



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT

THE GEF TRUST FUND

*

Submission Date: September 3, 2009

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: _____ PROJECT DURATION: 3 years

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 606415

COUNTRY(IES): Congo

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

GEF AGENCY(IES): FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Direction générale de l'environnement (DGE); Direction générale de l'économie forestière (DGEF), Délégation générale de la recherche scientifique et technologique (DGRST); International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO)

GEF FOCAL AREAS: Biodiversity.

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): BD-SP-3; BD-SP-4

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable): Strategic Program for Sustainable forest management in the congo basin (CBSP)

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	N/A
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Oct 2010
GEF Agency Approval	Nov 2010
Implementation Start	Jan 2011
Mid-term Review	Mar 2012
Implementation Completion	Dec 2013

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To build planning, managing and monitoring capacities, and establish a legal and institutional framework and consultative mechanisms for the long-term sustainability of the mangrove forest and associated wetlands and coastal forests ecosystems through participatory processes involving communities and other key stakeholders.

Project Components	Investment, TA, or STA	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing		Indicative Co-financing		Total (\$'000)
				(\$'000)	%	(\$'000)	%	
1. Legal and institutional frameworks and policies	100% TA	(1a) Adapted legal and institutional framework for integrated and multisectoral decision making and management of mangrove and coastal wetlands and forests ecosystems. (1b) Improved clarity on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders related to sustainable use and conservation of mangroves and associated wetlands and forests (1c) National and provincial capacity build in management and regulatory practices and conflict management.	1.1. Inter-institutional mechanisms and multi-stakeholder platform for coordination and decision making on mangrove related policies, strategies and action plan established at national and local level. 1.2. National mangrove policy, legal and regulatory instruments specific to mangroves and associated wetlands and forests ecosystems elaborated and validated (including on land tenure and rights). 1.3. Regulation of use and management guidelines for integrated land management for mangrove and associated wetlands and forests adapted published and disseminated. 1.4. Communication, awareness-raising and training programmes targeting national and local level implemented (500 persons from central and local government institutions, NGOs, private sector and communities trained).	235	50	235	50	470
2. Planning, monitoring and evaluation tools	20% Inv 70% TA 10% STA	(2 a) New national strategy and multi-resource land use program for mangrove ecosystems and efficient	2.1 One National strategy and targets defined for ten-year programme. 2.2 National status of the mangroves and associated wetlands and forests of Congo	200	55	160	45	360

B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE (\$):

Co-financing Source	Cash	In-kind	Total
Project Governments Contribution	120,000	120,000	120,000
GEF Agency (FAO)	75,000	75,000	75,000
NGO (ITTO)	455,000		455,000
Others (to be defined)	250,000	250,000	500,000
Total co-financing			1,150,000

Total project costs		950	47	1,150	53	2,100
5. Project management						
4. Sustainable management of mangroves and forest ecosystems	<p>(4a) Sustainable management practices of mangroves and forests are adopted in 12 communities of four mangrove areas (450 has) for minimum of 600 beneficiaries.</p> <p>(4b) Livelihood conditions improved in the communities and family income increased by 10%.</p> <p>(4c) Communities and local stakeholders are trained in regulatory and good management.</p>	<p>4.1 Socioeconomic baseline of 12 communities developed.</p> <p>4.2 Sustainable integrated local management plans of mangroves and associated wetlands and forests lands developed with 12 communities, their management and co-management agreements established and implemented.</p> <p>4.3. Good harvesting and processing practices (e.g. aquaculture, energy saving, processing) tested, demonstrated and adopted in 4 sites, and data on their cost-benefits gathered.</p> <p>4.3. Fifteen (15) Economic Interest Groups (EIG), including <i>inter alia</i> women and local communities (e.g. VII, Loubou, Téké), trained in planning, use and processing practices.</p> <p>4.3 Restoration and rehabilitation of 450 has of mangroves and associated wetlands and forests by communities in line with their management plan.</p>	210	38	350	560
		<p>5. Project management</p>	90	53	80	170
3. Conservation and restoration of the mangrove and coastal forest ecosystems and their biodiversity	<p>(3) The country is taking major steps in developing good practices and technologies for mangroves and associated wetlands and forests restoration and use.</p> <p>(4) Restoration or rehabilitation of 1,000 ha. mangrove and associated wetlands and forests and 20% of the total mangroves area.</p>	<p>2.1 Research & development research & development protocol. and evaluated under a participatory restoration and products processing tested</p> <p>2.2 Good practices of plant production, restoration and products processing tested</p> <p>2.3. Monitoring and control system, including also participatory approaches, designed and piloted.</p> <p>2.4. Dialogue established and information exchanged for addressing trans-boundary issues with Gabon, Angola and DRC.</p>	215	40	325	540
		<p>2.4 Local communities, government staff, NGOs and other key stakeholders trained in conservation and restoration.</p> <p>2.5. The conservation management plan approved and in implementation in priority areas.</p>				
3. Conservation and restoration of the mangrove and coastal forest ecosystems and their biodiversity	<p>(3) The country is taking major steps in developing good practices and technologies for mangroves and associated wetlands and forests restoration and use.</p> <p>(4) Restoration or rehabilitation of 1,000 ha. mangrove and associated wetlands and forests and 20% of the total mangroves area.</p>	<p>2.1 Research & development research & development protocol. and evaluated under a participatory restoration and products processing tested</p> <p>2.2 Good practices of plant production, restoration and products processing tested</p> <p>2.3. Monitoring and control system, including also participatory approaches, designed and piloted.</p> <p>2.4. Dialogue established and information exchanged for addressing trans-boundary issues with Gabon, Angola and DRC.</p>	215	40	325	540
5. Project management		90	53	80	170	
Total project costs		950	47	1,150	53	2,100

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

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a) ¹	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing		950,000	950,000	95,000
Co-financing		1,150,000	1,150,000	
Total		2,100,000	2,100,000	95,000

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

N/A * No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

The Congolese mangrove and associated wetland and forest ecosystems cover around 30,000 has. Of this area, mangrove forests cover approximately 10,000 ha. These are mostly restricted to coastal estuaries and lagoons with no significant cover remaining on the sea-front where their natural area was originally covering a 180 km-long coastline. Today, the largest mangroves forests are found in three main areas. i) North of Pointe-Noire, along the Kouilou, Loémé and Noumbi estuaries, and along the Loya Rivers and Loubi, Kounda Lagoons; ii) the Northern boarder with Gabon along the Conkouati Lagoons and Noumbi Rivers – the National Park Conkouati-Douli (designated Ramsar site), a complex of marine and continental wetland in this area, hosts the most important mangrove areas of Congo; iii) and the South bordering with Angola along the Malonda Lagoons.

The clear limit between mangroves and their associated wetland and forest ecosystems is not well known and it is generally recognized that it is indispensable to address mangroves' conservation through an integrated ecosystem and territorial landscape management approach.

Biodiversity

The main species are *Rhizophora racemosa* and *Rhizophora harrisonii*, and to a lesser degree, *Avicennia germinans* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. The dominant mangrove is *Rhizophora racemosa*, though this becomes scarcer upstream and eventually the mangroves merge into freshwater palm-pandanus swamps, backed by papyrus or freshwater swamp forest. Tidal influence can extend 1-30 km inland on several rivers. (FAO, FRA 2005). Mangroves in Congo form the basis of a complex and highly productive marine food chain that recycles nutrients and assures continued productivity of the coastal waters. Mangrove forests are important as nursery for marine fishes and habit to mammals, amphibians, butterflies, reptiles, etc.. Congolese mangroves are an integral part of a regional ecosystem network on the western coast with its neighbouring countries Gabon and Angola, providing habitat for threatened marine mammal species e.g. west african manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) and for bird migration. Another important function is stabilisation and protection of the shoreline and the nesting beaches used by endangered marine turtles, particularly leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*).

Uses and threats

In the last 20 years, almost 30 percent of mangroves were lost due to the changing coastal environment, mainly from urbanization and agriculture, unsustainable harvesting of forest products and pollution from petroleum exploitation and production. As a consequence of the urban development in coastal areas, particularly the city of Pointe-Noire where the population has grown at a yearly rate of 15 to 20% over the last ten years, mangrove forests have been cleared for peri-urban agriculture and construction of homes and led to the degradation of Loya and Songolo mangrove forests. Pointe Noire with its important harbor infrastructure, petrol industry and diversity of socio-economic activities, has heavily encroached the mangroves' area. Land has also been sold without any legal

¹ Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

At the end of the project, the stakeholders should be able to share platforms for dialogue and mechanism for monitoring activities related to the mangroves. The local and indigenous communities will be equipped with climate change impacts on mangrove ecosystems.

to be developed with all stakeholders will consider the selection of short and long-term measures of adaptation to be progressively institutionalised through the policy and legal framework reform. Planning and management tools to promote the national strategy for the management of mangroves and coastal forests. Lessons learnt will be developed to stimulate the wider uptake of sustainable use practices in mangrove-dependent communities. The information on mangrove management from which technical guidelines and others extension materials will be used and management of mangrove ecosystems in the Konkouati Lagoons. The demonstration site will provide an integrated national strategy for the management of mangroves and coastal forests. The project will facilitate the implementation of this strategy by setting up a demonstration site for the rehabilitation, reforestation, sustainable use and management of mangrove ecosystems in the Konkouati Lagoons. The demonstration site will provide information on mangrove management from which technical guidelines and others extension materials will be developed to stimulate the wider uptake of sustainable use practices in mangrove-dependent communities. The project will promote the Community-Based Management Approach with a view to involve local communities in the implementation of the national strategy for the management of mangroves and coastal forests. Lessons learnt will be progressively institutionalised through the policy and legal framework reform. Planning and management tools to be developed with all stakeholders will consider the selection of short and long-term measures of adaptation to climate change impacts on mangrove ecosystems.

The proposed project's intervention strategy will be founded on two basic principles: a co-management approach to ensure synergy among stakeholders at national and local level; and, the integrated territorial land and ecosystem approach taking into account different land uses and their regulation around the mangroves. The project will initiate and facilitate a multi-stakeholder sustainable management process of mangrove forests. Local communities, public institutions, local and town councils, oil companies, NGOs and experts will be involved actively in the decision-making process through the use of social communication approach to establish agreements on common objectives, actions to be taken, and responsibilities sharing. The multi-stakeholder dialogue will allow for the development of an integrated national strategy for the management of mangroves and coastal forests. The project will facilitate the implementation of this strategy by setting up a demonstration site for the rehabilitation, reforestation, sustainable use and management of mangrove ecosystems in the Konkouati Lagoons. The demonstration site will provide information on mangrove management from which technical guidelines and others extension materials will be developed to stimulate the wider uptake of sustainable use practices in mangrove-dependent communities. The project will promote the Community-Based Management Approach with a view to involve local communities in the implementation of the national strategy for the management of mangroves and coastal forests. Lessons learnt will be progressively institutionalised through the policy and legal framework reform. Planning and management tools to be developed with all stakeholders will consider the selection of short and long-term measures of adaptation to climate change impacts on mangrove ecosystems.

The development goal of this project is to achieve sustainable management and conservation of Congo's mangrove ecosystems and associated wetlands and forests for their optimum contribution to improved livelihoods of local communities and conservation of biodiversity with global importance.

The Project – proposed solutions

conservation. coastal community initiatives related to mangroves and the integrated associated land and resource management and socioeconomic activity impact monitoring; and, weak research to fill the information gap; and, iv) weak support to system related to the mangroves, weak information basis for decision making, management planning and mangrove resource (with the exception of Konkouati-Douli National Park); iii) absence of monitoring and reporting management, on-ground activities targeting specific conservation, economic or community values in the integrated zone development activities; ii) general lack of effective mechanisms for integrated conservation.

From an institutional point of view, there are the following barriers to the mangrove and associated wetlands and forests ecosystems conservation and sustainable development in Congo:

1) Weak coordination of coastal zone development activities; ii) general lack of effective mechanisms for integrated management, on-ground activities targeting specific conservation, economic or community values in the mangrove resource (with the exception of Konkouati-Douli National Park); iii) absence of monitoring and reporting system related to the mangroves, weak information basis for decision making, management planning and socioeconomic activity impact monitoring; and, weak research to fill the information gap; and, iv) weak support to coastal area is expected to increase by approximately 27% by 2100 leading to an increase of the extent of eroded surface and misadaptation of the ecosystem to the new conditions.

In addition to the threats outlined above, climate change is expected to have adverse effects on mangrove ecosystems in West Africa. Vulnerability studies carried out in the framework of climate changes show that mangroves ecosystems are very sensitive. The level of the sea could rise by 50 cm by 2100 following the thermal expansion of oceans. This expansion could cause floods in the bay of Loango, estuaries and lagoons. Rainfall in the coastal area is expected to increase by approximately 27% by 2100 leading to an increase of the extent of eroded surface and misadaptation of the ecosystem to the new conditions.

All these threats are contributing to biodiversity loss in the mangrove ecosystem undermining their great importance in the coastal ecosystem and economic assets. The destruction of mangroves is negatively affecting livelihoods of fishing communities and other local populations involved in the fishing value chain, as mangroves play an important role in supporting fisheries productivity. Fish stocks, including shrimps and oysters, has gone down considerably affecting the income of local fishing communities (e.g. in Konkouati lagoon).

The mangroves are heavily used for fuelwood (mostly for fish smoking in the coastal areas), building material, and other needs of the local communities.

management plans, legal agreements for management, and economic incentives to implement best practices, thus actively contribute to conservation of mangrove ecosystems and benefit from integrated local development. It is anticipated that effective collaborative management and sustainable use of mangrove resources, participatory restoration activities, as well as better representation of mangrove ecosystems in the existing network of protected areas will contribute to the sustainability and management of the protected-area system. Linkages to improved development benefits from protected-area conservation and local community participation within the broader wetland ecology will also be established.

The improved health and extent of the Congolese mangrove which are a significant integral part of the mangroves and wetlands and forests ecosystems on Atlantic side of West and Central Africa will play a critical role in preserving a key regional and global environmental asset, and contribute to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity, to ecosystem resilience, climate change adaptation, and management of regional marine and wetland resources. The project will directly support the conservation of 20% of Congo's remaining mangroves and the rehabilitation of 1,000 has.

B. CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS

Congo has signed and ratified many international conventions on the protection of environment, including CDB, UNFCCC, CITES and Ramsar.

The proposed project is consistent with Congo's biodiversity conservation priorities as outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and its 1995 Environmental Action Plan. The management of mangrove forests is also in line with the national forestry policy and the National Forestry Action Plan whose main components include (i) sustainable use of forests based on forest planning; (ii) creation and development of protected areas in order to conserve biodiversity; and (iii) integration of rural communities in the management of forest ecosystems.

The Ministry of Forest Economy and its *Direction générale de l'économie forestière* (DGEF) has included conservation of mangroves and associated wetlands and forests lands as part of the government environmental priorities. DGEF is promoting an integrated territorial and ecosystem approach seeking multi-sectoral and institutional coherence.

C. CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND FIT WITH STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

The project will make an important contribution to the biodiversity SP-3 and SP-4. In relation to SP-3 Protected Areas Network the project will strengthen the conservation of mangrove and related ecosystems in the National Park Conkouati-Douli (Ramsar site no. 1741) through co-management arrangement with the local population and by building capacities for indigenous and local protected-area management. The project will also support the development and initial implementation of a national strategy and multi resource land use program for mangrove ecosystem conservation. In relation to SP-4 "Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity" the project will support: i) the development of national policies and regulations for integrated cross sectorial management of mangrove and marine ecosystems; ii) the enhancement of knowledge and information on biodiversity values, status and trends related to the Congolese mangroves, wetlands and associated forest ecosystems to support awareness raising and multisectoral planning and decision making; and iii) capacity building for regulation and sustainable use of mangrove, wetland and forest ecosystems improving the livelihood of local communities. The project will focus on the development of sustainable livelihoods and management models that can be replicated elsewhere.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE GEF RESOURCES:

The GEF funding will be provided as a grant considering that it is not possible for the country by own means to finance the incremental activities proposed complementing the co-financing.

The support requested from GEF is proposed within a harmonized financing approach with other countries in the sub-region, promoting collaboration and synergy for capacity building, cross-boundary issues and sub-regional coherence. Compatible institutional and legal frameworks in the country and among countries is a key element for immediate impact of the improved national capacity in monitoring and planning as well as legal enforcement, participatory decision making, and the internal and sub-regional collaboration after the project ends. However, loan

financing is not feasible since capacity building, mangrove rehabilitation, and development of legal and institutional framework for sustainable mangrove management and conservation do not generate returns within a predictable timeframe allowing for the repayment of the loan.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

The proposed project falls under the CBSF and contributes to the objective of the program therefore links with other projects within the program will be established. In particular, strong coordination with the recently Council approved FAO-led project 'Sustainable community-based management and conservation of mangrove ecosystems in Cameroon' will be ensured to facilitate exchange of information and good practices between these similar projects.

One co-financing contribution to the project is the ITTO project "Conservation et gestion durable de la mangrove de la zone côtière du Kouilou avec la participation des communautés locales établies dans cette zone du Sud du Congo" supporting conservation and sustainable management of the mangroves of Kouilou coastal area with the participation of local communities living in this southern area of Congo. This two-year pre-project (PD-362-05 (F)) is expected to be implemented from 2010 to 2012 and will focus on "mangroves" exclusively. The two projects have been conceived to work together for synergy, complementarities and long-term sustainability of the overall associated ecosystems and landscape management. The specific objective of the ITTO pre-project is to formulate a project that will initiate a process of integrated and participatory management of Congo's mangroves, giving priority to the Kouilou region. Its main outputs will be the diagnostic of coastal mangroves, the establishment of a technical and administrative stakeholder coordination mechanism for the management of the coastal zone, support to fishing communities for the rehabilitation of degraded mangroves, the elaboration of a plan for the integrated management of Congo's mangroves, and the management plans at the forest management unit level. The ITTO project will also seek to involve the Oil Companies (Total Congo and ENI Congo) in mitigating the environmental impacts of oil industries. ITTO has strong expertise in participatory mangroves management and conservation in other countries of the world, with the example in the region of the mangrove restoration project in Ghana.

Other relevant activities for which interaction with the present proposal is envisioned are as follows:

- a) A local NGO, Congo Nature Conservation, is assisting local communities in the management and sustainable use of mangroves forest in Madingo-Kayes Prefecture. The Community sanctuary of Yombo mangrove has been established and local communities from six villages are involved in a CBM process. An agreement was signed in order to express their commitment and interest to preserve mangrove forest against the current threats. Other NGOs such as the Association pour le développement communautaire (ADDECOR), Re-Natura (turtles conservation) and others have related expertise in specific resources or themes related to community, land, wildlife and mangroves.
- b) Numerous institutions working under the Commission Internationale du Bassin du Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) are concerned taking into account their role in the wetlands and the upland watershed management areas.
- d) The National Park of Konkouati could serve as a permanent basis for research and demonstration activities of the project in collaboration with a national research centre as well with local NGOs and local communities when required. Wetlands Conservation Society (WCS) also supports Konkouati Park for instance against poaching. The "Centre de recherche forestière du Littoral" which has relevant expertise could provide services in this domain.
- e) FAO jointly with UNBESCO contributes to CITES and other biodiversity conservation objectives through the "Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI).
- d) The synergy and partnership with some key initiatives from the private sector are envisaged, such as the Funds for Environment by Oil Companies managed by the PNUD (e.g. TOTAL), the "Fond forestier national", l'Agence française de développement et l'Union Européenne.

e) Other regional and international organizations to consider are WWF, IUCN/RAMSAR, OMI, ITTO, WACAF, UNCCD, CDB, UNFCCC, CITES, MAB/UNESCO; regional organizations such as : COMFAC, OFAC, RAPAC, OCFSA. The axes 1, 2, 4 and 7 of the "Plan de Convergence" of the COMFAC have commonalities with the project.

Coordination and relevant collaboration arrangements will be further established during project preparation

F. DESCRIBE THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING

The intention in Congo is not only to conserve and restore the remaining mangroves, but to induce a process of reforestation of the coastal forests and wetlands and rehabilitation of mangroves and associated lands in order to optimize the tree cover along the coast, the estuaries and the coastal rivers. The continuous overall degradation of the coastal ecosystems through deforestation, land use changes and water pollution can not be reverted without a strong inter-ministerial and multi-institutional coordination and synergy; the dependency between marine fisheries productivity, coastal erosion control, coastal tree cover and local economy call for an harmonized institutional framework involving actors that have not yet developed coherent operational mechanisms together. The project aims at bringing at the table of policy decision makers all those stakeholders concerned including *inter alia* those from forestry, urban development, oil exploitation, biodiversity and tourism. The decision making process will benefit from a better understanding of the status of the resources from an integrated landscape management approach and a good mastering of good restoration, processing and marketing practices, and monitoring and evaluation system. The project will ensure that the mitigation of the threats on the Congolese biodiversity is compatible with the regional and international agreements, and that the measures in place benefit from lessons learned from other countries. In the case of Pointe-Noire, the project faces a severe degree of land degradation where preventing degradation of remaining mangroves and enforce legal impact assessment mechanisms on land encroachment and water pollution may be the strategic approach. In the case of Malonda bordering Angola and Conkouati bordering Gabon, the project will consider the international trans-boundary issues. The project will generate global benefits by reverting the process of subregional fragmentation through increasing the protected mangrove areas, improving sustainable management of production mangroves for the population and rehabilitating degraded mangrove areas. The project will provide incremental financing to ensure that globally important biodiversity conservation is effectively addressed in the decision making processes that will affect long-term mangrove and forest coastal ecosystems conservation.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND RISK MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN IF POSSIBLE

Risk	Mitigation
National multi-stakeholder platform may receive little government support. Risk level low.	Presently there is a strong support at different Government levels, which suggests that the most directly concerned departments will join the platform. The ITTO project and other major actors on mangroves will be key actors in building a coherent and comprehensive platform of dialogue for conflict management.
Continued mangrove conversion to other uses such as tourism infrastructure changing the land use and not in line with the principles of eco-tourism. Risk level medium	The creation of a multi-stakeholder platform will raise awareness and call on decision makers to discourage uncontrolled activities that impact adversely the coastal ecosystem
The lack of active participation of the communities in the decision-making and implementation of management plans. Risk level low.	The participatory and inclusive process inducing the technical and financial support to good practices with fair and equitable economic return, improvement of legal access and use of the resources, and the local monitoring and evaluation system would contribute towards mitigating this risk.
The lack of corporate responsibility taken by key stakeholders responsible for land-use change and pollution at industrial and urban level. Risk level medium.	The participatory and inclusive process and the mechanisms put in place at local, provincial and national level to support accountability and conflict management, as well as the process of social and environmental impact assessment promoted and the monitoring and evaluation system established would contribute towards mitigating this risk.
Climate-change itself, over the time-scale of the project provoking extreme weather events, rising sea-levels and/or rising global temperatures. Risk level low.	Planning and management tools to be developed with all stakeholders will pay special attention to the selection of short and long-term measures of adaptation to climate change impacts on mangrove ecosystems. Although the increased severity/frequency of tropical storms and related sea-surges in such areas would inevitably impact the resident (target) human populations.

FAO is the leader in forestry and fisheries resources assessments, the monitoring of land-use changes and has released the 2nd edition of the World Atlas on Mangroves (2005) in collaboration with major international institutions: International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (UNESCO-MAB), World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) and the United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). FAO has developed in a consultative and participatory manner several internationally-adopted guidelines, such as the Mangrove Forest Management Guidelines and the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. FAO has documented: the role of coastal forests in the mitigation of tsunami impacts, related good practices for coastal aquaculture, for wood-energy, and has promoted Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries Resources Information - the Fish Code Programme. These areas of expertise have been specifically developed for conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems and coastal forests in West and Central Africa. FAO has assisted the Government of Cameroon in developing a Technical Cooperation Project on participatory management and conservation of mangrove biological diversity: this project led to a strategic policy proposal for the sustainable management of mangrove-wetland ecosystems (FAO and MINFOR, 2006), from which lessons can inspire the present project proposal. FAO has long-standing experience working with the national and international institutions that will be involved in this project (ITTO) and with the related international convention (CBD, Ramsar, CITES and UNFCCC).

FAO's comparative advantage in respect to this project is its technical capacity and experience in fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and wildlife management. FAO has strong experience in the sustainable use of forest and marine biodiversity, bio-energy (including wood energy), and coastal management. FAO is also renowned for its work in community and participatory approaches in the forestry and fisheries sectors, integrated management, as well as the promotion of local and indigenous knowledge and practices. Further FAO has a recognized role in promoting inclusive consultative processes, developing collaborative partnership schemes and agreements, and facilitating negotiations among stakeholders at local, national and trans-boundary levels.

I. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY

The cost-effectiveness of the project mainly rely on three principles: i) the mobilization of all stakeholders in the dialogue and decision making process will limit the risks of further degradation of the environment, and provide an early-warning system to minimize the risks and enforce legal measures against ecosystem misuse and contamination; ii) the coordination mechanisms will favor synergy in various sectors and minimize costs on a long term; and, iii) the economic return of good practices resulting in healthy mangrove and marine biodiversity management will be invested in the environment and become a major driving element of livelihood for local communities. The increase of marine fisheries productivity and the mitigation of risks and adaptation against climate change effects bring longer term effectiveness elements.

Congo's remaining mangroves cover a relatively small area, but with a high importance for biodiversity and socioeconomic activities such as the fishing industry. The cost of their loss is not only what the effort of rehabilitating them represents, but also the loss of the fishing potential and what it means for the local and national economy. The overall project cost per ha is approximately US\$ 70 based on 30,000 ha of associated mangrove and wetlands area, with its direct impact on the overall protection and rehabilitation of the 10,000 ha of mangroves. In future management, cost efficiency will be obtained by the involvement of local communities in a joint management approach and direct supported by improved local authorities and local NGOs capacity and effective support.

H. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

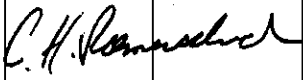
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the country endorsement letter(s) or regional endorsement letter(s) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Alexis MINGA	Congo GEF Operational Focal Point, Directeur général de l'environnement (GEF)	Ministère du tourisme et de l'environnement	30 June 2009

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Charles Riemenschneider (TCID) Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Barbara Cooney (TCID) FAO GEF Coordinator Email: Barbara.Cooney@fao.org Tel: +39 06 57055478		September 3, 2009	Michelle Gauthier Forestry Officer Forest Conservation Service (FOMC) Forestry Department FAO	+3906 5705 3692	Michelle.Gauthier@fao.org