



GEF

REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: March 25, 2011
Resubmission Date: February 17, 2012

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 4083

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 609285

COUNTRY(IES): Republic of Congo

PROJECT TITLE: CBSP - Integrated management of mangrove and associated wetlands and coastal forest ecosystems of the Republic of Congo

GEF AGENCY(IES): FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Direction générale de l'environnement (DGE); Direction générale de l'économie forestière (DGEF) ; Direction générale de la pêche maritime et de l'aquaculture ; Délégation générale de la recherche scientifique et technologique (DGRST); Direction générale de la pêche maritime (DGPM); and other government departments, institutions and NGOs

GEF FOCAL AREA(s): Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(s): BD-SP-4

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin (CBSP)

| Expected Calendar (mm/dd/yy) | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Milestones | Dates |
| Work Program (for FSPs only) | |
| Agency Approval date | 12/01/2011 |
| Implementation Start | 01/01/2012 |
| Mid-term Evaluation (if planned) | |
| Project Closing Date | 12/31/2014 |

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK (Expand table as necessary)

Project Objective: To strengthen the conservation of biodiversity and reduce degradation in Congo's mangrove ecosystems through: (i) strengthening the legal and institutional framework; (ii) increasing the knowledge and availability of information on trends, status and threats to the mangrove ecosystems in order to inform decision-making; and (iii) building capacity for sustainable management of mangrove resources at the community level.

| Project Components | Inv., TA, STA | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | GEF Financing | | Co-Financing | | Total (\$) |
|---|---------------|--|---|---------------|----|--------------|----|------------|
| | | | | (\$ a) | % | (\$ b) | % | |
| 1. Legal and institutional strengthening. | 100% TA | The legal and institutional framework for the management of mangrove ecosystems established. - <i>Strategy and national action plan approved and issued by the Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Économie Forestière et de l'Environnement (MDDEFÉ).</i> - <i>Effective inter-sectoral dialogue and coordination - dialogue has led to at least two joint actions (public-private-community partnerships) to reduce the environmental impact of coastal development by the end of the project</i> | 1. A strategy and national action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems. 2. Draft laws and regulations for implementing the strategy and national action plan. 3. Fifty NGO and government conservation staff trained in planning, reporting and financial management and in implementation of the laws and regulations. 4. Communication tools (leaflets, booklets, education materials, etc.). 5. Platform(s) for inter-sectoral dialogue and co-ordination reviewed and measures to strengthen them implemented. | 174,753 | 22 | 610,997 | 78 | 785,750 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| <p>2. Environmental monitoring and evaluation.</p> | <p>50% TA 50% STA</p> | <p>Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health in mangrove ecosystems, and to assess impacts of coastal developments.</p> <p><i>- A national coastal observatory with a clear mandate operational and has adequate resources and a long-term funding plan to ensure sustainability.</i></p> <p><i>- Up-to-date information on trends, status and threats to the ecosystems is published and available to decision-makers.</i></p> <p><i>- 50 NGO and government conservation staff have adequate skills to perform environmental and social impacts assessment and for monitoring and evaluation (training rated as high quality and relevant by participants; satisfactory/high peer review rating of EIAs and/or related reports produced by individuals trained by the project)</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eight studies (one multi-resource and one socio-economic for each of the four project target sites). 2. A detailed and up-to-date map of the whole coastal zone. 3. A minimum of three reports on current threats to mangrove ecosystems (lagoon sedimentation, wood harvesting and climate change). 4. A national coastal observatory established (co-financing) 5. Biodiversity monitoring and evaluation plan (for implementation by the national coastal observatory). 6. Communications (newsletters) about mangrove ecosystems issued every six months by the national coastal observatory. 7. Fifty NGO and government conservation staff trained in environmental and social impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation. 8. Performance evaluation(s) of all existing mitigation plans. | <p>226,357</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>532,850</p> | <p>70</p> | <p>759,207</p> |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|---|----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 3. Conservation management planning. | 100% TA | <p>Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to support participatory management of mangrove ecosystems.</p> <p><i>- 50 NGO and government conservation staff have adequate skills in participatory approaches to natural resource management. (training rated as high quality and relevant by participants)</i></p> | <p>1. Fifty NGO and government conservation staff trained in participatory approaches to natural resource management.</p> <p>2. Four participatory management plans (one for each of the four project target sites) developed in consultation with local communities.</p> <p>3. A mangrove rehabilitation plan for the Pointe-Noire Urban Council mangrove area in consultation with communities.</p> | 197,757 | 27 | 524,576 | 73 | 722,333 |
| 4. Sustainable management of mangrove resources. | 40% Inv. 60% TA | <p>Local communities in the target sites are managing their mangrove resources more sustainably and their livelihoods have improved.</p> <p><i>- 5,000 ha of mangrove ecosystems in the four target sites are managed by local communities.</i></p> <p><i>- 50 percent of inhabitants in target areas using more sustainable techniques and practices, as outlined in management plans (and targeted by project activities).</i></p> <p><i>- A minimum of 175 ha of mangrove forests rehabilitated, with 85 percent seedling survival and arrangements in place for long-term protection and management.</i></p> <p><i>- At least 200 people benefiting from income generating activities supported by the project, with a 20 percent increase in income.</i></p> | <p>1. Local participatory management structures in place in the four target areas and three mangrove rehabilitation sites.</p> <p>2. A minimum of 175 ha of mangrove forests rehabilitated and managed with the participation of local communities.</p> <p>3. Five improved fish smoking facilities constructed and operating.</p> <p>4. Feasibility study on the potential to introduce improved cooking stoves.</p> <p>5. Eight fishing villages supported in sustainable income-generating fishery activities, including fish and shrimp farming trials (trials of improved fishing techniques, microfinance facilities for investments in aquaculture, etc.).</p> | 256,858 | 30 | 596,777 | 70 | 853,635 |
| 5. Project management. | | | | 94,275 | 42 | 129,000 | 58 | 223,275 |
| Total project cost | | | | 950,000 | 28 | 2,394,200 | 72 | 3,344,200 |

B. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT

| <i>Name of cofinancier</i> | <i>Classification</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>%</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| Government of Republic of Congo | Nat'l Gov't | In-kind | 900,000 ¹ | 38 |
| FAO | GEF Agency | In-kind | 75,000 | 3 |
| | | Grant | 300,000 | 13 |
| ACP-FLEGT Support Programme | Multi-lateral | Grant | 150,000 | 6 |
| National Forest Programme Facility | Multi-lateral | Grant | 69,200 | 3 |
| UNDP-Congo | Multi-lateral | In-kind | 300,000 | 12 |
| African Forest Model Network | Multi-lateral | In-kind | 100,000 | 4 |
| Association Jeunesse | CSO | In-kind | 100,000 | 4 |
| IUCN | Multi-lateral | In-kind | 400,000 | 17 |
| Total cofinancing | | | 2,394,200 | 100 |

C. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

| | <i>Project Preparation</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Agency Fee</i> | <i>GEF and Co-financing at PIF</i> |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| GEF financing | 60,000 | 950,000 | 1,010,000 | 101,000 | 950,000 |
| Co-financing | 85,000 | 2,394,200 | 2,479,200 | | 1,150,000 |
| Total | 145,000 | 3,344,200 | 3,489,200 | 101,000 | 2,100,000 |

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)¹

| <i>GEF Agency</i> | <i>Focal Area</i> | <i>Country Name</i> | <i>(in \$)</i> | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | <i>Project</i> | <i>Agency Fee</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| FAO | Biodiversity | Republic of Congo | 950,000 | 95,000 | 1,045,000 |
| Total GEF Resources | | | 950,000 | 95,000 | 1,045,000 |

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

| <i>Component</i> | <i>Total person weeks</i> | <i>GEF amount (\$)</i> | <i>Co-financing (\$)</i> | <i>Project total (\$)</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Local consultants | 452 | 147,000 | 118,000 | 265,000 |
| International consultants | 49 | 51,000 | 50,000 | 101,000 |
| Total | 501 | 198,000 | 168,000 | 366,000 |

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

| <i>Cost items</i> | <i>Total person weeks</i> | <i>GEF amount (\$)</i> | <i>Co-financing (\$)</i> | <i>Project total (\$)</i> |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Local consultants | 292 | 47,775 | 29,000 | 76,775 |
| International consultants | 12 | 30,000 | 0 | 30,000 |
| Facilities and equipment | | 6,000 | 100,000 | 106,000 |
| Travel | | 7,500 | 0 | 7,500 |
| Others (Project Steering Committee meeting costs) | | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 |
| Total | 304 | 94,275 | 129,000 | 223,275 |

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? yes no

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

Monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving project results and objectives will be done based on the targets and results indicators established in the project results framework. M&E activities will follow FAO

¹ Cofinancing from the Government consists of contributions from *Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Économie Forestière et de l'Environnement* and *Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture*

and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines. The M&E plan, which has been budgeted at USD 97 638, will be reviewed and refined during project inception phase. This will involve: (i) a review of the project's results framework; (ii) refining of outcome indicators; (iii) identification of missing baseline information and action to be taken to collect the information; and (iv) clarification of M&E roles and responsibilities of project stakeholders. The project's M&E system will be put in place within the first 6 months of project implementation.

Monitoring

Project progress will be monitored at three levels:

- **Activity.** Implementation of project activities will be monitored on an ongoing basis, with summaries of progress reported in project progress reports. At the end of every three months, progress with financial disbursements will be recorded through the Quarterly Progress Implementation Reports (QPIRs) prepared by the FAO Budget Holder. Every six months, the semi-annual reports will record the completion of project activities. These six-monthly reports will also include a record of cofinancing contributions to the project. The comparison of progress against annual work plans and budget will be an important management tool to identify, discuss and overcome any difficulties in project implementation.
- **Output.** The delivery project outputs will be recorded as and when they occur. The information source will be the evidence of outputs - training workshop reports, list of participants in training activities, meeting minutes, communication material, participatory mangrove management plans etc. The production of outputs will also be reported in the project progress reports.
- **Outcomes.** The achievement of project outcomes will be monitored and recorded in the project progress reports and the annual Project Implementation Reviews submitted by FAO to GEF. Most of the indicators that will be used to track outcomes will be process indicators as the main focus of the project is on strengthening the institutional and technical capacity for integrated management of mangrove ecosystems at national and community levels. Outcomes related to training and capacity building will be assessed through training evaluations and reports, personal interviews with participants, independent peer review of reports/products produced by individuals trained by the project and other methods. To monitor of outcomes related to changes in the physical environment and socio-economic conditions, specific surveys, field inspections and assessments will be carried out (for component 4 outcome indicators).

Monitoring of project progress will be a central function of the Project Management Unit (PMU), led by the National Project Coordinator (NPC) supported by the National Project Focal Point (NPFP) and the Technical Advisor (TA). The TA will lead the review and refining of the project M&E plan and ensure that the M&E system is in place within the first 6 months of implementation. The NPC will manage the M&E system and will be responsible for the preparation of project progress reports.

The FAO Lead Technical Unit (LTU) and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit will provide oversight and monitor project progress largely through the review of recording and verification of inputs, including financial disbursements and technical levels-of-effort, and the Project Progress Reports (PPR), Project Implementation Reviews (PIR) and periodic supervision and backstopping missions. Financial inputs (disbursements) will be largely drawn from FAO's financial management system, while technical inputs will be drawn from PPRs and PIRs, and reports produced by the project.

Review and evaluation

A mid-term review will be undertaken after 18 months of project implementation. The review will determine progress being made towards the achievement of objectives, outcomes and outputs, and will identify corrective actions as necessary. It will, *inter alia*:

- a) review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation;
- b) analyze effectiveness of implementation and partnership arrangements;
- c) identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions;
- d) identify lessons learned about project design, implementation and management;
- e) highlight technical achievements and lessons learned; and
- f) propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary.

An independent final evaluation will take place three months prior to the terminal review meeting of the project partners and will focus on the same issues as the mid-term review. In addition, the final evaluation will review project impact, analyze sustainability of results and whether the project has achieved its objectives and benchmarks. The evaluation will provide recommendations for follow-up actions. The collection of missing baseline data, which will be required to compare the situation at the start of the project and at the time of evaluation, will be completed as part of the technical activities in project year 1.

The table below provides a summary of the main M&E activities and budgeted costs.

| Activity | Responsible Party | Budgeted Cost (USD) | Time Frame |
|---|--|---|--|
| Project reporting | | | |
| Project Inception Report. | NPC, in consultation with all project staff, PSC and FAO. | - | Immediately after the inception workshop |
| Quarterly Project Implementation Report (QPIR) | FAO (Budget Holder). | Covered by Agency Fee | Every three months. |
| Semi-annual Project Progress Report (PPR) | NPC, reviewed by FAO LTU, Forestry Department and GEF Coordination Unit. | Project staff time + cofinancing | Every six months. |
| GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) and preparation of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) | LTU with inputs from the PMU, reviewed by FAO GEF Coordination Unit AWP – NPC, submitted to FAO and PSC | Covered by Agency fee | Annually with the reporting period July to June. The first report due will be for FY 2012 (1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012). |
| GEF Tracking Tools | NPC with support from TA, NPPF and reviewed by FAO. | 3,364 | At mid-point and end of project |
| Project Terminal Report (PTR) | NPC, with the assistance of all project staff and review by all project partners, FAO (LTU, Country Office, GEF Coordination Unit, TCSR-Reports Unit). | Project staff time + cofinancing | Three months before end of project. |
| Cost of NPC and TA to reporting (1 month per year) | | 20,274 | |
| Project steering committee meetings and inception and terminal workshops | | | |
| Inception Workshop | NPPF and NPC, FAO | 5,000 | Within two months after start of project implementation. |
| Terminal Workshop | NPPF and NPC, FAO | 5,000 | At end of project. |
| PSC Meetings | NPPF, FAO | 3,000 | At least once per year. |
| Independent evaluation activities | | | |
| Independent final evaluation | External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with project team, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners. | 30,000 and Agency Fee | Three months before end of project implementation. |
| Other monitoring and evaluation activities | | | |
| Technical and field reports, reviews and workshop proceedings | Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate. | Project staff time + cofinancing + consultant costs | As appropriate. |

| Type of Component | Responsible Party | Estimated Cost (USD) | Remarks |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Visits to field sites | Project staff, consultants, FAO and other project partners (as appropriate). | Visit by FAO (LTU) from agency fee. Visits by PMU (NPC, TA, NPFP) included in local travel | As appropriate. |
| Field-based impact monitoring + verification | NPC, with the assistance of NPFP and review by FAO. | 26,910 | At the end of each year. |
| Lessons learned | Project staff, short-term consultants and FAO. | FAO cofinancing | As appropriate. |
| Total indicative cost | | 93,548 | |

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

Mangrove ecosystems on the coast of Congo are valuable both for their contribution to local livelihoods and the globally important biodiversity that they contain. The ecosystems contain a number of globally important species and contribute to the rich biodiversity in surrounding terrestrial and marine ecosystems. For example, the coastal wetlands provide shelter for a varied and highly endemic fish and manatee population, while the warm coastal waters are of international importance for the presence of humpback whales.

The hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and the Pygmy Hippopotamus are the only two extant species in the family Hippopotamidae. The landscape of the Kouilou-Douli National Park host populations of Hippopotamus amphibius which have been sighted in the Kouilou river and the Yombo lagoon. Hippopotamus amphibius have declined most dramatically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Pygmy Hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis* or *Hexaprotodon liberiensis*) is also still under threat of worldwide extinction and has not been recently reported in the country.

There is also a large group of West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) in the Yombo mangroves in the delta of the Kouilou River. Otherwise Congo Mangroves and coastal wetlands ecosystems are very similar to the mangroves of the Gulf of Guinea, dominated by species such as *Rhizophore harsinii*, *R. racemosa*, *Avicenia germinans*, With a large variety of aquatic mammals, particularly manatee and Clawless Otters, reptiles, fish and migratory bird species, none of which are necessarily endemic, but considered nationally and globally important. The huge beaches of Kouilou are also nesting grounds for up to five species of marine turtle as well as freshwater turtles.

In an effort to improve cross-border management of protected areas of the Congo Basin, Gabon and The Republic of Congo are working together in the Gamba-Conkouati Forest Landscape area. This includes the Gamba complex of protected areas and the Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of Congo, which are home to elephants, Western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, hippos and many other species. Main threats to the landscape's biodiversity are unsustainable logging practices, commercial hunting and fishing, and oil exploration and production activities.

One of the most important functions of the mangrove ecosystems is the stabilisation and protection of the coast and the beaches used as laying grounds by marine turtles under threat of extinction, especially the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) is a fully protected sirenian found primarily in the Conkouati lagoon and the Kouilou and Loémé rivers and the Congo clawless otter (*Aonyx congica*) and the spotted-necked otter (*Lutra maculicollis*) may be present in the Loémé lagoon. Hippopotamuses (*Hyppopotamus amphibius*) have also been sighted in the Kouilou river and the Yombo lagoon, as have Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and slender-snouted crocodiles (*Crocodylus cataphractus*).

Although the mangrove ecosystems have no recognized ornithological site, they are important for birds, both resident and migratory. Several coastal lagoons are of international importance for aquatic birds that are critically on the road to extinction. The estuary and mangrove systems also serve as a refuge for large numbers of aquatic birds. The Anamba waxbill (*Estrilda poliopareia*) and the Loango weaver (*Ploceus subpersonatus*) are species with a distribution limited to the coastal zone. The tropical forests of this coastal zone are also among the most diverse in Africa, for it is one of the rare regions where these forests extend to the sea. The Congolese coast still contains a large amount of biological diversity and the mangrove ecosystems are an integral part of this matrix of forests, estuaries, shallow lagoons and coastline.

However, in the absence of effective management, monitoring and control, Congo's mangrove ecosystems are under threat from uncontrolled industrial development and urbanisation of the coastal area, as well as indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, which have led to the significant degradation of these ecosystems. In some parts of the country, pollution caused by hydrocarbon extraction is the most serious threat and some of the coastal lagoons have already been polluted by hydrocarbon waste. This project will address the following three specific aspects of this problem:

Problem 1: Weak institutional and legal framework for conservation of mangrove ecosystems. Mangrove ecosystems are not mainstreamed into national development policies for the coastal zone, nor are they adequately protected in the country's forestry policies and laws. In addition, there is no framework for management at the field level by local communities.

The large-scale industrial and infrastructure projects being implemented on the Congolese coast can easily incorporate most of the interests and needs of coastal management. Indeed, the policy and practice of carrying out environmental impact studies when large-scale projects are developed is starting to take place. However, there is no national mechanism for directing developments in the coastal landscape away from sensitive areas (such as mangrove ecosystems) nor for minimising the impacts of developments on these ecosystems.

The laws and strategies for forestry and biodiversity conservation in Congo do not take into account special ecosystems such as mangroves. While the forest law does protect the country's forests, monitoring and control are still inadequate in practice and, out of all the zones containing significant areas of mangroves, only those of the Conkouati lagoon are strictly protected as part of the Conkouati-Douli National Park. Furthermore, these areas outside the National Park are simply classified as part of the "private estate of the state", which means that they are treated like commons and have no specific management status.

At the local level, communities have only minimal power over mangrove forests. These areas are considered to be "waste land" over which nobody can claim ownership, so harvesting and fishing activities in mangrove forests are not controlled. There have been a number of initiatives to raise local awareness of the importance of mangroves, support their rehabilitation and promote more appropriate resource management. These have yielded some useful results and experiences, but they have not yet been scaled-up to any significant extent and capacity to support such initiatives remains very weak.

Problem 2: The absence of reliable information and meaningful dialogue among stakeholders. Information about the health and state of coastal ecosystems and about their value for socio-economic development is hard to obtain. This lack of reliable information is not only an obstacle to effective dialogue and exchange, but also a real impediment to establishing confidence among stakeholders and to building partnerships.

Although the threats to Congo's mangroves are fairly widely known, they have not been systematically documented nationally. Moreover, many threats are certainly not being reduced and their ongoing negative effects will lead to a loss of species, erosion of traditional community systems and destruction of coastal zones. This situation is allowed to continue because there is no framework for dialogue that would promote the integrated planning of economic development and conservation of the coast and no reliable system for monitoring the health of the ecosystem, pollution and other impacts of large-scale industrial developments.

Problem 3: Local livelihoods are not sustainable and destroy biodiversity. All these dangers contribute to the loss of biodiversity in mangrove ecosystems, compromising their role in coastal ecosystems and reducing their economic value. Given the key role played by mangroves in stimulating the productivity of fisheries,

their destruction also affects the survival of fishing communities and other local inhabitants participating in the fishery value chain.

Congo's coastal wetlands provide thousands of people with their means of livelihood, but access to resources in mangrove ecosystems is uncontrolled at present, with migrants and itinerant fishermen, women from Pointe-Noire and, more recently, Chinese fishermen entering these areas. Communities have little power or control over the areas where they live and have no knowledge about how their management and harvesting practices could be improved both to raise their income and to strengthen the sustainability of the resource. In addition, supporting institutions have little capacity to help communities organise themselves and to provide technical support.

The project will address the above problems through the following activities which have been arranged into four components (a full description of the components is provided in Section 3 of the project document – page 23):

Component 1: Legal and institutional strengthening. This component will strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the management of mangrove ecosystems and will provide the foundation on which the other activities of this project can be developed. It will include the establishment of policies and procedures for stakeholder engagement and resource mobilisation. The following main activities will be implemented under this component:

- (i) development of a strategy for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystem;
- (ii) development of legal and other instruments for implementing the strategy;
- (iii) capacity building to support the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems;
- (iv) preparation of communication tools; and
- (v) review of existing framework for inter-sectoral coordination and strengthening of existing inter-sectoral dialogue platform(s) to support the mainstreaming of environmental issues in coastal areas into the national and local development agenda;

Component 2: Environmental monitoring and evaluation. This component will provide all relevant stakeholders with the information and tools necessary for the monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem health in the mangrove ecosystems. It will generate in-depth knowledge about these ecosystems in the four project target sites (Conkouati, Kouilou, Noubi and Loémé complex²) and all along the coast more generally and will support the establishment of real-time monitoring of ecosystem health and monitoring of the impacts (on ecosystem health and productivity) of industrial and infrastructural developments. All of this will inform stakeholders and contribute to the inter-sectoral dialogue on conservation and development (see above). Activities will include:

- (i) collection of detailed information about the current status of Congo's mangrove ecosystems;
- (ii) development and implementation of a three-year mangrove research programme;
- (iii) development of a national coastal observatory to inform coastal development planning and monitor the impacts of existing developments; and
- (iv) development of local capacity to monitor and evaluate the environmental and social management plans of developments in coastal areas.

Component 3: Conservation management planning. This component will build local capacity for conservation management planning and participatory approaches to natural resource management. The project will support the development of participatory management plans for each of the four project target sites³. It will also help to prepare a mangrove rehabilitation plan for the Pointe-Noire Urban Council

² The four project target sites are, from north to south: the mangroves of Conkouati-Douli National Park (border with Gabon); the Kouilou wetland (important for raffia, fisheries and Manatee, the Loémé Mangroves (important for Otter and Manatee) and the Cayo Loufoualeba Ramsar Complex (border with Angola).

³ Proposals for the focus of these management plans are as follows:

- Conkouati-Douli National Park mangroves: conservation of the marine turtle and manatee habitats.
- Cayo Loufoualeba mangroves: sustainable management of the fish resources.
- Kouilou mangroves: sustainable management of the fish and raffia palm resources and conservation of the habitats for manatees (in the Conkouati lagoon) and hippopotamuses (in the Yombo lagoon).

and the project is not proposing the creation of any new Protected Areas, so this has not been listed as a major focus of the project for the purpose of reporting to the GEF.⁴

Similarly the project will also make some contribution to the GEF Strategic Objective 1 for Land Degradation (LD SO-1: to develop an enabling environment that will place sustainable land management in the mainstream of development policy and practices. Most of the mainstreaming activities listed above will try to mainstream sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems into the policies and practices of other sectors (at a broader level rather than focusing too narrowly on biodiversity conservation issues). Thus, they will contribute to this objective, specifically in the area of promoting sustainable forest management to reduce forest fragmentation and restore the integrity of forest ecosystems (LD SP-2).

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH THE GEF RESOURCES.

GEF resources will be provided to Congo as a grant, because the majority of GEF-funded activities will be technical assistance or scientific and technical advice. Most of this will be focused on improving environmental outcomes (i.e. it is not expected to generate revenue or income) and in the few activities that will support local income generation, GEF funding will be directed towards supporting mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation (and sustainability more generally) in those activities.

GEF funding will also be used in a catalytic way to support and demonstrate how local communities can take responsibility for conservation and environmental improvement in these ecosystems. As this is somewhat experimental, it would be unrealistic to expect that these resources could be returned to the GEF at some time. However, if the project is successful at demonstrating the feasibility of community-based approaches to mangrove ecosystem conservation, it is expected that follow-up activities will be supported through collaboration between government, the private-sector and other stakeholders in the country in future years.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The main link between this and other GEF supported projects will be collaboration and sharing of information with the GEF project on the sustainable management of mangroves and coastal wetlands in Cameroon. In addition, FAO will take note of any other GEF funded projects concerning mangrove and coastal forests in Africa and will seek to build linkages with these projects (e.g. one currently proposed by UNEP for harmonisation of policies and management of mangrove ecosystems in Africa).

At a broader level, the project will link with other relevant projects supported by the CBSP in two main ways: through FAO's participation in the coordinating mechanisms for the CBSP; and through the GEF Focal Points in countries (that are involved in the CBSP). Specific mechanisms for coordination and collaboration will be established as this and the other GEF projects are implemented, but are likely to include joint workshops and training events, collaboration on awareness raising activities and sharing of project data, lessons learned and other information.

With respect to other initiatives already under way in Congo and the Congo Basin, the project is expected to link with activities being supported under the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) mangrove forest projects in Congo and Cameroon. For the regional initiatives, linkages will be initiated at the national level through, for example, participation of project staff in meetings and workshops of those initiatives (and *vice-versa*) and participation of individuals from those initiatives in project steering committee meetings, working groups, technical events and other consultations.

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :

There are a number of reasons why the Government of Congo needs this external support to solve the problems described above. First, there is lack of existing capacity in the country to develop and implement many of the reforms proposed in this project (strategy development, policy and legal adjustments, efficient

⁴ The original PIF indicated that this project would contribute to both BD SP-3 and BD SP-4, but the former is no longer valid for the reasons given above.

environmental impact assessment and monitoring). Assistance for these activities is needed so that the country can benefit from experiences learned in other countries and emerging best practices in these areas.

A second justification is the need for strengthening of local institutions (government and NGOs) with respect to participatory approaches to natural resource management. The development and implementation of participatory approaches is a stated aim of government policy, but these approaches are still in their infancy and government staff do not have much experience with such approaches. Similarly, local NGOs and civil society organisations are poorly developed compared to many other countries. Through formal and in-service training, the project will help to develop the skills needed to implement such approaches. Furthermore, the policy and legal reforms will help to strengthen these arrangements by providing a formal legal framework for their implementation and mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination.

The project will also provide seed-capital for investments in sustainable resource utilisation, mangrove rehabilitation and local income generation (mostly through cofinancing). Not only will this allow for pilot-testing of various activities, but it will help the country to develop a more sustainable long-term framework for such investments. There are currently significant investments in economic development along the coastline and more are expected in the future. Developments such as these are required to support local development and environmental protection/improvement and experiences gained on the project can be used to plan and organise this support in the future.

Without project scenario

Although conservation efforts (sometimes carried out by NGOs) are likely to continue even in the absence of this project, they will lack not only long-term sustainability, but also the support of long-term policies and regulations. Examples of successful approaches to conservation and natural resource management will be confined to specific localities, with no effort to broaden their scope. In addition, successful conservation activities are more likely to occur in zones with low or no economic value than in zones with high conservation value.

In particular, it must be noted that it is highly unlikely that large-scale development projects will consider taking into account of the social and environmental value of mangroves. The key place of mangroves and other coastal wetland ecosystems in management plans for coastal zones will therefore not be sufficiently recognised and fragmentation of the mangroves will continue through uncontrolled exploitation of their resources.

The local capacity for planning and implementing ecosystem management will also remain low. In the absence of more effective management, existing protected areas will therefore provide little or no protection to threatened and endangered species. Whilst local communities understand the importance of healthy mangrove ecosystems, they will not be able to ensure sustainable use and management if external factors beyond their control are impacting. For instance, many migrant communities along the entire coast are making often seasonal use of mangrove wood and fisheries resources. These communities are likely to continue to degrade mangrove resources, even risking encroachment into protected areas.

With project scenario

This project will enable the development of a national strategy, laws and regulations concerning the management of Congo's mangrove ecosystems. It will increase local capacities to monitor the health of the ecosystem and the impact of local developments on the environment (e.g. the impacts of pollution and changes in hydrological characteristics). It will also help the government to communicate this information more effectively and maintain a meaningful dialogue among the various stakeholders present on the coast.

The project will boost the government's capacity to monitor environmental audits, impact assessments and mitigation plans, thereby ensuring respect for national and international environmental and social standards. It will also support the development and implementation of multi-sectoral social and environmental management plans, so that a share of economic development resources are devoted to supporting sustainable income generating activities and conservation of mangrove resources in the long-run. These activities will

complement the national strategies already in place and enhance their impact on the management and conservation of mangrove ecosystems.

The project will also increase the area of mangrove ecosystems that are properly managed and protected in some way. This will include management of some existing mangrove resources and rehabilitation of some degraded areas. The project will help the culturally diverse local communities and women's groups to develop and implement community management arrangements so that local inhabitants will have the necessary skills to take responsibility for the natural resources on which their livelihood depends. Local communities are in large part fisheries villages dependant from fisheries activities and use of local wood-energy for fish transformation. Local communities often from include migrants nearby towns (Pointe-Noire) posing a challenge to community (co-) management of the coastal ecosystem. The project will also support customary authorities as well as take into account traditional beliefs that are custodian of knowledge, social rules and practices that support conservation of the mangroves' habitat and their associated wildlife.

Ultimately, the incremental benefit that the GEF project will produce is the protection of the globally important biodiversity present in these mangrove ecosystems. It will improve the protection of these areas by reducing the threats to them (both from large-scale coastal developments and local livelihood activities) and by helping local inhabitants to manage and utilise these areas more sustainably and more profitably.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

The risks and proposed mitigation measures are summarised in the table below. Further details of these are presented in Section 3.7 of the project document.

| Risk | Impact | Probability | Mitigation |
|---|--|---|---|
| Environmental risks | | | |
| Large-scale pollution following oil spillages or other industrial accidents | High at local level (will severely degrade mangrove ecosystems) | Low to moderate: greater prudence is used in oil extraction than in the past | Ensuring the participation of oil, gas and mining companies and their support for strong control systems and protocols |
| Rise in sea level caused by climate change | Unknown (but need to counter possible effects and impacts) | Unknown | Research into the possible impacts of a rise in sea level and the capacities of mangroves to adapt to this |
| Economic risk | | | |
| Conflicting sectors and economic interests of different stakeholders | High (continuation of past trends in degradation) | Low to moderate | Improved information and strengthened dialogue between sectors. |
| Social and institutional risks | | | |
| Weak institutions for a serious dialogue | High (will jeopardise project activities, outcomes and sustainability) | Low to moderate | Focus on capacity building and activities to raise visibility of the project to gain support in government and the private sector at a high level |
| Low participation of non-resident, women's and fishing groups | Moderate (it will increase fragmentation of the mangroves) | Moderate in Kouilou and Yombo (close to Pointe-Noire); low in other coastal zones | Concerted efforts to foster participation of women and non-resident fishermen, and to work in a spirit of national interest, conflict resolution and peace among resource users' groups |
| Poor capacity for project implementation | Moderate (will jeopardise some project activities) | Low | Increased capacity-building through training and close supervision |

H. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

Cost-effectiveness was considered during project preparation by examining alternative options for three main aspects of the project design.

Institutional arrangements. For the mobilisation of all stakeholders in dialogue and decision making and to assist with monitoring, stakeholders examined different possibilities for co-ordination and consultation and suggested that it would be most efficient for the project to build upon existing mechanisms. The most relevant of these is the PNIU (Plan National d'Intervention d'Urgence or National Emergency Intervention Plan). This platform has a National Intervention Committee that is co-ordinated by the MDDEFE in collaboration with the Prefect of Kouilou Province. Although it is a mechanism to react to oil spills and disasters (which has not been used very much), all of the national stakeholders with an interest in mangrove ecosystems are represented on this committee and agree with its overall mandate to ensure the protection of these ecosystems.

It was agreed that revitalising this mechanism and using it to steer the implementation of the mangrove ecosystem strategy would be more cost-effective than establishing a completely new mechanism for this purpose. During the first six months, the project will help the MDDEFE to define how this can be done so that the PNIU can be used to support integrated mangrove and coastal ecosystem management.

Environmental monitoring and evaluation. Consultations during project preparation also examined a number of options for the implementation of environmental monitoring and evaluation activities (e.g. government monitoring, self-reporting by private companies, monitoring by NGOs). The main requirements for the monitoring arrangements are that they should be independent, accountable, performed to a reasonably high scientific standard and sustainable.

It was decided that the most-cost effective way of meeting these requirements would be by establishing a National Coastal Observatory in collaboration with the scientific department of the University of Pointe-Noire and the Oceanography Laboratory. This will be an independent institution that will provide information (to the PNIU) about the status and condition of mangrove and coastal ecosystems and the impacts of developments on those ecosystems.

To increase the accountability and cost-effectiveness of this institution, communities will become an integral part of the information gathering process and will be supported in this role by the local NGOs included in the project. The private-sector and government will fund the institution for the duration of the project and, if it proves to be successful and useful a long-term funding arrangement will be developed and implemented.

Funding of mangrove management and rehabilitation activities. The project includes a number of mangrove management and rehabilitation activities. GEF funding is targeted specifically at building capacity in local communities (and supporting institutions such as local government and NGOs) for sustainable management of the natural resources found in these ecosystems. Project cofinancing is targeted more towards activities such as tree planting and development of sustainable local livelihoods.

Management of these resources by local communities will be a far more cost-effective (and sustainable) way of conserving these ecosystems than direct intervention by government or other stakeholders. Furthermore, by focusing on capacity building, GEF funding will leave a lasting legacy of technical competence and experiences gained on the project (by all stakeholders) can be used to stimulate continued management of these areas and replication elsewhere.

As sustainability and replication is likely to require further support beyond the end of the project, mechanisms such as the PNIU will be used to provide that long-term support. It will do this by directly linking local industry (e.g. oil companies) to local development concerns, so that private-sector funds can be leveraged to finance environmental protection and socio-economic development in these areas in the future.

Quantification of cost-effectiveness

Due to the relatively small area of mangrove ecosystems in Congo, the cost of this project is quite high when assessed using typical measures (e.g. cost per hectare). However, the relative scarcity of these ecosystems (and the biodiversity they contain) and the intense pressures they face from the local population are exactly the reasons why a quite high level of investment is justified.

For the purpose of calculating cost-effectiveness, it is useful to divide the cost of activities into those implemented at the national level (components 1 and 2) and those targeted at the local level (components 3 and 4) and assess them separately.

At the national level, the GEF funding (USD 401,110) will establish a basic level of protection through policy and legal reform, capacity building and improved monitoring, assessment and mitigation at a cost of roughly USD 13.50 per hectare (for the 30,000 ha of mangrove ecosystems). The outcome of the project is that the degradation of mangrove forests in these areas should have stopped and degradation of other resources (either through pollution, development or excessive resource harvesting) should be mostly under control by the end of the project.

Compared with the level of benefits provided by these ecosystems (both in terms of local income from resource harvesting and the global environmental benefits), this investment is likely to have a very high cost-benefit ratio. Of course, continued development of the coastline may have an even higher cost-benefit ratio, but platforms such as the PNIU should help the government to minimise the environmental impacts of those developments and, where necessary, develop and implement compensatory mechanisms/projects so that the environmental benefits of these ecosystems are maintained overall.

At the local level, GEF funding for components 3 and 4 amounts to USD 455,000 and will be targeted in the 5,000 ha of the four target zones, plus the additional 175 hectares that will be rehabilitated (financed mostly by cofinancing). This is equivalent to around USD 90 per hectare. However, the income of the 7,750 local inhabitants in these areas amounts to about USD 2.8 million every year. Viewed in this context, the GEF funding over the three years amounts to roughly five percent of the value of local resource harvesting activities (or much less if the project results in long-term changes in management practices, as is intended), which is a relatively modest investment in changing behaviour for the benefit of the global environment. Furthermore, if successful, mechanisms such as the PNIU will continue to provide support for these communities so that sustainable management and rehabilitation activities will continue into the future.

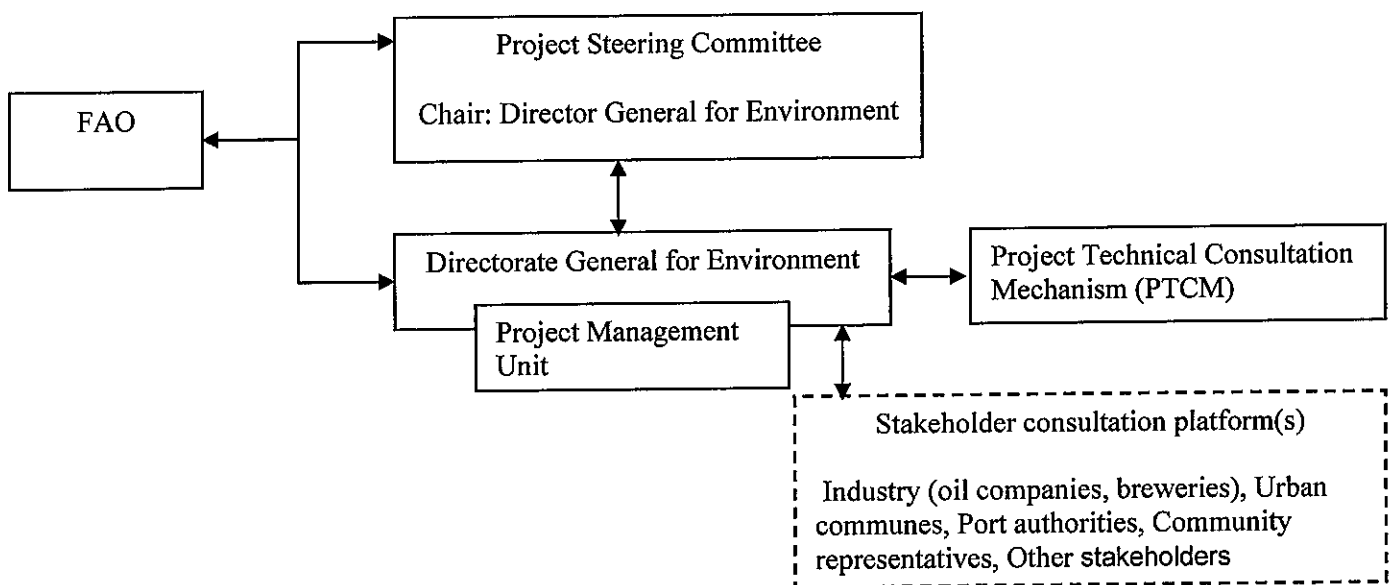
One final measure of the cost-effectiveness of this project is the expected returns from support to local income generation. This will be funded by cofinancing (approximately USD 140,000 of the total cofinancing for Component 4), with a little GEF funding to support mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into these activities (USD 36,000 to promote sustainable fishing techniques and fisheries management). The target for this activity is to raise the incomes of participants in these income generation projects by 20 percent, which amounts to around USD 20,000 per year or an eleven percent return on this investment. Therefore, if successful, this will achieve a respectable rate of return as well as support the production of global environmental benefits from more sustainable resource management and harvesting activities.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

The key institutional partner will be the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment (MDDEFE). Within the MDDEFE, the Directorate General for Environment (DGE) will take the lead role for this project. The DGE is responsible for environmental auditing, monitoring and impact assessments, environmental laws and regulations, management of protected areas, biodiversity conservation and government relations with international conventions (CBD, Ramsar, etc.). The GEF Operational Focal Point is a staff member of DGE and is responsible for the coordination of all GEF activities in the country. The Directorate General of Forest Economics (DGEF) responsible for forestry policy and sustainable forest management in all forest areas (including mangrove forests) within the MDDEFE will also be one of the main government stakeholders. The DGE will be responsible for coordinating and informing the various government ministries and agencies of project-related developments through the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Technical Consultation Mechanism (PTCM). Project cofinanciers, collaborating institutions and conservation and development NGOs working in Congo's coastal region will participate be invited to participate in the latter mechanism.

The project will be managed through the institutional structure depicted below



B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

GEF Agency

FAO will serve as both the GEF agency and executing agency of the project. As the GEF agency, FAO will be responsible for project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes and outputs as established in this Project Document in an efficient and effective manner. FAO will report on the project progress to the GEF Secretariat and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee in accordance with the financial procedures agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee. FAO will closely monitor the project and provide technical guidance and carry out supervision missions.

The FAO Lead Technical Unit (LTU), Forest Conservation Team of the Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division (FOMC) within the FAO Forestry Department will provide technical backstopping. The LTU will appoint a Lead Technical Officer (LTO) who will follow-up closely on implementation progress and ensure delivery of technical outputs and outcomes, and undertake regular backstopping missions. The LTU will review and provide clearance to: i) the Terms of Reference of consultancies, letters

of agreement and contracts; ii) the selection of the consultants and firms to be hired with GEF funding; and iii) all technical reports and financial reports.

The LTU will also: (i) review and provide clearance to the six-monthly project progress reports prepared by the National Project Co-ordinator (NPC); (ii) prepare annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) to be reviewed and cleared by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit the Investment Centre Division (TCI) and submitted to GEF; (iii) field at least one annual project supervision mission or more frequently as needed; and (iv) review and clearance to the TORs for the mid-term review and final evaluation and participate in the mid-term review.

The FAO Representative (FAOR) in Congo will be designated as the Budget Holder (BH) of the project's GEF resources. The BH will be responsible for timely operational, administrative and financial management of the project. In this capacity, the FAOR will authorise the disbursement of GEF project funds. The BH will also prepare Quarterly Project Implementation Reviews (QPIRs) and six-monthly budget revisions for submission to the LTU and FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The BH will manage GEF project resources in close consultation with the LTU and the lead executing partner – the Directorate General for Environment (DGE). Financial reporting and operations, procurement of goods and contracting of services for the GEF component of the project will be undertaken in accordance with FAO rules and procedures. Final approval of procurement, letters of agreement and financial transactions rests with the Budget Holder.

National Executing Partners

The Directorate General for Environment (DGE) of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment (MDDEFE) will be the lead executing partner within the Government. DGE will support and supervise the execution of the project. Specifically, DGE will: (i) facilitate the establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and chair the PSC; (ii) facilitate the establishment of and supervise the project management unit (PMU) which will be hosted at DGE offices in Pointe-Noire; (iii) appoint a senior staff member to act as a National Project Focal Point (NPPF) who will be a member of the PMU team; (iv) mobilize government cofinancing; (v) coordinate the multi-stakeholder dialogue platform(s); and (vi) ensure optimal coordination and collaboration with other government departments involved in the project.

The Project Managements Unit (PMU), will be established and hosted by DGE in Pointe-Noire. The PMU will be responsible for day-to-day project operations and will ensure the coordination and execution of the project through timely and efficient implementation of agreed work plans, in close consultation with the DGE, FAO (BH and LTU) and the PSC. The PMU will act as secretariat to the PSC. It will ensure timely delivery of inputs and outputs, closely monitor project progress, and facilitate collaboration with other ongoing initiatives. The PMU will be responsible for the preparation and submission of project progress reports to DGE and FAO. It will assist in the preparation of the annual Project Implementation Reviews, mid-term review and final evaluation. The PMU will consist of a part-time National Project Focal Point (NPPF), a full-time National Project Coordinator (NPC), a part-time international Technical Advisor (TA), an administrative assistant, a driver and short-term consultants.

National Project Focal Point (NPPF). DGE will appoint a senior staff member to act as the NPPF as part of the Government's cofinancing contribution to the project. He/she will work on a part-time basis and will be based in Brazzaville, with travel to the Project Management Unit (PMU) in Pointe-Noire as required. In close collaboration with the NPC, the NPPF will: (i) act as secretary to the PSC and ensure regular communication between DGE, the PSC and all project partners; (ii) review Annual Work Plans and Budget prepared by the NPC and provide any additional inputs before submission to FAO and the PSC for approval; (iii) provide general guidance and supervision in the implementation of activities and monitor project progress closely; (iv) with support from the multi-stakeholder facilitator, provide technical assistance to consolidate the stakeholder dialogue platform(s) (Plan National d'Intervention d'Urgence platform etc) and facilitate dialogue within these platforms; (v) promote close collaboration between the project and relevant ongoing and planned Government initiatives; and (vi) mobilize and report on cofinancing from the Government.

National Project Co-ordinator (NPC). A National Project Co-ordinator (NPC) will be a full-time consultant paid from GEF funding and selected jointly by DGE and FAO through a transparent and open selection process. The NPC will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. He/she will be responsible for the overall planning, coordination of the implementation of all project activities, and monitoring of project results.

The NPC, supported by the NPFP, will: (i) prepare Annual Work Plans and Budget (AWP/B) and oversee the implementation of the AWP/B; (ii) prepare draft terms of reference (TORs) for and supervise consultancies and contracts; (iii) manage the project monitoring and evaluation system and continuously monitor project implementation; (iv) prepare and submit to the DGE and FAO (LTU and BH) project progress reports in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in section 6 of the Project Document; (v) compile reports on cofinancing; (vi) facilitate a project consultative mechanism (PTCM) and ensure regular communication with partner institutions and stakeholders; (vii) liaise with other projects, programmes and organizations in the country and the region to promote collaboration and sharing of best practices and lessons learned; and (viii) support the organization of the mid-term review and final evaluation.

Technical Advisor (TA). A Technical Advisor will be recruited to strengthen the Project Management Unit (PMU) and work closely with the NPC and NPFP. The TA will be a part-time international consultant paid from GEF funding and selected jointly by DGE and FAO through a transparent and open selection process. Under the supervision of DGE and the FAO Budget Holder and with technical guidance from the LTU, the TA will: (i) review and provide recommendations for updating and refining the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan and set up the M&E system within the first six months of project implementation; (ii) lead the implementation of capacity building activities, including training of government conservation and NGO staff in planning, reporting, financial management and environmental monitoring and evaluation, and participatory approaches in to natural resources management; and (iii) support the organization of the mid-term review and final evaluation.

Other National Partners

It is envisaged that part of the project activities will be implemented by scientific departments in the University of Pointe Noire and the Oceanic Laboratorium and by three local NGOs - Association Nature et Développement (ND), Congo Nature Conservation (CNC), and Association for Community Fishing Initiatives (AIPC). The three NGOs were identified as most suitable and capable during project preparation. The universities will be mainly involved in policy related issues, scientific studies and monitoring of ecosystem health. The NGOs will mostly execute field level activities related to capacity building, organisation and facilitation in communities.

The three NGOs have been identified as partners for this project on the basis of their objectives, experience and ongoing activities in capacity building, communication and advocacy, development of good practices for natural resource management, technology transfer and development in Congo. They are key facilitators for local and national platforms and already have recognised roles for dialogue building and local empowerment for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. These NGOs have thematic and geographical complementarities and expertise in mangroves. and already collaborate: ND mainly in the north and the Conkouati Park; AIPD in the centre (in Pointe-Noire and Koilou Park); and CNC is the national focal point for the Regional Mangrove Network of Central Africa (covering all the regions including the border with Angola in the South).

All three NGOs have specialised in coastal communities, mangroves and fisheries, rural development and community sensitisation and empowerment. ND is active mainly in the Coastal zone of the Conkouati-Douli National Park, AIPC in the coastal wetlands of Kouilou and Pointe Noire and CNC in the mangrove and coastal wetlands south of Pointe Noire (Cayo wetlands and Loémé mangroves). CNC acts as a resource centre on mangroves for the MDDEFÉ and is the national focal point for the Regional Magrove Network of Central Africa (covering all the regions the border with Angola in the south) and an active member of the African Mangroves Network.

Project Steering Committee and Technical Consultative Mechanism

Project Steering Committee. The Project will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that will oversee and guide project implementation, review progress reports and approve annual work plans and budget (AWP/B). The PSC will take necessary actions to overcome any major constraints in project implementation. The primary role of the PSC will be to ensure that the GEF project is executed efficiently and effectively and its outcomes are mainstreamed into government policies, laws and regulations. This will include assisting with the creation of official consultative mechanisms or multi-sectoral platform(s). The Director-General of Environment will Chair the PSC and the National Project Focal Point (NPPF) will act as Secretary to the PSC. The National Project Co-ordinator (NPC) will assist in organising PSC meetings and in the preparation of related documentation and reporting. The PSC will meet at least once a year.

Project Technical Consultative Mechanism. A Project Technical Consultative Mechanism (PTCM) will be established to provide technical and scientific advice to the project on an ad-hoc or permanent basis. The PTCM will also facilitate synergy and co-ordination between activities funded by the GEF and cofinanced activities. It is envisaged that the PTCM will include the following: relevant technical experts from government (e.g. staff from DGE and DGEF); representatives of cofinancing partners; long-term project staff (including staff of the three NGOs executing project activities); representatives of the Université de Pointe Noire Universities as well as representatives of other institutions with relevant expertise and experience. The NPC will call for meetings of the PTCM as and when required.

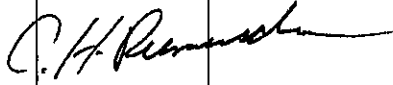
PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

The project design is in alignment with the original PIF. The project objective remains the same. Outcomes and outputs are also largely the same with a few changes to reflect further project preparation and participatory inputs from project stakeholders. Four original project components (outcomes) have been maintained. For better logic and clarity, component 3 will now focus on building the capacity of NGO and local government conservation staff in conservation management planning and participatory approaches to natural resource management. Rehabilitation of mangrove forests and sustainable management practices (and associated activities) have been incorporated into Component 4 which focuses on implementation of mangrove management plans at the community level. Some changes in the wording of outcomes and outputs have also been made for clarity and for better presentation of what the project aims to implement and achieve.

The original PIF indicated that the project would contribute to both BD SP-3 and BD SP-4. Part of the project target area lies within an existing National Park (Conkouati-Douli National Park) and project activities will improve the quality of habitat in that area, so the project will make a small contribution to GEF Biodiversity Strategic Programme 3: to strengthen terrestrial Protected Area networks (BD SP-3). However, the area targeted by the project is relatively small compared to the total size of the National Park and the project is not proposing the creation of any new Protected Areas, so this has not been listed as a major focus of the project for the purpose of reporting to the GEF.

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.

| Agency Coordinator, Agency name | Signature | Date (Month, day, year) | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Charles Riemenschneider Director, Investment Center Division FAO |  | February 16, 2012 | Jean-Claude Nguingiri, Forestry Officer | +241- 774783 | JeanClaude.Nguingiri@fao.org |
| Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: Barbara.Cooney@fao.org Tel.+3906 5705 5478 GEF Agency Executive Director | | | Michelle Gauthier, Forestry Officer, | +39-06 5705 3692 | Michelle.Gauthier@fao.org |

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Objectives: To strengthen the conservation of biodiversity and reduce degradation in mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>The area and condition of mangrove forests.</p> | <p>Total area of mangrove forests is estimated to be between 8,000 ha and 10,000 ha at present. Detailed and accurate information about the condition of these forests is currently unknown.</p> | <p>175 ha of mangrove forest rehabilitated with 85 percent seedling survival and arrangements in place for long-term protection and management. Condition of all mangrove forest resource no worse than at start of project.</p> | <p>Baseline data for mangrove area and condition will be completed in year 1 (project inventory reports and maps). Areas rehabilitated will be recorded in project documents. Overall condition of the mangroves in year 3 will be assessed by re-sampling as part of final project evaluation.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Large-scale pollution following oil spillages or other industrial accidents. <u>Assumption:</u> Components 1 and 2 of the project are successful at identifying such problems and responding to them very quickly.</p> |
| <p>To enhance and increase the sustainability of livelihoods in communities located in and around mangrove ecosystems</p> | <p>A national strategy and action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems approved by the Government.</p> | <p>Zero. (No strategy or action plan currently exists. Existing laws do not adequately support the conservation of mangrove ecosystems).</p> | <p>A national strategy and action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems approved. Draft laws and regulations for implementation of the strategy and action plan under consideration by the national Government.</p> | <p>MDDEFE. Publication in the official journal.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Rise in sea level caused by climate change. <u>Assumption:</u> Research activities under the project identify the most likely problems from this risk and recommend suitable activities to mitigate and/or respond to this risk</p> |
| <p>Mangrove conservation objectives mainstreamed into large-scale coastal infrastructure and hydrocarbon extraction projects.</p> | <p>Environmental impact assessments, monitoring and mitigation activities are required for oil companies but not for other types of company. In addition, performance against the existing mitigation plans is largely unknown.</p> | <p>Multi-sectoral dialogue has led to at least two joint actions (public-private-community partnerships) to reduce the environmental impact of coastal development. Performance against existing mitigation plans is evaluated and corrective actions are taken (if necessary).</p> | <p>Project reports. Reports of the PNIU and other platforms. GEF Tracking Tool.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Low participation of women, and fishing groups. <u>Assumption:</u> Project activities to build capacity and skills (in NGOs and government) for participatory management will be sufficient to ensure that marginalised groups will be represented and have a role in the project.</p> | |

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Objectives: To strengthen the conservation of biodiversity and reduce degradation in mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>The area and condition of mangrove forests.</p> | <p>Total area of mangrove forests is estimated to be between 8,000 ha and 10,000 ha at present. Detailed and accurate information about the condition of these forests is currently unknown.</p> | <p>175 ha of mangrove forest rehabilitated with 85 percent seedling survival and arrangements in place for long-term protection and management. Condition of all mangrove forest resource no worse than at start of project.</p> | <p>Baseline data for mangrove area and condition will be completed in year 1 (project inventory reports and maps). Areas rehabilitated will be recorded in project documents. Overall condition of the mangroves in year 3 will be assessed by re-sampling as part of final project evaluation.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Large-scale pollution following oil spillages or other industrial accidents. <u>Assumption:</u> Components 1 and 2 of the project are successful at identifying such problems and responding to them very quickly.</p> |
| <p>To enhance and increase the sustainability of livelihoods in communities located in and around mangrove ecosystems</p> | <p>A national strategy and action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems approved by the Government.</p> | <p>Zero. (No strategy or action plan currently exists. Existing laws do not adequately support the conservation of mangrove ecosystems).</p> | <p>A national strategy and action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems approved. Draft laws and regulations for implementation of the strategy and action plan under consideration by the national Government.</p> | <p>MDDEFE. Publication in the official journal.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Rise in sea level caused by climate change. <u>Assumption:</u> Research activities under the project identify the most likely problems from this risk and recommend suitable activities to mitigate and/or respond to this risk</p> |
| <p>Mangrove conservation objectives mainstreamed into large-scale coastal infrastructure and hydrocarbon extraction projects.</p> | <p>Environmental impact assessments, monitoring and mitigation activities are required for oil companies but not for other types of company. In addition, performance against the existing mitigation plans is largely unknown.</p> | <p>Multi-sectoral dialogue has led to at least two joint actions (public-private-community partnerships) to reduce the environmental impact of coastal development. Performance against existing mitigation plans is evaluated and corrective actions are taken (if necessary).</p> | <p>Project reports. Reports of the PNIU and other platforms. GEF Tracking Tool.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Low participation of women, and fishing groups. <u>Assumption:</u> Project activities to build capacity and skills (in NGOs and government) for participatory management will be sufficient to ensure that marginalised groups will be represented and have a role in the project.</p> | |

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Outcome 1 The legal and institutional framework for management of mangrove ecosystems is established.</p> | <p>Level of adoption of sustainable fisheries management practices and techniques by communities in project target areas Increase in income from income generating activities supported by the project</p> | <p>Low (Baseline to be completed in year 1)</p> | <p>50 percent of inhabitants in target communities using more sustainable fisheries management practices and techniques. At least 200 people benefiting from income generating activities supported by the project, with a 20 percent increase in income.</p> | <p>Baseline will be completed through multi-resource studies and other studies (e.g. on fishing techniques and management). In year 1. Project achievement will be assessed by re-sampling as part of final project evaluation.</p> | <p>Risk: Conflicting sectors and economic interests of different stakeholders. Assumption: The project can demonstrate that mangrove ecosystem protection can be achieved at little cost and, recognising this, national stakeholders agree to follow the strategy and action plan.</p> |
| | <p>Strategy and national action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>Zero. (No strategy or action plan currently exists).</p> | <p>Strategy and national action plan approved and issued by the MDDEFE.</p> | <p>MDDEFE.</p> | <p>Assumption: The project can demonstrate that mangrove ecosystem protection can be achieved at little cost and, recognising this, national stakeholders agree to follow the strategy and action plan.</p> |
| | <p>Effectiveness of the inter-sectoral dialogue about minimising the impact of coastal developments on mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>PNIU (for action on hydrocarbon pollution) exists but is not effective.</p> | <p>Platform(s) for inter-sectoral dialogue and co-ordination functioning properly and meeting regularly. Dialogue has led to at least two joint actions (public-private-community partnerships) to reduce the environmental impact of coastal development.</p> | <p>Discussions with key stakeholders and decision-makers as part of the mid-term review and final project evaluation.</p> | <p>Risk: Weak institutions for a serious dialogue. Assumption: The PNIU is a recognised mechanism for inter-sectoral co-ordination and stakeholders will take seriously the discussions and agreements reached there.</p> |

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Outcome 2 Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health in mangrove ecosystems, and to assess impacts of coastal developments.</p> | <p>A national coastal observatory established and operational</p> <p>Availability, quality and use of information about Congo's mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>Very low -</p> <p>The precise area of mangrove forests is unknown and very little other information about the coastal environment is available except a few reports by RAMSAR and international NGOs).</p> | <p>A national coastal observatory with a clear mandate and adequate resources (from outside the project) established and operational, and has a long-term funding plan to ensure sustainability.</p> <p>Up-to-date information (maps, inventory results, technical studies of biodiversity, management and uses) on trends, status and threats to the ecosystems is published and available to decision-makers.</p> | <p>Project reports (establishment of the observatory); government records and interviews during final project evaluation (long-term sustainability).</p> <p>Quality and use of this information will be assessed in discussions with decision-makers as part of final project evaluation.</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Poor capacity for project implementation.</p> <p><u>Assumption:</u> Intensive project monitoring and mid-term review will be able to identify problems and make corrections if necessary.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Weak institutions for a serious dialogue.</p> <p><u>Assumption:</u> The government has, several times, stated that this outcome is of national importance (e.g. it is a priority in Congo's NBSAP). High level political support should translate into serious efforts on the part of government to work towards this outcome.</p> |
| <p>Outcome 3: Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to support participatory management of mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <p>Capability of NGO and government conservation staff to perform environmental impact assessment (EIA), monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>50 NGO and government conservation staff trained and have adequate skills to perform EIA, monitoring and evaluation.</p> | <p>Zero.</p> <p>At present, no government or NGO staff have experience or training in these areas).</p> | <p>50 NGO and government conservation staff trained and have adequate skills to perform EIA, monitoring and evaluation.</p> | <p>Reports of training activities (post-training feedback and testing). Independent peer review of EIAs and/or related reports produced by individuals trained by the project (as part of mid-term review and final project evaluation).</p> | <p><u>Risk:</u> Poor capacity for project implementation.</p> <p><u>Assumption:</u> Intensive project monitoring and mid-term review will be able to identify problems and make corrections if necessary.</p> |

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Outcome 4 Local communities in the target sites are managing their mangrove resources more sustainably and their livelihoods have improved. | Area of mangrove ecosystems managed by local communities with these arrangements formally recognised and agreed by all stakeholders. | Zero. Participatory management of mangrove ecosystems does not exist at present. | 5,000 ha of mangrove ecosystems in the four target sites are managed by local communities. | Management plans and agreements. | <u>Risk:</u> Low participation of women and fishing groups. <u>Assumption:</u> Project activities to build capacity and skills (in NGOs and government) for participatory management will be sufficient to ensure that marginalised groups will be represented and have a role in the project. |
| | Level of adoption of sustainable fisheries management practices and techniques in project target areas (improved fish smoking techniques piloted in 5 fishing communities and sustainable income-generating fishery activities promoted in 8 fishing villages) | Low. (Presently unknown in detail but suspected to be low). Baseline to be established in year 1. | 50 percent of inhabitants in target areas using more sustainable techniques and practices, as outlined in management plans (and targeted by project activities). | Baseline will be established through multi-resource studies and other studies (e.g. on fishing techniques and management). In year 1. Project achievement will be assessed by re-sampling as part of final project evaluation. | <u>Risk:</u> Conflicting sectors and economic interests of different stakeholders. <u>Assumption:</u> At the local level, community members depend very much on resources from mangrove ecosystems and are more likely to see the benefits of sustainable management. Thus, this risk is more likely to be a problem with respect to major coastal developments (e.g. by industry). |
| | Area and quality of mangrove rehabilitation. | A few small areas have been already been rehabilitated, but these efforts have not been very successful. | A minimum of 175 ha of mangrove forests rehabilitated, with 85 percent seedling survival and arrangements in place for long-term protection and management. | Project reports (on rehabilitation activities). Quality and sustainability of rehabilitation will be assessed in discussions with stakeholders and site-visits as part of final project evaluation. | |
| Outcome 5 | Improvement of livelihoods (from income generating activities supported by the project). | Zero. (Baseline for income will be established through socio-economic studies in year 1). | At least 200 people benefiting from income generating activities supported by the project, with a 20 percent increase in income. | Baseline will be established through socio-economic studies in year 1. Project achievement will be assessed by re-sampling as part of final project evaluation. | |
| | Effectiveness of project | Zero. | Project activities | Project mid-term review | <u>Risk:</u> Poor capacity for |

| Objective/outcome | Indicator | Baseline value | End-of-project target | Source of verification | Risks and assumptions |
|---|--|----------------|--|--|---|
| Project effectively managed and monitored in a cost-effective manner. | management. Project reporting and dissemination of project results and lessons learned. | Zero. | implemented on time and within budget. Progress is reported accurately and on time and results are disseminated widely to assist with replication and sustainability beyond the end of the project. | and final evaluation Project mid-term review and final evaluation | project implementation. <u>Assumption:</u> Intensive project monitoring and mid-term review will be able to identify problems and make corrections if necessary. |

| Objective/outcome | Outputs |
|--|--|
| <p>Outcome 1: The legal and institutional framework for management of mangrove ecosystems is established</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategy and national action plan for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems. 2. Draft laws and regulations for implementing the strategy and national action plan. 3. Fifty NGO and government staff trained in planning, reporting, financial management and new laws and regulations. 4. Communication tools (leaflets, booklets, education materials, etc.). 5. Platform(s) for inter-sectoral dialogue and co-ordination functioning properly and meeting regularly. |
| <p>Outcome 2: Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health in mangrove ecosystems, and to assess impacts of coastal developments.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eight studies (one multi-resource and one socio-economic study for each of the four project target sites). 2. A detailed and up-to-date map of the whole coastal zone. 3. A minimum of three reports on current threats to mangrove ecosystems (lagoon sedimentation, wood harvesting and climate change). 4. A national coastal observatory established. 5. Biodiversity monitoring and evaluation plan (for implementation by the national coastal observatory). 6. Communications (newsletters) about mangrove ecosystems issued every six months by the national coastal observatory. 7. Fifty NGO and government staff trained in environmental and social impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation. 8. Performance evaluation(s) of all existing mitigation plans. |
| <p>Outcome 3: Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to support participatory management of mangrove ecosystems.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fifty NGO and government conservation staff trained in participatory approaches to natural resource management 2. Four participatory management plans (one for each of the four project target sites). 3. A mangrove rehabilitation plan for the Pointe-Noire Urban Council mangrove area. |
| <p>Outcome 4: Local communities in the target sites are managing their mangrove resources more sustainably and their livelihoods have improved.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local participatory management structures in place in the four target areas and three mangrove rehabilitation sites. 2. A minimum of 175 ha of mangrove forests rehabilitated and managed with the participation of local communities. 3. Five improved fish smoking facilities constructed and operating. 4. Feasibility study on the potential to introduce improved cooking stoves 5. Eight fishing villages supported in sustainable income-generating fishery activities, including fish and shrimp farming trials (fisheries studies, trials of improved fishing techniques, microfinance facilities for investments in aquaculture, etc.). |
| <p>Outcome 5: Project effectively managed and monitored in a cost-effective manner.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information about project progress and effectiveness is reported accurately and on time to address and overcome risks and uncertainties during project implementation. 2. Lessons learned are synthesised and disseminated widely to assist with replication and sustainability beyond end of the project. |

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

One project review was received from the GEF Secretariat and the responses to this are given below.

| Response | Project reviewer <i>GEF Secretariat</i> |
|--|--|
| <p>Original project budget in the PIF was: - GEF USD 950,000 - Co-financing USD 1,150,000</p> <p>Budget in the project submission is: - GEF USD 950,000 - Co-financing USD 2,394,200</p> <p>The GEF: Co-financing has significantly increased by USD 1,244,000 with an additional contribution from the Ministry of Sustainable Development (USD345,000), and new contribution from IUCN (USD 400,000), UNDP-Congo (USD 300,000), Association Junesse (USD 100,000) and the African Model Forest Network (USD 100,000). The GEF:cofinancing ratio is now 1 : 2.5.</p> <p>Other private sector companies working in these areas may provide cofinancing during project implementation (through the multi-sectoral platform(s) to be developed under the project). In addition, project beneficiaries (local community members) are expected to contribute their time to project activities, but this has not been included in the total for cofinancing to avoid over-estimating the value of cofinancing contributions. Two oil companies (ENI and Total) have also indicated a willingness to contribute USD 250,000 from their community development funds to this project, but were unable to sign a cofinancing letter. Community investment to the project can also be reported as local cofinancing during the implementation of the project.</p> <p>It is hoped that experiences gained on the project will strengthen the local NGOs partnering with this project, leading to good prospects for project sustainability (see below).</p> | <p>Please increase and confirm cofinancing.</p> |
| <p>These aspects of project design have been examined in more detail and are presented in Sections F, G and H of the CEO Endorsement Request and corresponding sections of the project document. In particular, more detailed estimates of the unit costs of project activities (e.g. USD/ha) have been calculated and these are comparable to the costs of similar activities in other GEF projects.</p> | <p>Develop the incremental reasoning, the cost effectiveness and the risk assessment.</p> <p>Develop the sustainability of the approach after the project.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>is founded on three main activities within the project: capacity building so that stakeholders will be more effective at delivering conservation outcomes; a stronger legal and institutional framework to formalize commitments to investments in conservation in the country (including mainstreaming); and a long-term funding mechanism/arrangement to direct private-sector obligations (under Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and mitigation plans) towards mangrove ecosystem conservation.</p> |
|--|---|

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF RESOURCES

| Position Titles | | \$/PW | Est. PW | Tasks to be performed |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|--|-----------------------|
| Local | | | | |
| National Project Co-ordinator | 462 | 26 | See draft terms of reference in annex 4 of the project document (page 66) | |
| Operations and Administrative Officer | 229 | 156 | Provide operational and administrative support to the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in the drafting of initial project budgets Prepare budget revisions based on project expenditures and annual detailed work plans and budgets and in line with the approved overall project budget Assist the Personnel and Procurement Officer in the preparation of bidding documents and revision of Terms of Reference for consultancies, applying FAO procurement and contracting policies. Maintain project files, records and documents and provide other administrative support as required. | |
| Subtotal | | | | |
| | | | 182 | |
| International | | | | |
| Personnel and Procurement Officer | 3,000 | 3 | In close consultation with the National Project coordinator, prepare bidding documents, recruit project staff and consultants, applying FAO procurement and contracting policies. | |
| Finance and Budget Officer | 3,000 | 3 | In close collaboration with the National Project Coordinator, ensure that every project transaction is carried out efficiently and in a timely manner. Specifically, the Finance and Budget Officer will be responsible on the financial side for all procurement and recruitment, travel arrangements, etc. (S)He will assist the National Project Coordinator in the financial management of the project via the Oracle system and prepare all budget revisions. | |
| Technical Advisor | 2,000 | 6 | See draft terms of reference in annex 4 of the project document (page 69) | |
| Subtotal | | | 12 | |
| Total Project Management | | | 194 | |
| Justification for Travel, if any: | | | | |

| <i>Position Titles</i> | <i>S/PW</i> | <i>Est. PW</i> | <i>Tasks to be performed</i> |
|--|-------------|----------------|---|
| For Technical Assistance | | | |
| Local | | | |
| National Project Co-ordinator ¹ | 462 | 130 | See draft terms of reference in annex 4 of the project document (page 66) |
| Mangrove Strategy Expert(s) | 933 | 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, through a consultancy and national workshops, a strategy for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems. This should be based on previous studies of Congo's mangrove ecosystems as well as the policy review produced during project preparation. It should also take into consideration Congo's sustainable development agenda and the National Forest and Environment Policy. |
| Legal Expert(s) | 1,000 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the legal and institutional analyses carried out during project preparation Based on these and working closely with the policy review committee of the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the Environment (MDDEFE), develop proposals for the necessary legal texts and implementation instruments specific to the national mangroves strategy. Present the proposals for expert review during a national workshop and finalize these for submission to the Government. Provide training in the implementation of proposed laws and regulations to government conservation staff |
| Communication Tools Expert | 1,000 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communication tools (written and oral) to support awareness and educational activities, based on the strategy for the integrated management of mangrove ecosystems. |
| Multi-stakeholder Facilitator | 1,000 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee and the National Project Focal Point, review the existing framework for intersectoral coordination for coastal management and propose measures to strengthen these platforms for mainstreaming environmental issues in the coastal development agenda. |
| Environmental Impact Researcher(s) | 1,000 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a number of studies which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mangrove lagoon sedimentation (one of the problems affecting the small mangroves of Congo) impact of wood harvesting on mangroves impact of large development projects on mangroves and coastal wetlands Present findings to stakeholders (inter-sectoral dialogue and coordination platform) |
| Environmental Monitoring Expert(s) | 375 | 48 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose a permanent environment monitoring system that will monitor impacts and pollution of coastal industry, developments and mineral extraction on coastal wetlands and mangroves Set up the monitoring system and provide training to the national coastal observatory staff |

Notes:
 1. The long-term consultants (Technical Advisor and National Project Co-ordinator) will allocate their time as follows: project management (25%); and technical assistance (75%) - approximately.

| Subtotal | | 264 | |
|--|-------|-----|---|
| Technical Editor | 375 | 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design formats of technical publications, newsletters and other communication products produced by the project. • Analyze, select and edit the information derived from the project. • Edit ready-for-print products |
| Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Expert(s) | 1,000 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and review past environment impact assessments and mitigation plans of coastal industry, developments and mineral extraction projects on elements relevant to coastal wetlands and mangroves • Present these reviews to Government • Conduct training in environmental and social impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation for NGO and government conservation staff • Propose a number of audits on mitigation plans. |
| Subtotal | | 264 | |
| International | | | |
| Technical Advisor | 2,000 | 18 | See draft terms of reference in annex 4 of the project document (page 69) |
| Evaluation expert | 2,500 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the independent evaluation terms of reference to be prepared in consultation with all project partners, the evaluation expert will assess the degree of fulfillment of project objectives and achievement of outcomes outlined in the project document and other aspects such as the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation • Prepare a final evaluation report |
| Subtotal | | 24 | |
| Total Technical Assistance | | 288 | |
| Justification for Travel, if any: Some local travel will be required for consultants to reach project sites. This travel will be essential for consultations with local stakeholders and the development and implementation of community-based approaches to conservation and sustainable land management (i.e. local capacity building). | | | |

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.

The objective of the PPG has been achieved. Key outcomes of project preparation were as follows:

1. Assessment of the environmental/biophysical status of mangrove ecosystems: Major threats to mangrove ecosystems were identified and priority areas for mangrove management and rehabilitation were identified. Activities were prioritised.

At project target sites, likely numbers of project participants were estimated and potential project activities were discussed and agreed with stakeholders.

2. Stakeholder and institutional analysis: Relevant stakeholders and institutions were identified, their roles in the project were agreed and capacity building needs were developed into project activities. Potential mechanisms for inter-sectoral co-ordination were discussed and agreed for strengthening and further development during full project implementation.

In addition to the achievements of project preparation (in technical terms), local communities in the proposed sites have been informed about the project, local stakeholders at the national level have been consulted (and, where appropriate, have agreed to work in partnership with the project).

B. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

Experiences gained during project preparation do not, at present, raise any concerns about project implementation.

C. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

| <i>Project preparation activities approved</i> | <i>Implementation status</i> | <i>GEF Amount (\$)</i> | | | | <i>Co-financing (\$)</i> |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | <i>Amount approved</i> | <i>Amount spent to date</i> | <i>Amount committed</i> | <i>Uncommitted amount</i> | |
| 1. Conduct 1 inception workshop | Completed | 1,250 | 1,542 | 0 | -292 | 5,000 |
| 2. Assessment of the environmental/biophysical status of mangrove, coastal wetland and forest resources in Congo | Completed | 12,500 | 12,500 | 0 | 0 | 12,000 |
| 3. An analysis of weaknesses and gaps in policies, laws and regulations, and the roles and responsibilities affecting the conservation and sustainable management of mangrove, coastal wetland and forest ecosystems in Congo. | Completed | 9,000 | 9,000 | 0 | 0 | 13,000 |
| 4. Undertake a stakeholders, and institutional analysis | Completed | 8,000 | 8,000 | 0 | 0 | 11,000 |
| 5. Conduct an assessment of the environmental/biophysical and socio-economic aspects of fisheries | Completed | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 6,000 |
| 6. Conduct a socio-economic review of local communities and propose priority activities for | Completed | 11,000 | 10,208 | 0 | 792 | 10,000 |

| | | | 60,000 | 60,000 | | Total |
|---|-----------|---|--------|--------|--|--------|
| livelihood improvement and sustainable mangrove, coastal wetland and forest management. | | | | | | |
| 7. Conduct local workshops | Completed | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 5,000 |
| 8. Compile baseline information and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) report based on updated information and information gap analysis. | Completed | 0 | 12,000 | 12,000 | | 18,000 |
| 9. Final validation workshop. | Completed | 0 | 1,750 | 1,250 | | 5,000 |
| | | 0 | 60,000 | 60,000 | | 85,000 |