

GEF-8 PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

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General Project Information

Project Title:

'Strengthening the Ecological and Economic Functions of Critical Biodiversity Habitats of the N'ZI Voluntary Nature Reserve

Region:

Cote d'Ivoire

GEF Project ID:

11810

Country(ies):

Cote d'Ivoire

Type of Project:

GBFF

GEF Agency(ies):

DBSA

GEF Agency Project ID:

N/A

Anticipated Executing Entity(s):

N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation

Anticipated Executing Type:

CSO

GEF Focal Area (s):

Biodiversity

Submission Date:

9/30/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Taxonomy

Forest, Climate Change, Focal Areas, International Waters, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, National Adaptation Plan, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Learning, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Beneficiaries, Communications, Education, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Training, Field Visit

Type of Trust Fund:

GBFF

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Financing: (a)

1,977,500.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

177,975.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

2,155,475.00

Total Co-financing:

3,250,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 50,000.00 | 4,500.00 |
| PPG total Amount: (e+f) | Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) |
| 54,500.00 | 2,209,975.00 |
| Project Tags: | |
| GBF Target 1, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 10, GBF Target 11, Support IPLC | |

Indicative Project Overview

The primary objective of the N'Zi Nature Reserve Conservation Project is to conserve and restore biodiversity within the N'Zi Nature Reserve and surrounding ecosystems, while promoting sustainable socio-economic development through community-driven ecotourism, capacity building, and the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms.

Project Components

Improved management of critical habitats

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

Project Outcomes:

Comprehensive management plan and institutional framework.

Project Outputs:

A formal management plan and successful PPPs established to advance community and nature benefits.

Ecotourism investment and community empowerment

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 927,500.00 | 2,000,000.00 |

Project Outcomes:

Sustainable finance mechanisms and a Biodiversity community project

Project Outputs:

An established conservation and ecotourism project

Operational biodiversity and carbon credit schemes designed and established

20% improvement in 20% METT score and biodiversity score

Capacity building and knowledge management

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 250,000.00 | 50,000.00 |

Project Outcomes:

Increased capacity to develop and implement biodiversity projects

Project Outputs:

Number of trained staff and community eco-guards,
established data monitoring systems

Inputs to national policies and conservation guidelines

M&E

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 100,000.00 | 300,000.00 |

Project Outcomes:

Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Outputs:

Monitoring and Evaluation

Component Balances

| Project Components | GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Improved management of critical habitats | 600,000.00 | 600,000.00 |
| Ecotourism investment and community empowerment | 927,500.00 | 2,000,000.00 |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Capacity building and knowledge management | 250,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| M&E | 100,000.00 | 300,000.00 |
| Subtotal | 1,877,500.00 | 2,950,000.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | 100,000.00 | 300,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost (\$) | 1,977,500.00 | 3,250,000.00 |

Please provide justification

PMC is 5% of total project cost and it will ensure effective coordination, oversight, and administration of the N'Zi Nature Reserve Conservation Project, covering stakeholder coordination, risk management, financial compliance, and reporting. Additionally, it will be used to increase the management and reporting capacity of the reserve team, ensuring efficient implementation and long-term sustainability of the project's conservation and community development goals.

PROJECT CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages total, including 5 pages of text maximum. Concepts longer than 7 pages will be returned. Please note the portal entry will be limited to up to 19,400 characters of text and up to two figures.)

PROJECT RATIONALE

The N'Zi Nature Reserve encompasses 36,700 hectares and is home to diverse species. Despite this rich biodiversity, the reserve faces severe challenges due to habitat degradation, deforestation, and poor farming activities. These activities have led to habitat loss and a decline in biodiversity, threatening both the wildlife and the ecological balance of the reserve. Climate change further exacerbates these issues, with rising temperatures, droughts, and altered rainfall patterns.

The project will address this by building capacity within IPLCs and local stakeholders through developing a comprehensive management plan that includes adaptive conservation strategies and sustainable finance mechanisms. The project aligns with Côte d'Ivoire's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the global 30x30 target, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by focusing on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and local community empowerment. It aims to restore 36,700 ha of critical habitats, protect endangered species, and promote sustainable livelihoods through ecotourism. The project also contributes to global biodiversity and climate goals by enhancing carbon sequestration through reforestation and sustainable land management practices.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The N'Zi Nature Reserve Conservation Project is a community-driven, conservation-focused initiative that integrates habitat protection, species conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. Spanning 36,700 hectares, the reserve is home to a rich array of wildlife, including critically endangered species such

as the Colobuses monkeys, forest elephants, savannah elephants, Nile crocodile, and other aquatic, bird species and a variety of other mammals. Despite its ecological importance, the reserve faces numerous threats, including habitat destruction, illegal poaching, agricultural expansion, and the impacts of climate change. This project seeks to address these threats through an integrated approach that combines habitat restoration, community empowerment, sustainable finance mechanisms and capacity building. The project will be led by the N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation (NWCF), which is a civil society organisation with six years of experience in nature conservation. NWCF will work in collaboration with the Baoule tribe in Kangrenou, who are the traditional custodians of the land, and other Indigenous Peoples Local Communities (IPLCs) in the country. This partnership is central to the project, ensuring that land ownership and community governance are respected and that local stakeholders play a leading role in decision-making processes.

The project is structured through three components:

COMPONENT 1: Comprehensive Management Plan and Institutional Framework with focus on improving the management of critical habitats

The management plan will focus on protecting and restoring degraded ecosystems that support endangered species such as the Colobuses monkeys, that have been lost due to habitat destruction and poaching. Specific action plans will include forest regeneration, the establishment of wildlife corridors to facilitate species movement, and strengthening anti-poaching initiatives to protect biodiversity. The involvement of the Baoule tribe in engaging these activities will ensure that local knowledge and support is embedded in habitat management strategies. It is anticipated that the presence of formal Management Plan and policies, monitoring and review systems and development of successful public-private partnerships will advance community and nature benefits in targeted habitats under stress in the reserve and for targeted species. This component will include running a pilot initiative to test the management plans robustness and appropriateness and to align with the sustainable finance mechanism as detailed below.

COMPONENT 2: Sustainable Finance Mechanism identified and developed for conservation and community shared benefits.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts, the project will develop an innovative, community-led conservation and ecotourism financial mechanism such as carbon and biodiversity credits, that is inclusive with a focus on youth, minority groups and women in the Baoulé tribe and other local communities as essential partners in both the design and implementation of conservation and ecotourism related ventures. This model will focus on the creation of community nature based and eco-tourism infrastructure, including wildlife safaris, bird-watching tours, and cultural immersion experiences that celebrate the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. These activities will be designed to attract both international and local tourists, establishing conservation and nature based practices including ecotourism as a vital, sustainable source of income for the communities, with particular attention to empowering minority groups/women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, while also promoting awareness and support for conservation. These mechanisms will enable traditionally marginalized groups to take a more active role in the local economy and benefit directly from conservation-driven economic opportunities.

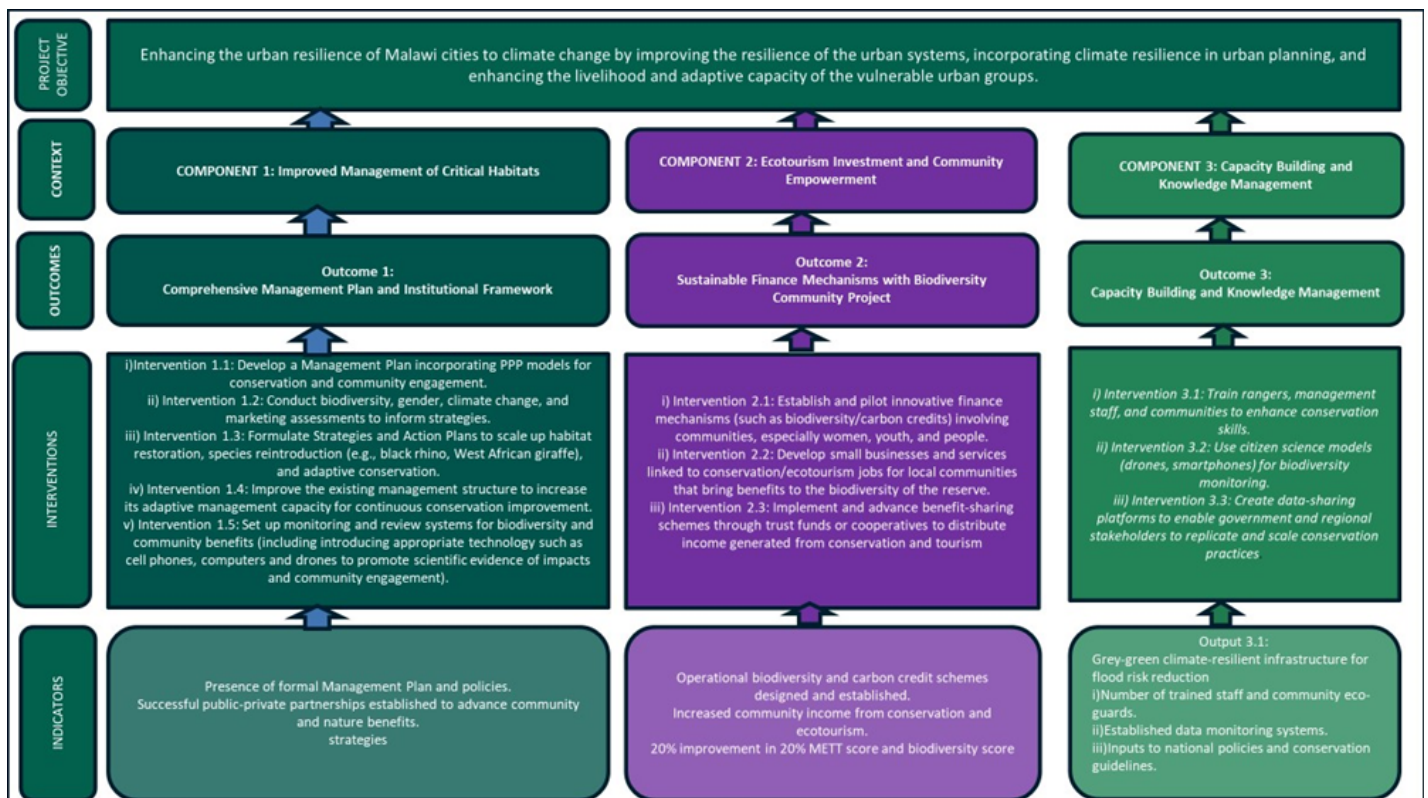
The financial mechanisms will be designed to attract mainstream funding from both public and private sector sources. The intent will be to ensure replicability and scalability of conservation and ecotourism ventures into bankable, revenue-generating projects, designed to ensure long-term financial viability. As part of this approach, the project will implement a community-based and nature

based demonstration/pilot project, showcasing how small businesses can support conservation while simultaneously enhancing local livelihoods.

COMPONENT 3: Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

A comprehensive capacity-building program will be rolled out to empower the staff of the reserve, the Baoule community, and other IPLCs and key stakeholders by enhancing their skills in natural resource management, biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable livelihood practices. Training programs will be designed to strengthen community governance, leadership, and gender equity, with a focus on ensuring that both men and women have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from conservation and development activities. This component will promote conservation education and raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity and building climate resilience. It will support key stakeholders in developing impact monitoring and verification schemes linked to the financial instruments selected for conservation and ecotourism projects in component two. This will include using citizen science for biodiversity conservation management and water resource monitoring and developing appropriate data sharing platforms that can enable government and regional stakeholders to replicate and scale conservation practices.

THEORY OF CHANGE:



The

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The proposed Project will involve multiple key stakeholders, each playing a significant role in the project’s design and implementation. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire, through the Ministry of

Environment and Sustainable Development, will provide regulatory oversight and ensure alignment with national biodiversity and climate policies, facilitating the integration of the project with the NBSAP. The Ministry of Tourism will support the development of ecotourism initiatives, ensuring these efforts contribute to the country's broader tourism and economic objectives, while local government authorities will engage with IPLCs, providing governance support and aligning conservation activities with regional development plans.

The Baoulé tribe and other IPLCs will play a central role in both the design and implementation of the project. As the primary Indigenous group involved, the community will participate in the development of ecotourism ventures, biodiversity monitoring, and the management of the reserve. Their involvement will be formalized through their representation on the project's Steering Committee. The community will benefit from participation in conservation activities, such as wildlife safaris and species reintroduction programs, while also receiving training in natural resource management and governance. Ecotourism operators and investors will provide the necessary expertise and funding to develop ecotourism infrastructure, while financial institutions, such as the DBSA, will support the scaling up of conservation and ecotourism efforts through sustainable finance mechanisms. The private sector's involvement will ensure that ecotourism ventures become bankable projects, generating long-term revenue for the community and conservation efforts.

Civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including the NWCF will lead the project's implementation, coordinating conservation activities, ecotourism development, and community engagement. Local and international conservation NGOs will provide technical support for habitat restoration, species rehabilitation, and biodiversity monitoring, while also contributing to capacity-building programs for local communities.

Research and academic institutions will support the project by providing expertise in biodiversity assessments, climate resilience strategies, and monitoring and evaluation. These institutions will work closely with IPLCs to integrate citizen science models and modern technologies, such as drones and geographic information systems (GIS), into biodiversity monitoring efforts.

CLIMATE RATIONALE

The N'Zi River and Gbêkê Region in Côte d'Ivoire, like much of West Africa, are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which pose significant threats to both ecosystems and human communities. The region faces multiple climate-related challenges that require urgent action to protect biodiversity, natural resources, and livelihoods. One of the primary effects of climate change in the region is rising temperatures, which can cause significant shifts in local ecosystems. As temperatures increase, the region is likely to experience more frequent and prolonged droughts, reducing water availability for both wildlife and agriculture. Alterations in rainfall patterns are another critical consequence of climate change in the Gbêkê Region. Changes in precipitation are already leading to extended dry periods, punctuated by heavy, unpredictable rains. These fluctuations impact the N'Zi River's flow and seasonal water levels, which in turn affect both aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems dependent on seasonal flooding, such as wetlands and floodplains. The region's ecosystems, particularly those within the N'Zi Nature Reserve, are at heightened risk due to habitat loss and forest degradation. These ecosystems play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and regulating the climate, acting as carbon sinks that help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide. However, rising temperatures and prolonged droughts weaken these forests, increasing the likelihood of deforestation and degradation, which exacerbates the problem by releasing stored carbon back into the atmosphere. The degradation of these forests can also lead to fragmentation of critical habitats, threatening species such as large mammals and bird species that rely on forested areas for survival. For communities in the Gbêkê Region, agricultural vulnerability is one of the most pressing concerns related to climate change. Agriculture is the backbone of the local economy, yet it is increasingly affected by droughts, floods, and soil degradation. These climatic changes lead to

reduced crop yields, threatening food security and economic stability. As agricultural land becomes less productive, communities may be forced to expand into new areas, further increasing pressure on the region's fragile ecosystems, including the N'Zi River and surrounding forests. The region's biodiversity is also at significant risk. Shifts in temperature and precipitation are likely to lead to changes in species distribution. Some species may migrate to cooler or wetter areas, but others may not adapt quickly enough, facing increased risk of extinction due to habitat loss or altered food availability. The loss of key species could disrupt ecological processes and diminish the region's biodiversity, further destabilizing the ecosystem

To mitigate these impacts, there is an urgent need to implement climate adaptation measures such as sustainable agricultural practices, water resource management, and reforestation efforts. Reforestation and habitat restoration, in particular, are essential strategies for maintaining the ecological balance of the region and preserving its role as a carbon sink. By promoting sustainable land management and integrating climate adaptation strategies into biodiversity conservation plans, the project can enhance the climate resilience of the N'Zi Nature Reserve and the broader Gbêkê Region.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

The project has undergone a preliminary Environmental Screening to assess any potential environmental and social risks. Given that the project is focused on biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration, the environmental impact is expected to be positive. However, potential risks, such as unintended damage to non-target species during habitat restoration or disruptions from increased human activity due to ecotourism, will be carefully monitored and mitigated.

The environmental screening process aligns with international best practices, ensuring that project activities contribute positively to ecosystem restoration while minimizing adverse effects. A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out before the implementation phase to ensure compliance with both national and international environmental standards

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

The N'Zi Nature Reserve in Côte d'Ivoire faces several gender-related challenges, particularly in areas such as women's access to resources, participation in decision-making, and their ability to benefit from conservation activities. Women in surrounding communities often have limited access to land and natural resources, are underrepresented in leadership roles, and have fewer employment opportunities, particularly in conservation and ecotourism sectors. Additionally, women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their dependence on natural resources and their traditional roles in securing household needs. A lack of access to education and technical training further limits their participation in and benefit from conservation programs.

To address these issues, the project will integrate several mitigation measures. These include gender-responsive planning and implementation, ensuring women's participation in decision-making, and equitable access to land and resources. Employment opportunities within the reserve, such as eco-tourism and conservation roles, will actively include women. Capacity-building programs will focus on leadership training and technical skills for both men and women. Gender-sensitive climate adaptation strategies and equal access to education and training are also crucial components that will be taken into consideration. The project will monitor and evaluate progress using gender-disaggregated data and assess the impact of conservation activities on gender dynamics in the community. With these strategies incorporated in the project, the N'Zi Nature

Reserve will address gender inequalities, ensuring that both men and women benefit from conservation efforts. This approach aligns with GEF guidelines and supports sustainable development and successful conservation outcomes.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The DBSA is the lead implementing agency of the GEF in the project, providing overall strategic direction, project management, coordination, and reporting. DBSA's responsibilities will include ensuring that the project aligns with GEF objectives, national and international biodiversity goals, overseeing financial management, and ensuring compliance with GEF funding requirements. DBSA will also coordinate with stakeholders to guarantee the project's integration into regional development frameworks and ensure the effective use of financial resources throughout the project's lifecycle.

The NWCF will serve as the executing agency, tasked with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the project. NWCF will manage the implementation of core activities such as habitat restoration, species conservation, community engagement, and ecotourism development. The trust will ensure that project goals are met on the ground, collaborating closely with local stakeholders and communities to embed conservation initiatives within local contexts. By acting as the operational arm of the project, NWT will ensure that activities are carried out effectively, efficiently, and in alignment with the project's objectives.

IPLCs, particularly the Baoulé tribe, will be critical implementation partners, ensuring that local knowledge, cultural heritage, and community priorities are integral to project activities. Their role will go beyond participation, as they will be actively involved in decision-making, on-the-ground conservation efforts, and ecotourism operations. The IPLCs will help shape the conservation strategies, ensuring that traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable practices are used to protect local biodiversity. They will also benefit from capacity-building programs, equipping them with the skills needed to sustainably manage the reserve and the surrounding natural resources.

A Project Steering Committee will be established to provide governance and oversight. This committee will include representatives from DBSA, NWT, IPLCs, and conservation experts, ensuring a collaborative, inclusive, and transparent decision-making process. The Steering Committee will meet regularly to review project progress, address challenges, and adapt strategies as needed. It will ensure that the project adheres to best practices in governance, environmental management, and social inclusion, while maintaining accountability at all levels of project execution.

The project will engage with research institutions and technical partners, both locally and internationally, to provide scientific expertise and technical support. The involvement of private sector partners will help strengthen financial sustainability by developing innovative funding mechanisms, such as biodiversity credits, carbon credits, and ecotourism investments. The private sector's role will include not only financial contributions but also expertise in developing scalable business models for conservation-linked ventures. This collaboration will be essential in ensuring that conservation efforts generate long-term economic benefits for local communities while safeguarding ecosystems.

The DBSA, NWT, IPLCs, Steering Committee, and various research and private sector partners will work together to ensure the success of the project. By combining financial expertise, scientific

support, and local knowledge, the project aims to establish a sustainable and inclusive model for biodiversity conservation that balances ecological integrity with socio-economic growth.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 36700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 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) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 36700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDP A 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) |
|----------------------------|----------|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nzi Nature Reserve | | Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources | 36,700.00 | | | | | | |

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

The defined area of the Nature Reserve is 36700 Ha. The METT methodology was used in this project.

METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) score is a widely-used system to assess the management effectiveness of protected areas, such as national parks, nature reserves, and biodiversity habitats. It evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in management, identifying areas for improvement to ensure effective conservation. A METT score comprises several components, which are broken down into specific categories or questions related to management practices. These categories typically include Context, Planning and Objectives, Inputs, Process, Outputs and Outcomes.

Scoring System

Each aspect is rated on a scale (typically 0 to 3), where:

- 0 = Poor/Not addressed

- 1 = Minimal/Partially addressed
- 2 = Good/Generally addressed
- 3 = Excellent/Fully addressed

The scores are aggregated to provide an overall percentage score, which gives an indication of the management effectiveness of the protected area.

A higher METT score reflects a better-managed area, and the tool is designed to help managers identify gaps and areas for improvement in their conservation strategies.

ANNEX A: PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | GEF Project Grant(\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total GEF Financing (\$) |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| DBSA | GBFF | Cote d'Ivoire | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 1 | 1,977,500.00 | 177,975.00 | 2,155,475.00 |
| Total GEF Resources (\$) | | | | | 1,977,500.00 | 177,975.00 | 2,155,475.00 |

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4500

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non- Grant | PPG (\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total PPG Funding(\$) |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| DBSA | GBFF | Cote d'Ivoire | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 1 | Grant | 50,000.00 | 4,500.00 | 54,500.00 |
| Total PPG Amount (\$) | | | | | | 50,000.00 | 4,500.00 | 54,500.00 |

Please provide justification

A larger PPG amount is critical to ensure the Project is comprehensively and strategically designed for success. This expanded funding will support in-depth feasibility studies, extensive stakeholder engagement, and the creation of robust and sustainable financial and governance models. It will also facilitate a detailed capacity-building needs assessment, ensuring that indigenous peopled and local communities are fully prepared to manage and benefit from the project. Additionally, it will cover the planning of essential infrastructure and technology, particularly for ecotourism development and biodiversity monitoring, and the integration of climate resilience strategies into project activities.

The larger PPG will also allow for pilot testing of key components, such as community-led conservation models and ecotourism ventures, ensuring that these initiatives are viable before full implementation. To ensure specialized expertise, the project may require the appointment of two consultants—one focusing on nature conservation and rehabilitation and the other on innovative financial models, including biodiversity and carbon credit schemes. This added expertise will enhance the project’s sustainability and increase its long-term impact, though it will increase upfront preparation costs.

The PPG will ensure that the project is well-planned, financially sustainable, and inclusive of local communities, setting a strong foundation for achieving its conservation and socio-economic development objectives. This investment will contribute to the project's long-term success and replicability across the region.

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

(Only for Multi-Trust Fund projects where GEF TF is included)

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Sources of Funds | Total(\$) |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total GEF Resources | | | | | 0.00 |

Indicative Action Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Co-financing(\$) |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| GBFF Action Area 1 | GBFF | 1,977,500.00 | 3,250,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | 1,977,500.00 | 3,250,000.00 |

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

Amount

1,600,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount(\$) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Civil Society Organization | N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation | Grant | Investment mobilized | 650,000.00 |
| GEF Agency | DBSA | Loans | Investment mobilized | 2,000,000.00 |
| GEF Agency | DBSA | In-kind | Investment mobilized | 300,000.00 |
| Civil Society Organization | N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation | In-kind | | 300,000.00 |
| Total Co-financing | | | | 3,250,000.00 |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The project has secured two key investments: a USD 2,000,000 loan from DBSA, which will be channeled towards bankable ecotourism initiatives such as wildlife safaris and eco-lodges, ensuring sustainable revenue generation. However, this contribution is subject to internal approvals from DBSA's relevant investment committees. Additionally, a USD 650,000 grant from NWCF will support critical conservation activities, including habitat restoration, species reintroduction, and biodiversity monitoring. Together, these investments will enhance the financial sustainability of ecotourism ventures and drive successful conservation efforts in the N'Zi Nature Reserve.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

| GEF Agency Type | Name | Date | Project Contact Person | Phone | Email |
|------------------------|------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | DBSA | 9/30/2024 | Mookho Mathaba | +27 711932446 | MookhoM@dbsa.org |

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

| Name | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Mrs Ahou Sosthene Larissa | Conseiller Technique | Ministere des Finances et du Budget Immeuble SCIAM | 12/12/2024 |
| Mrs Ahou Sosthene Larissa | Conseiller Technique | Ministere des Finances et du Budget Immeuble SCIAM | 12/12/2024 |

