

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11244
Project Name:	Integrated conservation of the Maiombe forest ecosystem in Cabinda Province Angola
Countr(ies):	Angola
Implementing Agency:	CI

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Integrated conservation of the Maiombe forest ecosystem in Cabinda Province Angola

Country

Angola

GEF ID

11244

Implementing Agency

CI

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/11/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 1st PIR

Objective

Project Objective: To improve conservation, ecological integrity and effective governance of the Angola Maiombe Forest ecosystems, whilst fostering resilient livelihoods and multi-level stakeholder engagement for sustainable development

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

4,526,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

415,275.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

12/10/2024

Agency Approval

11/1/2024

Implementation Start 7/2/2025	First Disbursement 8/13/2025
Expected MTR 5/1/2027	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 8/31/2030	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

In FY26, the project focused primarily on project set-up and preparatory activities required to support implementation of field-level activities. This included capacity building on Conservation Agreements, aimed at strengthening stakeholders' understanding of the approach and preparing for its application in supporting biodiversity conservation, community participation and sustainable natural resource management. The project also progressed the procurement of equipment to support the management, enforcement and monitoring of Maiombe National Park, including drones, surveillance cameras, GPS receivers and satellite phones. The equipment will support planned protected area management and conservation activities as implementation progresses.

Preparatory work for the expansion of the Chimpanzee Sanctuary also advanced, including completion of the topographical survey and preparation of the technical design for the proposed expansion.

Implementation through partners progressed slower than anticipated, with subgrant agreements with implementing partners still being finalized at the end of FY26. This delayed the commencement of several activities planned for implementation through partners. The PMU continued to coordinate project set-up activities, including engagement with implementing partners and oversight of administrative and procurement processes.

Overall, FY26 focused on setting up and firming up the technical, operational and institutional arrangements required for implementation, including launching the project at national and landscape levels. The project is expected to transition from set-up to activity implementation in FY27.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

1. Delays in finalising contracts with implementation partners, which led to the postponement of the start of some planned activities; to mitigate this, the PMU has been continuously monitoring the processes and liaising with partners and the departments responsible for procurement.
2. The time required for the technical preparation of the expansion of the Chimpanzee Sanctuary; some activities depend on the completion of studies and technical drawings; however, the completion of the topographical survey and the preparation of the expansion design have enabled progress to be made to the subsequent stages.
3. Difficulties in securing flights to Cabinda Province, linked to limited flight frequency and seat availability, may hinder the timely completion of field missions and activities, and there is also a risk of activities being postponed due to changes or commitments in the Provincial Government's agenda. To mitigate this, the team has sought to book tickets well in advance and maintain close coordination with local authorities, enabling the schedule of activities to be adjusted whenever necessary

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Progress: During the first year of implementation of the GEF-8 Maiombe Project, work began on implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) as part of the review and update of the environmental and social safeguards instruments. An institutional

alignment meeting was held with the bodies of the Cabinda Provincial Government, including the Provincial Secretariat for the Environment and Waste Management, with a view to strengthening institutional coordination for the project's implementation. Consultations were also held with municipal administrations, civil society organisations (NGOs), local technical services and community consultations in the six municipalities within the implementation area (Bucu-Zau, Necuto, Belize, Miconje, Cacongo and Massabi), involving traditional authorities (Sobas), elders, women, men and young people. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was communicated to all stakeholders. The consultation activities were carried out over the course of two field missions, taking into account the distances between the municipalities and the logistical constraints regarding access to Cabinda Province.

Challenges and strategies: The main challenges related to logistical constraints in conducting consultations across all municipalities, as well as the need to improve communities' understanding of environmental and social safeguards and the functioning of the GRM. To overcome these challenges, the project strengthened coordination with the provincial government, municipal administrations and traditional authorities; organised the consultations over the course of two field missions; and will continue to promote information and participation activities throughout the project's implementation.

Results: The consultations helped to strengthen institutional coordination, ensure the participation of key stakeholders in the review of safeguard instruments, and gather input for their updating. Following this process, the project is finalising the review of the safeguard plans and developing the Process Framework and the Community Health and Safety Plan, incorporating the input gathered during the consultations. The SEP and the Grievance Management Mechanism are now operational to support participatory and transparent implementation, in accordance with the CI-GEF Environmental and Social Standards.

D. Gender Equality

Progress made in implementing the Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)

a) Have all the activities planned under the GMP been implemented? Yes/No. Why?

Partially. As the project is in its first year of implementation, the main actions set out in the Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) have been initiated, notably those relating to the integration of a gender perspective into stakeholder consultations and the review of environmental and social safeguard instruments. During the consultations held in the six municipalities within the implementation area, the participation of women, men, young people, traditional authorities and other community groups was encouraged, with a view to ensuring inclusive representation from the outset of the project's implementation. The remaining activities set out in the GMP will be implemented in phases throughout the project's execution.

b) Did the project face any challenges in implementing the GMP as initially proposed?

Yes. The main challenges related to logistical constraints in conducting consultations in remote communities and to the need to encourage more active participation by women in certain community forums, where decision-making processes continue to be predominantly led by men. These issues require ongoing work to raise awareness and mobilise the community.

c) Compared with the original GMP, was any adaptive management applied to promote women's meaningful participation and to make progress towards other gender-sensitive targets?

Yes. During community consultations, the project team sought to ensure women's participation alongside other community groups, creating opportunities for their views and concerns to be taken into account in the review of the safeguard instruments. The project will continue to refine its consultation and mobilisation methodologies where necessary, in order to promote more effective and balanced participation between women and men.

d) Have the project team or stakeholders observed any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) relating to gender equality?

Although the project is still at an early stage, there has been greater interest on the part of women in participating in community consultations and contributing to discussions relating to natural resource management and project implementation. No significant negative impacts or unintended outcomes were identified during the reporting period.

e) What are the recommendations for the next financial year?

In the next financial year, the project should continue to implement the ‘ ‘ Gender Action Plan, strengthening women’s effective participation in all project activities. It is recommended that specific awareness-raising activities on gender equality be carried out, that the capacities of the project team and local partners in this area be strengthened, that gender indicators be monitored regularly, and that women’s participation in consultation and decision-making forums be promoted, ensuring that the benefits of the project are distributed equitably between women and men.

Scope of the stakeholder engagement process: During the reporting period, the project involved **532 participants**, of whom **191 were women (35.9 per cent)** and **341 were men (64.1 per cent)**, in the context of institutional coordination, consultations and participatory processes relating to the conservation and sustainable management of the Maiombe Forest. The engagement process spanned the **local, provincial, national and regional** levels, involving approximately **27 institutions and stakeholder groups**, including , **10 government institutions and agencies**, **5 non-governmental organisations (NGOs)**, **4 private sector entities**, **6 media organisations**, **55 traditional authorities** , and representatives from **at least 42 local communities** spread across the six municipalities within the implementation area. These results demonstrate a participatory, multi-sectoral and inclusive process, in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and that of Conservation International (CI-GEF), reinforcing the legitimacy, transparency and local ownership of the project’s activities. **A total of 122 stakeholder entities and groups** were involved, including 10 government institutions and agencies, 5 NGOs, 4 private sector entities, 6 media organisations, 55 traditional authorities and representatives from at least 42 local communities.

E. Knowledge Management

- The project supported knowledge sharing through training on Conservation Agreements, using technical and training materials to strengthen the capacity of the project team, partners and stakeholders.
- The project also used INBAC’s communication platforms such the website to disseminate information on project implementation. This included coverage of the project’s presentation in Cabinda, which communicated the project objectives, components and expected results to government, traditional authorities, academia, civil society and other stakeholders. Specific links are below
 - The official project launch in Luanda in October 2025 was communicated through INBAC’s website, raising awareness of the project and its contribution to conservation of the Maiombe Forest. <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/117?utm>
 - Knowledge exchange was further supported through participation in the GEF-8 Congo Basin regional coordination mechanisms, providing opportunities for exchange of experiences and lessons with other projects in the Congo Basin. <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/126?utm> , <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/194>; <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/196> , <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/173> , <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/167> , <https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/166> ,<https://inbac.gov.ao/Site/noticiais/148>

A project video is also being finalized to support communication of project activities and results.

III: Minor Amendments

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

Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Maiombe	-9.2667	21.2333	145,678

Location Description:

Maiombe National Park

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document	
Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260811_FY26 PIR_GEFID11244 _Angola Congo Basin Project
Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260826_Core_Indicators_Angola Maiombe Project