides for south-south knowledge exchange to bring in countries such as Peru, Brasil, Costa Rica share their experiences with the new EE countries (output 2.2.3).
- core Namibia PFP project team roles and responsibilities – including for the project lead, fundraising legal, planning, and other functions – were designed based on experiences with the Brazil, Bhutan and Peru PFP core project teams.
- a formal feasibility assessment for the Namibia PFP – based on criteria informed by all PFPs closed to date – was completed in 2019, which evaluated whether enough enabling conditions were in place try to develop a PFP in Namibia.
- the decision to develop a PFP for Namibia was made only after securing a large, pledged donation to start capitalizing the fund (which helps attract other funders), and cover some PFP development cost.

Utilizing available knowledge to apply best practices and lessons learned is important during both project design and implementation to achieving greater, more efficient, and sustainable conservation results. Sharing this information is useful to other projects and initiatives to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and impact among the conservation community. Knowledge exchange is tracked and budgeted under Component 3 of the Results Framework.

Prior to finalizing the project design, during the project preparation phase, existing lessons and best practices will be gathered from other past and ongoing projects and incorporated into the project design. During project implementation and before the end of each project year, knowledge produced by or available to the Project will be consolidated from project stakeholders and exchanged with relevant project stakeholders and other related programs, initiatives and research institutions, including through the Enduring Earth hub and coalition itself. This collected knowledge will be analyzed alongside project monitoring and evaluation data at the annual project reflection workshop. It is at this meeting that the theory of change will be reviewed, and modifications to the annual work plan and budget will be drafted.

Lessons learned and best practices from the Project will be captured from field staff and reports, and from stakeholders at the annual reflection workshop. External evaluations will also provide lessons and recommendations. These available lessons and best practices will then be documented in the semi-annual project progress reports (PPR) (with best practices annexed to the report). The PMU Project Manager will ensure that key project stakeholders and related projects are informed of the reflection workshop, formal evaluations, and any documentation on lessons and best practices. These partners will receive all related knowledge management products.

All knowledge and communication products produced by the Project will be shared on a project-specific website. This will allow a wider audience to gain knowledge from the Project. The Project will budget travel to key workshops, e.g. in Component 3 on project level KM, to share best practices and lessons learned and to learn from practitioners in the same field to strengthen the Project. Further details of the project's approach to knowledge management will be determined during the project development phase in consultation with the relevant project stakeholders.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval MTR

TE

Medium/Moderate

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

This project has been preliminarily categorized as Medium Risk- or a Project "B" category. All of WWF's Category B projects require project-level grievance redress mechanisms (GRM), and in the case of this project, there will be one for both Gabon and Namibia. Additionally, all project-affected people will have information about how to access WWF's independent redress hotline, the WWF GEF Agency Complaints officer and of course the GEF mechanism. Beyond the GRM, a risk mitigation and management plan will be included in the Environmental Social Management Framework, along with specific Safeguards Plans as identified in the environmental and social safeguards screening. This will be accomplished during the ProDoc development phase, and per WWF internal requirements, must be finalized and disclosed prior to implementation. The potential safeguard standards that may be triggered by this project are; Indigenous Peoples, Community Health and Security. The explanation as to why these risks were identified and potential actions to address them is as follows:

GABON

Involuntary Resettlement and Restriction of Access

TNC and WWF do not support the involuntary resettlement of people, and this will not be supported through this project. A key component of the PFP will be the development of community engagement mechanisms such as FPIC in the establishment/expansion of new protected areas.

The PFP will support the establishment or higher protection designation of conserved and protected areas, and more clarity about management and resources use for other protection categories such as Ramsar sites. Some Ramsar sites have some human settlements within the designated area, and under the Category VI type of designation, sustainable use of natural resources will remain viable. An assessment process including consultation/FPIC will be needed to determine the extent in which people are currently accessing natural resources at this site and whether designation would affect that use. TNC/GoG goal is to allow for best practice and sustainable use.

The PFP may also support the drafting of stronger management plans for MPAs and inland fisheries. Consultation will occur via a committee to identify if that may have any restricted access implications.

The PFP may also support stronger patrol efforts at National Parks to reduce the impacts of illegal activities (poaching, gold mining, timber extraction, etc). The PFP will strongly emphasize the need to respect human rights while providing law enforcement.

Moreover, new activities developed in and around the park to increase protection and management can represent new sources of jobs and income for nearby inhabitants.

Indigenous Peoples

Part of the Congo Basin, the biodiverse nation of Gabon is home to a number of self-identifying Indigenous Peoples which include the Baka, the Akowa, the Bekui, the Bebinga, the Bambongo, and the Baringa. Gabon is home to a significant forest-dependent Indigenous population, including up to 30,000 Baka and Babongo people. The Indigenous people in Gabon are highly heterogeneous. The development of safeguards and processes of FPIC will be established to mitigate any restriction of access as a result of the establishment of protected areas. The PFP seeks to improve the socio-economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples and protect important cultural resources.

Community Health and Security

Human-wildlife conflicts are a major threat to wildlife populations and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Crop-raiding by elephants, monkeys, and other species can drastically reduce income and food security of rural communities, producing negative perceptions towards wildlife and perpetuating poverty. In Gabon, human-wildlife conflicts have become more common with a growing population and a greater need for access to land. Gabon uses electric fences and monetary compensation to mitigate conflicts, though access to these programs can be difficult for rural communities.

The PFP is intended to have a positive effect on community health and security in a number of facets. For example, the PFP will continue to support community livelihoods through the maintenance of innovative electric barriers for agricultural production.

By supporting and engaging in resource based economic activities (community forestry, community-based fisheries), communities will increase their economic and livelihood security.

The PFP will also seek to reduce some biodiversity- and human-harmful activities, such as mercury-based gold mining surrounding PA or similar type of activities.

Another example on improving health and security is that by increasing the protection status of RAMSAR sites, water quality will be improved leading to a reduction in the levels of chronic pollution and diseases

Natural Habitats

The PFP will fund activities with on-the-ground impact, therefore the Natural Habitats Standard has been triggered as a precaution. Overall, the PFP is intended to enhance natural habitats in protected areas and promote sustainable use of natural resources surrounding PAs.

In order to increase management capacity for the PA, small scale infrastructure would need to be developed or improved in some areas to accommodate parks staff living conditions, and create more effectiveness (landing strips for monitoring overflights), etc.

Cultural Resources

The establishment of protected areas will have a minimum impact on physical cultural resources. The forest is important for many Indigenous peoples in Gabon for cultural practices and resources. There is a potential for the creation/expansion of protected areas to protect cultural resources within the forest landscape. Some Indigenous communities have been advocating for the creation of protected areas to avoid damage of important cultural resources through forestry concessions. IPLC use the forest includes hunting, fishing, and farming; the forest here also contains ancestral villages and ritual sites of invaluable cultural wealth.

Local and Indigenous communities also have detailed ecological knowledge and traditional conservation practices, as well as a strong spiritual and physical link to the rainforest. There is strong potential for collaboration and mutual benefit in the sharing of traditional conservation practices. There is also a potential for the PFP to develop access and benefit sharing mechanisms for forest genetic resources. There is a potential to ensure IP and LCs continual access to their customary territories for medical and ritual uses as well as for of indigenous knowledge.

NAMIBIA

Indigenous Peoples

Yes, there are San and Himba communities in several conservancies; none are uncontacted, and generally mix with other ethnic groups to varying degrees. The process of conservancy formation and operations, as required by law, ideally involves detailed consultations with the communities and identification of institutional and governance structures.

Community Health and Security

Due to the success of conservancies (i.e., communities increasing protection of their wildlife), there has been an increase in wildlife numbers. **Human wildlife conflict** (HWC) incidents have in certain conservancies increased over the years. These relate to livestock losses to predators, particularly during drought years; crop field damages by elephants; destruction of water installations by elephants; and human injuries, including death, even if to a lesser extent.

Combatting wildlife crime is inherently risky. Potential risks relating to wildlife crime control may include potential retribution against community members engaging with law enforcement officers when they discover poaching on their lands. These risks are reduced by the strong human rights context in Namibia, including the application of the rule of law, and the presumption of innocence, an independent judiciary.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
G0038_WWF GEF EEP_Gabon_ESSF PIF pre-screen	
G0038_WWF GEF_Namibia_PIF pre-screen	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

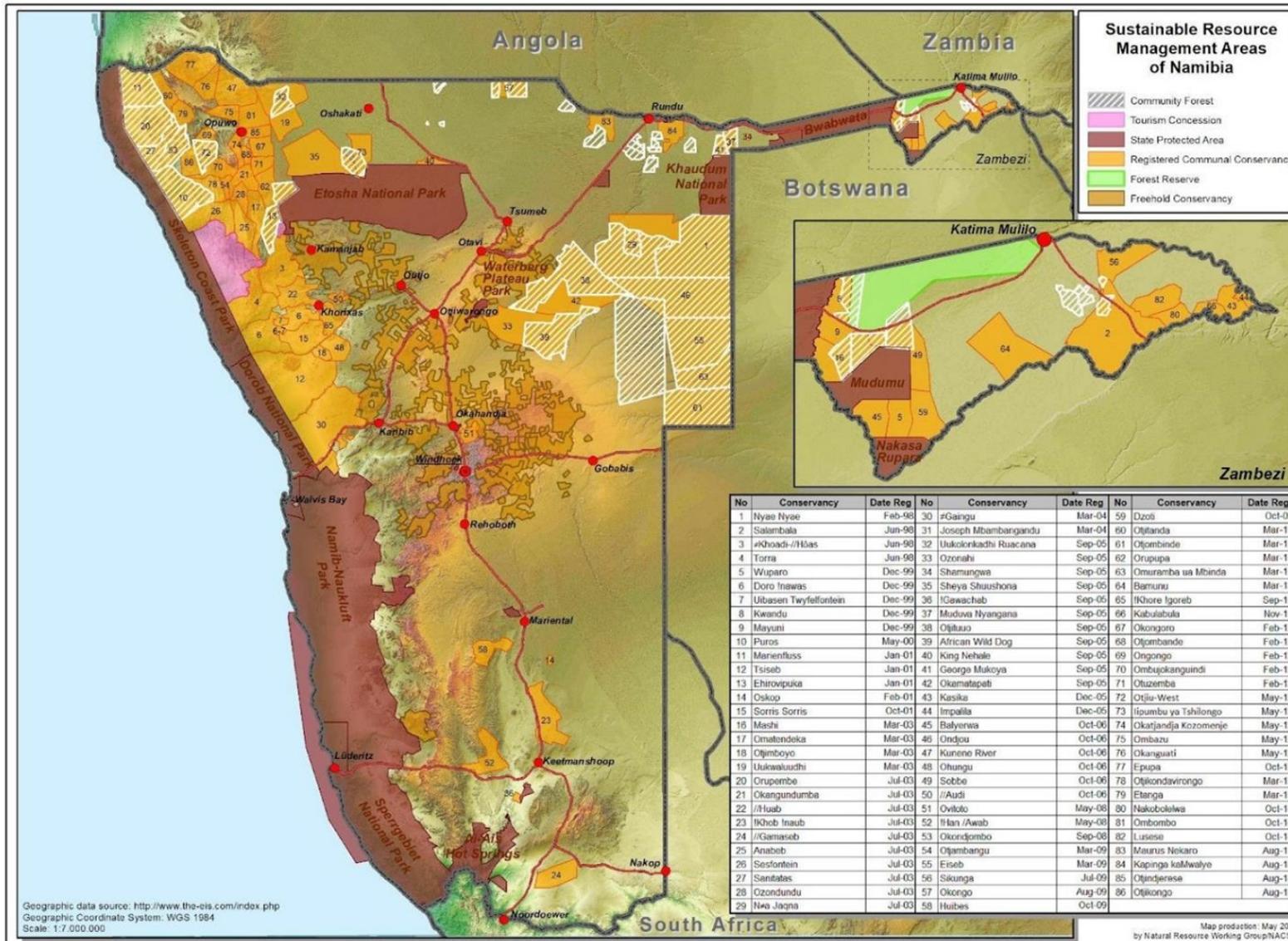
A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Teofilus Nghitila	Executive Director	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and tourism (Namibia)	5/12/2022
Stanislas Stephen Mouba	Director General	De l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature (Gabon)	5/13/2022

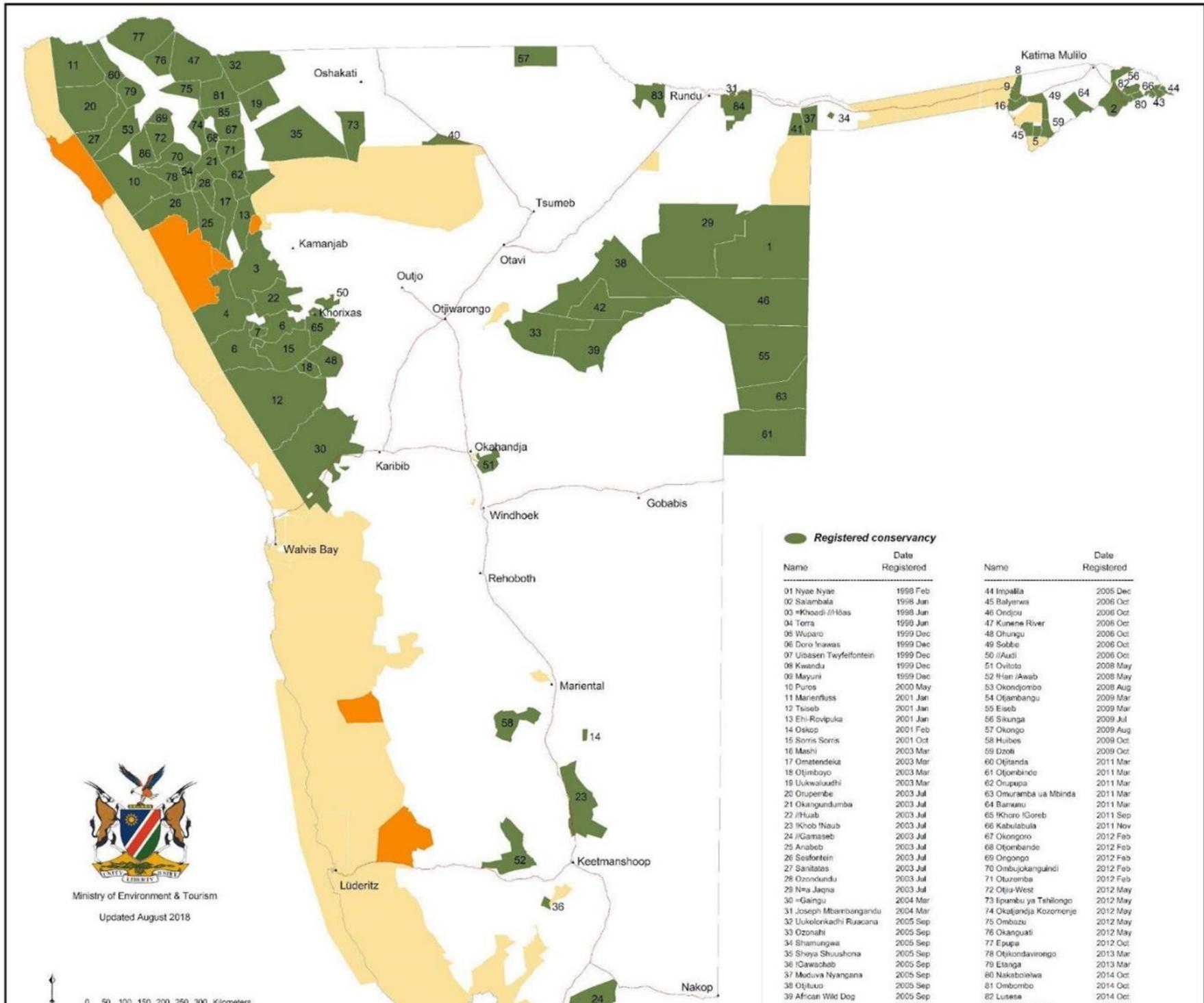
ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Namibia (22.9576° S, 18.4904° E)



Registered Communal Conservancies

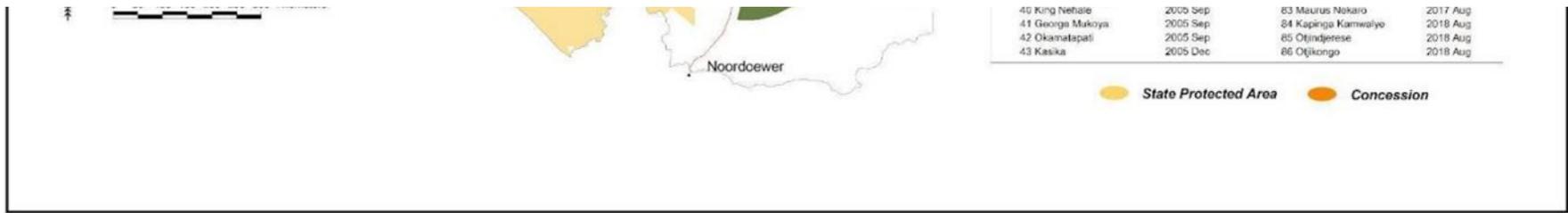


Ministry of Environment & Tourism

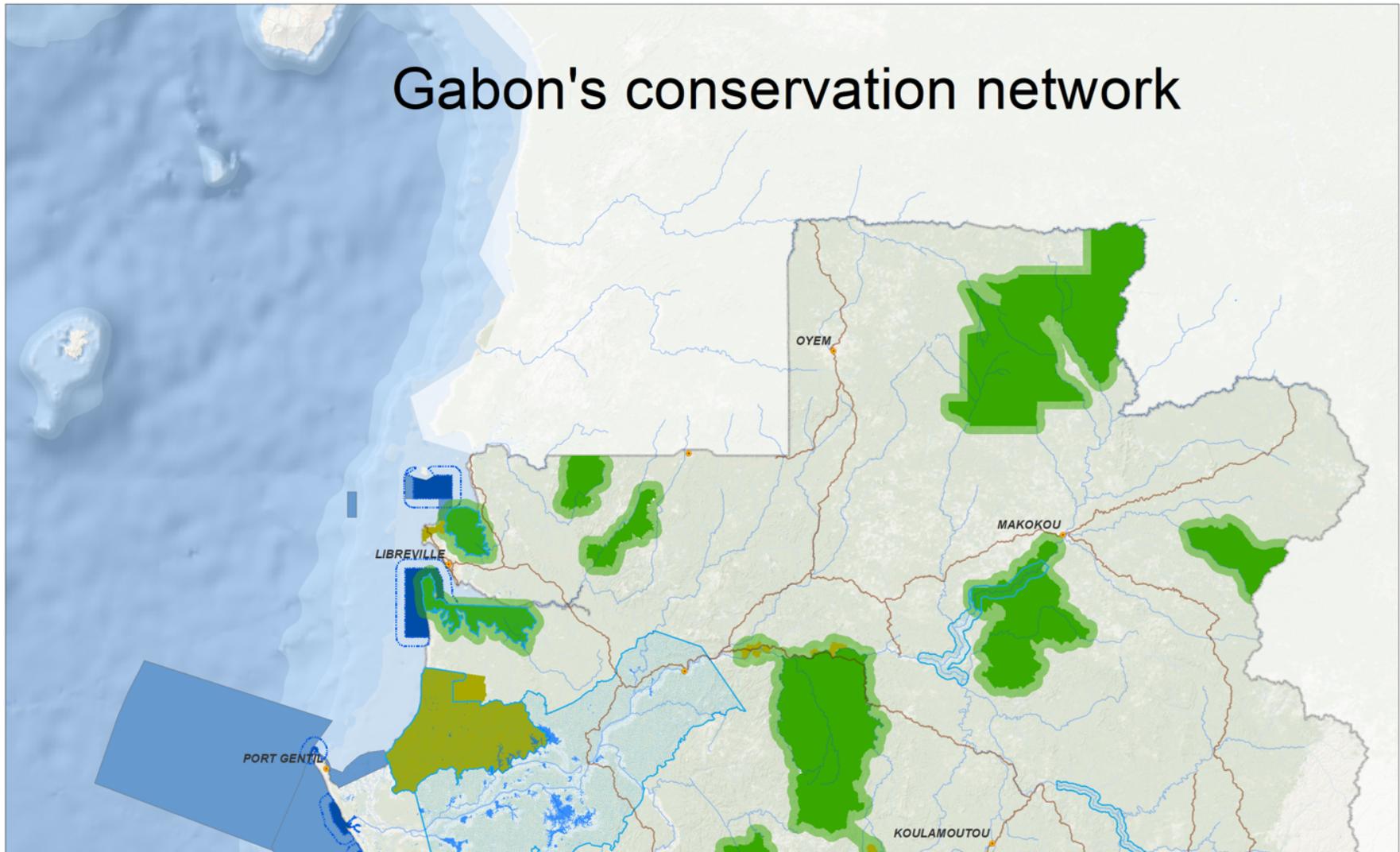
Updated August 2018

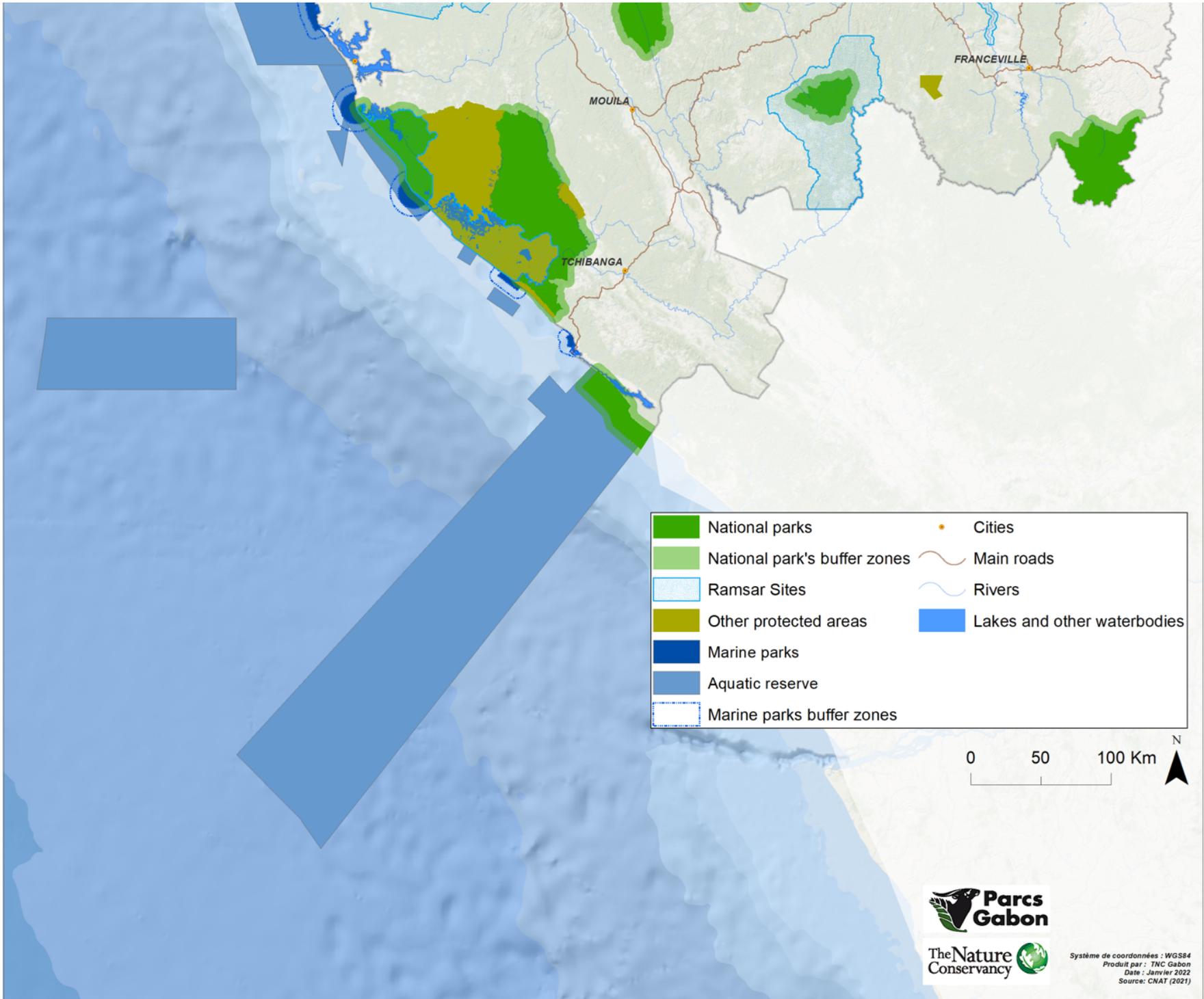


0 50 100 150 200 250 300 Kilometers



Gabon (0.8037° S, 11.6094° E)





	National parks		Cities
	National park's buffer zones		Main roads
	Ramsar Sites		Rivers
	Other protected areas		Lakes and other waterbodies
	Marine parks		
	Aquatic reserve		
	Marine parks buffer zones		



Système de coordonnées : WGS84
 Produit par : TNC Gabon
 Date : Janvier 2022
 Source: CNAT (2021)

