



PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Creation of Conkouati – Dimonika PA complex and Development of Community and Private Sector Participation Model to enhance PA Management Effectiveness – CDC&CPSPM.		
Country(ies):	Republic of Congo	GEF Project ID:	5537
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01196
Other Executing Partner(s):	Division of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Re-Submission Date:	01.11.2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	48 months
Name of parent programme (if applicable):	n/a	Agency Fee (US\$):	274,496

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD1: Improve the sustainability of protected area systems	GEF TF	1,280,724	5,181,600
BD 2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors	GEFTF	1,608,710	9,818,400
Total project costs		2,889,434	15,000,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To ensure biodiversity conservation and management effectiveness through creation of PA complex and implementation of communities and private sector participation model.						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Protected areas and biodiversity corridor	TA ¹	1.1.Conkouati – Dimonika PA complex created and improved management effectiveness ensured <u>Indicators:</u>	1.1.1 At least One (1) Protected Area (Ntombo Forest Reserve) created and its management plan developed and validated 1.1.2. One (1) Biological corridor (Dimonika-Ntombo forest-	GEF TF	800,000	4,722,076

¹ TA: Technical Assistance which include capacity building, and research and development

	<p>93.300ha of new protected Area gazetted covering 13, 39% of project area and will increase national PA from 13% to 13.28%</p> <p>METT of PA increased from 4 (base on 2011 IUCN Assessment) to at least 7</p> <p>Number of species seriously suffering from poaching in project area (Elephant, hippopotamus and Great Apes) baseline established first year of project, stabilized at middle term of the project and reduced to at least 10% at the end of project (as set by Aichi Objective 12)</p> <p>3 Government acts creating the new PA, the corridor and the complex</p> <p>1 Management Plan for Ntombo Forest</p> <p>1 Land use plan for the Dimonika-Ntombo forest-Tchimpounga biological corridor</p> <p>Maps of the PA available</p> <p>Tools (approches and strategies including the requested one for securing PA) to maintain the ecological connectivity in the PA complex</p>	<p>Tchimpounga) created and Land Use Plan developed</p> <p>1.1.3 One PA complex (Conkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga) created</p>			
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2. Community & Private sector participation	TA/Inv	<p>2.1. Improved PA management effectiveness through enhanced communities and private sector participation</p> <p>2.2. Ecological Connectivity in the PA complex (Conkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga) understood and maintained</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <p>The rate of poaching incident has decreased by 25% from the baseline,</p> <p>The number of arrest and conviction have increased by at least 25% from the 4% baseline,</p> <p>The number of ranger patrols has increase by at least 50% (257) from 171 agents (the 2009 baseline)</p> <p>The fragmentation of natural habitat around PA has decrease by 50% from the baseline (which is 12 for Conkouata and 18 Dimonika according to IUCN/PACO 2011 scorecard) due to sustainable activities</p> <p>The rate of forest fire reduced to at least 50% from the baseline which 12 in Tchimpounga and 4 Conkouati according to IUCN/PACO 2011 scorecard.</p> <p>Report on national forum on community and private sector</p>	<p>2.1.1. A national model on community and private sector participation in PA management developed base on on-going experiences² in the country and region and implemented in project area</p> <p>2.1.2 New USLABs created for the Conkouati - Dimonika – Tchimpounga Complex Livelihoods options.</p> <p>2.1.3. Community Conservation Committee (CCC) and Management Consul of Community Conservation (CGCC) established in surroundings of the relevant PA in the landscape</p> <p>2.1.4 A package of awareness raising activities targeting the local community and private sector to reduce conflicts and increase support to the conservation objectives</p> <p>2.1.5. Local Development initiatives (as incentives) relevant for biodiversity conservation supported</p> <p>2.1.6. One (1) programme to strengthen and/or develop capacity and build the skills of rangers, local communities and opinion leaders in area of sustainable management</p>	GEF TF	1,481,125	7,468,400
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² The Government of Congo in Partnership with WCS, University of Barcelona, has developed a community and private sector participation model in Lossi- Odzala Complex. Also the DRC Institute of Nature Conservation has developed and implemented a Community Participations in PA management Strategy.

		<p>participation in PA management</p> <p>National approach/model on community and private sector engagement in effective PA management</p> <p>At least 3 USLAB created or strengthen including with transport equipment</p> <p>At 3 Community based bodies, established to support conservation efforts</p> <p>At least 2 local communities initiatives supported</p> <p>At least 3 good practices promoted in agricultural (agriculture, fisheries) and mining (mining extraction) sectors</p>	including Law enforcement and utilisation of biodiversity is designed and implemented in project area			
3. Enabling policies, regulatory and institutional Environment to support conservation	TA/Inv	<p>3.1. Good management practices adopted in the Konkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga PA landscape</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <p>At least one (1) Established systems/methodology to monitor and generate scientific information related to, biodiversity and environment services</p> <p>At least 2 policies/regulation (antipoaching act and or USLAB, pollution management), reviewed or enforced</p> <p>1 Integrated Anti-poaching coordination committee established and operationalized</p>	<p>3.1.1. A Biodiversity observatory and environment monitoring systems to improve scientific understanding of the value of biodiversity developed and implemented</p> <p>3.1.2 National policies and regulations related to biodiversity conservation and management review and enforced to avoid illegal and unsustainable use</p> <p>3.1.3. A Mechanism which include trans-border cooperation to support enforcement and build key national stakeholders capacity to act against or fight illegal activities established</p>	GEF TF	470,717	2,000,000
Sub-Total					2,751,842	14,190,476

Project management cost (PMC) ³	GEF TF	137,592	809,524
Total project costs		2,889,434	15,000,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	In- Kind (office facilities, staff time, logistic)	500,000
National Government	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Cash (Revenue from ecotourism)	1,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Forestry	In-Kind (available facilities in parks, staff time, logistic)	500,000
National Government	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Forestry	Cash (5%) provided for parks Management	735,000
National Government	Ministry of Mining	In-Kind	100,000
National Government	Support Programme for Agricultural Development ----	cash	1,000,000
National Government	Centre de Recherche Forestière du Littoral (CRFL)	In-Kind	100,000
National Government	Service National de Reboisement	In-Kind	100,000
Bilateral	PRODER 3 - Rural Development	cash	500,000
Bilateral	FFEM - alternative activities;	cash	500,000
Bilateral	NEU - surveillance funding	cash	300,000
Bilateral	WALLACE - research and management	cash	200,000
Bilateral	USFWS - monitoring turtles, great apes, elephants and monitoring and anti-poaching staff	cash	300,000
Multilateral	UNESCO with CAWFI funds	cash	300,000
National Government	National Agency for Protected Areas	In-Kind	500,000
Local Government	Commune of Madingokoye	In-Kind	50,000
Local Government	Commune of Mvouti	In-Kind	50,000
Local Government	Commune of Pointe Noire	In-Kind	150,000
CSO	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): Project to support the park management;	Cash	500,000
CSO	RAPAC (Central African Protected Areas Network)	In-Kind	50,000
CSO	COGEREN – With WCS support to raise awareness among fishermen	Cash	100,000
CSO	Jane Goodall Institute and Rénatura : awareness	Cash	500,000
CSO	WWF in support of alternative activities);	Cash	200,000
CSO?	ADEMA (vegetative propagation);	Cash	50,000

³ To be calculated as percent of subtotal

CSO	HELP (Habitat Ecologique et Liberte des Primates) - sanctuary and rehabilitation project for orphaned chimpanzee, chimpanzee re-introduction and research project in the Triangle area of the old Conkouati reserve	Cash	500,000
CSO	John Aspinall – Reintroduction of gorillas and Chimpanzees in Lesio-Louna	cash	300,000
CSO	Le Groupe d’Etudes et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique (GERDIB)- Station de Recherche de Dimonika (STARDI)	Inkind	100,000
CSO	CERVE – Domestication of medicinal plants		100,000
Foundation	Fonds de Développement Local	Cash	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/REDD	Cash	765,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/GRASP	Cash	300,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/Lifeweb	Cash	150,000
Private Sector	CIB/OLAM – Congolaise Industrielle de bois - Peripheric Park Areas Project (PROGEPP)	Cash	1,000,000
Private Sector	Operator Oil Maurel & Prom - Support for anti-poaching	Cash	500,000
Private Sector	UFA Dzanga-Mokab	Cash	500,000
Private Sector	Sintou Potash	Cash	500,000
Private Sector	Maurel & Prom and Perenco	Cash	500,000
Private Sector	Company TOTAL	Cash	500,000
Total Co-financing			15,000,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a+b)
UNEP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Republic of Congo	2,889,434	274,496	3,163,930
Total Grant Resources				2,889,434	274,496	3,163,930

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant

Amount Requested (\$) Agency Fee for PPG (\$)

(up to) \$100k for projects up to and including \$3 million 106,000 10,070

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee(b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Congo	106,000	10,070	116,070

Total PPG Amount	106,000	10,070	116,070
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PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description (2+)

Please see Annex 2: Map which show project area (Conkouati-Douli- Dimonika-Tchimpounga)

A.1.1. The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

To guarantee the conservation and sustainable management of its biodiversity, several Protected Areas (PA) have been created in Republic of Congo. Initially, the Network of Protected Areas of Congo covered a surface area of around 2,680,842 ha. From 1990, this surface increased to 4,353,500 ha (13% of the national territory). The Congo protected areas are divided into six main types: national parks, nature reserves, wildlife reserves, community reserves, special reserves or wildlife sanctuary and hunting areas of interest (Annex 1: List of PA in Congo).

The project area (**Republic of Congo part of Mayombe ecosystem**) which is situated in the North – Western part of the country, is made of three (3) Protected Areas (Conkouati – Douli National Park, Dimonika Biosphere Reserve and Tchimpounga Chimpanzees Sanctuary). In the absence of general description of the area, the 3 PA constituting the area can provide a general understanding of the environment context. The key environment problems of these PA are summarized in table 2.

Table 1: Current PA in the project area

Protected Areas	Coverage	Year of Gazzetment	Location	Vegetation type
Conkouati-Douli National Park	504.950 HA	2000	Kouilou District	Forest, savanna, marine
Dimonika National Park	136.000	1988	Mvouti	Forest, savanna
Tchimpounga Sanctuary	55 526	1999	Kouilou District	Forest, savanna

Conkouati-Douli National Park: Classified as Ramsar Site, the Conkouati-Douli National Park is located on the Atlantic coast near the Mayumba National Park in Gabon. The Park integrates a marine representation (24 %) of the total surface. This park presents a high diversity of habitats: Lagunas ecosystem, mosaic savannahs and secondary forests, lakes and rivers, mangroves, raphia swamp forests, dense forests and « Yombé » forests in the areas where there is persistent mountain mist. Several species terrestrial and marine are well represented in the park: elephant, buffalo, hippopotamus, leopard, chimpanzee, gorilla, mandrill, whale, dauphin, lamentein, and marine turtles. The Park has the most important brackish water of the coastal areas of the country. It is composed of Conkouati Laguna (17 km and 24 km²), four lakes (Tchibinda, Tchivoka, Manzimanionvovou and Tchimpa).

Dimonika Biosphere Reserve: Located in the district of Mvouti the Dimonika Biosphere Reserve is a MaB / UNESCO site, situated in Mayombe ecosystem, in hilly area. The southern border of the reserve is composed of the main national road and along its length, the Brazzaville – Pointe –Noire rail way. The forest is tropical in nature. The vegetation consists mainly of rainforests. Iconic species encountered are: chimpanzee, gorilla, blue duiker, yellow-backed duiker, duiker black backed , Pangolin, guenon De Brazza, spot nosed guenon, Mandrill, etc. The reserve is home of 275 species of birds, among which 266 use the reserve as reproduction site.

Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Reserve: Located at 33 km from Pointe-Noire, the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Reserve is located in the department of Kouilou between the Hinda and Madingo districts. The reserve integrates a sanctuary where captive chimpanzees are cared for before their release. Tchimpounga reserve consists of a mosaic of savannahs', gallery forests and a partly marshy forest located in the North. The protected area has not been subject to an inventory. According to some biological surveys and the results of observations made during the patrols, the reserve hosts mostly small antelopes, small carnivores and primates.

Table 1: Key environment problems in the PA of the project area (Source: Evaluation of PA in Congo, UNEP-WCS, 2013)

Protected Areas	Coverage	Pressure	Status
Dimonika Biosphere Reserve	136,000 ha	<p>Illegal exploitation of wood for local construction and international market at Pointe Noire</p> <p>Illegal exploitation of mineral resources in the form of gold mining;</p> <p>Conversion of forest to subsistence agriculture by local communities;</p> <p>Poaching of many species to supply the trade routes that provide bush meat</p> <p>Illegal fishing with dynamite and poison (chemicals).</p>	MAB Reserve
Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Reserve	55 ,526 ha	<p>Bushfires caused by seasonal mushroom collection;</p> <p>Poaching essentially trapping for community subsistence needs and also commercial bush meat hunting;</p> <p>Exploitation of plant resources for charcoal and timber;</p> <p>Artisanal timber to supply the city of Pointe Noire; and</p> <p>Conversion of land use of the protected area by a Chinese potash mining company within the protected area (prospection phase).</p>	Wildlife Sanctuary
Conkouati-Douli National Park	504, 950ha	<p>Poaching affects the entire park and a wide variety of wildlife.</p> <p>Activities of overfishing on an industrial scale occur over the entire protected marine area.;</p> <p>Artisanal mining</p> <p>Water pollution by oil</p> <p>Conversion of park land by slash and burn agriculture and installation of industrial exploitation of minerals in the eco-development area; and</p> <p>The uncontrolled bush fires, related to human activities (agriculture, etc.) And taking place in the area of eco-development.</p>	

A.1. 2. The key barriers to sustainable biodiversity conservation and management:

Despite its ecological importance, the Mayombe forest (which includes the project area), and especially its southern part, was subjected to decades of intensive degradation, through unsustainable utilization of the natural resources, and enjoys only very

little protection. Most of the local communities in the Mayombe forest area rely mainly on subsistence cultivation, small scale husbandry, anarchic logging, poaching and fishing for their livelihood. Key barriers to the biodiversity conservation in the area include:

- The national development objectives currently assign a central role to Agricultural development and Mining.. The new vision of the country is to become an emerging nation in 2025. To achieve this objective, the Government has put agricultural intensification and mining development at the forefront of its strategy to achieve this vision. However, this is somehow contradicting the vision at the early days of independence, which had put forestry sector at the centre of development and had subdivided the country in Forestry Management Units within which minerals for mining industries are discovered and permits for exploration and future exploitation are granted. The current national development vision places very limited attention to conservation. Scattered regulations, norms, policies and decision making, sometime inadequate, in many government institutions, do not facilitate the situation.
- However, there are attempts to expand the approach of certified logging in the northern Congo to other parts of the country
- Fragile control and law enforcement system: the Government has developed various regulatory frameworks particularly the Environment and forestry codes, and the law on wildlife. However, the control system which is mainly constituted with forest guards is well below minimum requirements. Guards are limited in number, often not professionally trained, and less armed when compared with the poachers who are often armed groups with heavy weaponry, (and mostly not nationals but coming from neighbouring countries),. Full cooperation with local communities and upgrading of national law enforcement capacity will help to compensate this lack of adequate control and law enforcement capacity.
- Less consideration of local communities' socioeconomic activities development in conservation efforts in the areas. The on-going conservation efforts are not fully engaging with local communities in order to include the local development and livelihood for the communities as part of the global conservation strategy. This leads to lack of adequate collaboration of these communities in biodiversity conservation.
- High level of poverty at local level with consequent pressure on natural resources particularly fauna. The poverty level of local communities results in the contribution of poorest local people to illegal exploitation of natural resources as they are the only one that has full knowledge of the area which is hardly accessible by outsiders. Consequently the poachers use monetary incentives to buy the confidence and support of these communities and gain access to natural resources particularly wildlife.

Other barriers include weak multi-sectoral frameworks and poorly coordinated roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, limited (access to) socioeconomic and biodiversity baseline information to support land-use planning, natural resources management & decision making, lack of both documented information and monitoring & evaluation systems (Social Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, etc.) on known threats needed to support decision making & enforcement frameworks, limited training on and access to alternative (low input) technologies and best practices & livelihood options for indigenous and local communities and adequate funding to support conservation and livelihood options.

Even though the Law established obligations for EIA, there are no national guidelines on environmental impact assessments, so if the private sector does not have internal guidelines nor needs to respect the guidelines of multi-lateral donors, EIAs are not conducted properly.

A.1. 3- The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Since 28 November 2008, the Congo has a new legal framework on wildlife and protected areas namely the Law No. 37-2008 on wildlife and protected areas. The objective is to promote a dynamic and bold policy of wildlife for economic development of the Congo in general, increasing the incomes of local communities and the socio-economic development by (i) Participatory management and integrated resource involving both state, local populations, economic operators, NGOs and associations; and (ii) Conservation and protection of forest ecosystems and biodiversity through protected area management. The Law 37-2008, establishes the basic principles and general conditions of conservation and sustainable management of wildlife, habitats and ecosystems on which it depends. This law defines the different types of protected areas in Congo and establish management

rules. The Law 37/2008 stipulated that the Company for Construction of Bullets (MAC) will collect Tax on each bullet produced and sold and the amount is invested for PA management.

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment of Congo (MDDEFE), reinitiated in 2010 conservation efforts in Dimonika Biosphere Reserve. WWF supports this effort with a study, on conservation, sustainable management and communities' engagement, based on experience of the WWF-DRC project in Luki Biosphere Reserve (BR). JGI (Jane Goodall Institute) - Congo realized in 2008 an ecological and socio-economic study in the southern part of the Congo component of the Mayombe, including Dimonika BR. JGI has also established the Tchimpounga Nature Reserve and is managing the sanctuary and nature reserve in partnership with the government of Congo (MDDEFE). JGI supports also community engagement, education and research initiatives, mainly in and around Tchimpounga NR. WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) - Congo is managing Conkouati Douli National Park, since it was gazetted in 1999, through its partnership with the government of Congo (MDDEFE). HELP (Habitat Ecologique et Liberte des Primates) - Congo manages since 1991, through partnership with the government of Congo, a sanctuary and rehabilitation project for orphaned chimpanzees in three islands in Conkouati Lagoon. Since 1996 HELP is also managing a chimpanzee re-introduction and related research project in the Triangle area of the old Conkouati reserve. One of the barrier related to these investment is the difficulties to assess the amount of resources injected in PA as most of the investment is made through International NGO on which the Government even though recognises the efforts they are doing in the conservation area of the country, is complaining about the lack of transparency on the investment through these initiatives. This project through a consultative process will support stakeholder mean of communicating mutual information and help the government to establish a consensual approach for tracking investment in PA management and conservation.

The regional Mayombe forest Transfrontier conservation initiative, aiming to protect and sustainably manage the Mayombe forest ecosystems through cooperation between the countries that share them, and through a participatory approach with stakeholders within each country, was conceptualized since the early 2000s in Cabinda (Angola)⁴. In order to help maintain and restore the integrity of the Mayombe ecosystem so as to conserve biodiversity, promote regional stability and improve human livelihood, UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with financial support from Norway, worked with the three countries (Angola, Congo, DR Congo) to establish a transboundary protected area in the Mayombe landscape. An initial intervention from July 2009 to June 2010 helped reinitiate dialogue and arrive at a political consensus among the three states.

The main results from the initial phase included:

- A tripartite agreement signed by the ministers in charge of forests in DR Congo, Congo and Angola;
- Endorsement of the project by the three countries;
- The signature of the Cabinda Declaration by the Ministers of the three countries.

In 2011, feasibility studies on potential corridors and options were undertaken to create a Mayombe transboundary protected area, land-use and land tenure, and the legal framework. The results led to a transboundary strategic plan. In February 2013 the ministers in charge of forestry of Angola, Congo, DR Congo and Gabon formally adopted the Transboundary Strategic Plan and the three initiators of the initiative welcomed Gabon to join the initiative. The estimated cost of the Strategic Plan will be US\$22.85 million. While the Plan will be concentrating on transboundary issues and cooperation, this GEF investment will help Republic of Congo to develop a model that can shared with other countries and will help to arrive at a common or harmonized approach for Mayombe ecosystem.

The Vision of the above mentioned cooperation is a "Sustainable management of the Mayombe forest ecosystems, for protecting biodiversity of global importance, and for enhancing socio-economic development, a culture of peace and cooperation in a

⁴ - Ron, T. 2001. The Ministry of Fisheries and Environment of Angola and UNDP. http://www.saga-jp.org/sympo/SAGA4/4abst/4_oral.pdf;

- Ron, T. 2003. The conservation of the Maiombe Forest, Cabinda, Angola, within the framework of a transfrontier conservation initiative. The World Parks Congress, September 2003, Durban, South Africa;).

transboundary and post-conflict zone, and beyond". The general objectives were identified as: a) Protecting and rehabilitating the Mayombe forest ecosystems integrity and biological diversity; b) Enhancing socio-economic development and improving living conditions and benefit options of local communities, by creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods; c) Strengthening multi-sectoral cooperation and stakeholders' engagement in sustainable management of the natural resources; and d) Promoting cross-border cooperation, exchange and a culture of peace. The present PIF and its underlying concept are largely based on the Mayombe Transfrontier Initiative's Strategic Action Plan, and especially on the ecological study on which it is based,⁵ as well as on the land-use analysis elaborated through the same initiative.⁶

While the regional initiative is struggling to take shape even though the Strategic Plan has been adopted by the member countries, the Republic of Congo has decided to move ahead with GEF support to implement the Strategic Plan in most part of the portion of the Mayombe particularly due to the fact that since 2008, the development of PA has become one of the top priority of the Government in area of conservation as stipulated in the Law 37-2008.

Parallel to this regional dynamism, the Government of Congo in collaboration with international and local partners is conducting various, but skeletal and site specific activities. These background activities include:

- The on-going project for support of the application of wildlife law (PALF). This initiative is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Forestry and World Conservation Society with British funding, targeting the fight against poaching which target key species of Global Significance including Elephant, Gorillas and Chimpanzees⁷ but also a wide range of birds' species. The initiative support implementation of the justice ruling on those that committed infraction.
- UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership Programme (GRASP) supported IUCN in the revision of the action plan for the Western Equatorial Great Apes (Western Lowland gorillas and Chimpanzees). An initial investment of USD 300,000 for the implementation of the action plan in Congo is estimated to come from GRASP, and an equal amount for the period 2015 and further
- UNEP UN/REDD programme is starting to develop its programme for Congo. In coming month the programme will assess the Private Sector engagement and will conduct a UN REDD strategy workshop for Central African countries. This baseline will be important for the GEF project, not only in terms of co-financing, but also for building the foundation for the REDD initiative in project area which may be an important tool to support the funding mechanism. The UN REDD programme in Congo which includes all the UN REDD Agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) is planning to invest \$17.65 Million.
- Furthermore, baseline activities include also the current reforms of mining sector and creation of hunting areas.

There is significant information gaps related to some key indicators related to the threat to biodiversity conservation in the country. Although issues like poaching, habitat lost due to agriculture, forest destruction for wood are known to be important threat to conservation, it is difficult to have quantifiable data of these issues. The project through component 3 will help to address these gaps.

A.1.4. The proposed alternative scenario with brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The main priorities identified by the SWOT analysis conducted during the process of developing the Mayombe Strategic Plan, can be summarized into: integrating poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation through enhancing sustainable livelihoods, and securing benefits to communities from ecosystems services, as well as increasing significantly the in-country and transboundary law-enforcement and control capacities. Special attention is required to enhancing local communities' engagement in the sustainable management of PA, e.g., through improving cultivation practices, mitigating Human-Wildlife-Conflicts (HWC), developing alternative sustainable livelihoods and participation in forest rehabilitation and law enforcement efforts. The expressed and increasing political will and the local, national and regional awareness to the ecological importance

⁵ Ron, T. 2011. Potential for designating Protected Areas for conservation and for identifying conservation corridors as part of the planning process of the Mayombe forest TPA. Mayombe Transfrontier Project. Prepared for the Governments of Angola, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNEP and IUCN.

⁶ Pintea, L and K. K. Macleod (JGI). 2011. GIS data availability and analysis of the Mayombe forest ecosystems. Mayombe Transfrontier Project. Prepared for the Governments of Angola, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNEP and IUCN.

⁷ Les calaos, les touracos, les francolins, les outardes et les perroquets.

of the Mayombe forest ecosystems, should be used to enhance in-country stakeholders' engagement, cross-sectoral and intra-regional cooperation, regional and harmonization of policy and legislation frameworks, and coordinated spatial and land-uses planning. Information on the global importance of the PA should be widely distributed in order to raise the essential international awareness and support for enabling the achievement of the identified priorities. Legislation and policies need to be harmonized and national legislation gaps, related to the specific identified aspects, should be addressed. In order to secure sustainability of the Mayombe forest PA's management, the implementation of the various activities should be accompanied with building institutional and technical capacity on all relevant aspects, at the local, national and regional levels, with special focus on information and experience exchange.

Without the GEF project, then despite the biodiversity richness, the area will continue to:

- (i) lose momentum in the implementation of the Transboundary Strategic plan
- (ii) experience severe threats to wildlife particularly elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees due poaching, illegal hunting and lack of designated wildlife corridors that can ensure connectivity of habitats and safe migration of the wildlife particularly. The lack of designated corridors is also a treat to Gorillas population in the area as it is recognised that the inter-zone which is mostly characterized by savannah type vegetation is a suitable habitat for the gorillas that also offers tourism opportunity for game viewing.
- (iii) be subjected to conflicts over resources use due to pressing mining activities in buffer zones and overfishing in coastal areas;
- (iv) experience fragmentation of the habitat for mining, agricultural development, ecotourism, infrastructures development (road, telecommunication lines);
- (v) suffer from inadequate application of laws related to environment and biodiversity conservation, as current efforts are not only insufficient but also lack long term vision
- (vi) suffer from the lack of alternative livelihoods for the local population to reduce illegal wildlife poaching and trade and other natural resources' illegal exploitation.

The GEF alternative is to maintain ecological integrity and connectivity of Congo Republic Mayombe ecosystem to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable socioeconomic development. The GEF scenario will build on the above baseline activities to support conservation of biodiversity through supporting the creation of new Protected Areas, PA complex and the wildlife corridor that will ensure biodiversity conservation, safe migration, habitat protection and increase local potential for socioeconomic development. The GEF alternative will also help to build national institutional capacity through establishment of biodiversity monitoring system and reinforcement of current laws and regulations. The project will achieve these objectives through the following components, outcomes and expected outputs:

Component 1: Protected areas and biodiversity corridor. Through this component, the project will build on the national dynamism of biodiversity conservation since the adoption of the Law 37- 2008. The main outcome (outcome 1.1) will be the .Conkouati – Dimonika PA complex created and improved management effectiveness ensured. This will be achieved through the following outputs, which have been identified at the national and regional level as relevant to ensure the Mayombe ecosystem conservation in the Congo side:

Output 1.1.1: One (1) Protected Area (Ntombo Forest Reserve (93.300ha Ha) created and its management plan developed and validated. The project will identify strategic activities of the plan and implemented during the project period. These activities will be focusing an enabling condition for the implementation of the management plan. These may include training of ecoguard and provision of basic equipment.

Output 1.1.2.: One (1) Biological corridor (Dimonika-Ntombo forest- Tchimpounga) created and Land Use Plan developed. The project will support implementation of some few but strategic activities as pilot for the implementation of the Land Use Plan.

Output 1.1.3: One PA complex (Conkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga) created
CSO, particularly international NGO (e.g. WCS, WWF, HELP, etc) have a history of working in these areas. The project has already entered discussion with these CSO in order to capitalize on their experience but also to use their conservation

knowledge to support local communities and NGO to support conservation efforts. Capacity development programme will be developed in this line and will be executed in partnership with these CSO.

Component 2: Community & Private sector participation

One of the identified key barriers to PA management effectiveness, during the recently analysis of the PA situation in Congo, conducted with the support UNEP-Lifeweb programme, is the insufficient consideration of the local communities in the management of the PA. even though established by Law, local communities' participation has been limited if not inexistent in some PA management systems. With support of UNEP-Lifeweb programme, the Government of Congo with technical support of World Conservation Society have developed a model in Lossi-Odjala complex to involve the local communities and private sector. The Lossi Fauna Reserve is a primary forest integrated in the Eco-region AT0126 of WWF of the landscape Dja-Minkébé-Odzala tri-DOM. 12 priority areas identified, which contain the largest remaining wild populations, indicates where efforts and investments must be focused on the ground in order to ensure the best possible case scenario for great ape conservation in the region. In 2001, the Lossi Forest was classed as Reserve of Fauna by presidential decree N°2001-222, Category IV (IUCN), May 10th. The sustainability of the Lossi experience was achieved due to the fact that Lossi Fauna Reserve is managed by a Community Committee with an executive organ which works in collaboration with the local NGO AETL. The NGO integrates 21-land-owner of the Lossi Forest. The experience is recognised to be a success and the Government has expressed the will to see the approach strengthen and replicated in the country. It is actually the first example in Africa where local communities manage gorilla tourism, all other gorilla tourism activities are in national parks and not in community forest.

Furthermore, the recent development which shows proliferation of mining industries which come in addition to existing various forest concessions, it has been established that this presence is encouraging illegal activities. As part of mitigation measures, the Government and private sectors involved in natural resources exploitation, have agreed on the role of private sectors in enhancing control through creation of the USLAB (Unites de Surveillance et de Lutte Ant-Braconnage) financially supported by private sector contribution. The USLAB is an MoU between the Government of Congo through the Ministry in charge of Forests and Protected Areas and Private sector involved in forest and mineral exploitation, which have been designed to take care of the surveillance and fight against poaching of flagship species (Elephants, gorillas, chimpanzee, panthers, buffalos and bongos) and commercial hunting in forest and mining concessions under exploitation. Two existing barriers in the private sector participation in biodiversity conservation efforts in project areas are i) The USLABs are not well developed in the Conkouati- Douli- Dimonika – Tchimpounga complex, ii) where the USLAB exist, for example in Tridom, there were no follow up action to ensure effectiveness of this MoU with the Government and consequently not all the private sector industries have signed the MoU and even those that have signed it there is no evidence of provision of financial resources which are supposed to be generated.. This project will therefore support the Government and private sector to assess the bottlenecks and remedial measures but also build on the lesson learn to support Government institutions in charge of conservation, the local community and private sector to enhance participation in the PA management through creation of USLABs in the project area. WCS has been particularly active in the community participation approach in Congo. The project will therefore develop working relation and if necessary subcontract with these NGO to support the Government and local community to develop the approach in the project areas. Local organisation will be particularly involved in order to build their capacity. Through the component 2, the project will help to generate the following outcome and outputs:

Outcome 2.1. Improved PA management effectiveness through enhanced communities and private sector participation

Output 2.1.1. A national model on community and private sector participation in PA developed based on on-going models e.g. in Lossi-Odzala national Parks and implemented in Conkouati - Dimonika – Tchimpounga Complex

Output 2.1.2 New USLABs created for the Conkouati - Dimonika – Tchimpounga Complex. However, the creation of these USLABs through the project will be based on assessment of on-going USLABs to identify strengths and weaknesses (as it is briefly mentioned in current country NBSAP revision process) in order not only to support these new creations, but also to support Government in ensuring effectiveness of the USLABs approach at the national level. This assessment will also feed component 3 in generating lessons learn and leading to policy papers that can enhance awareness at higher level.

Output 2.1.3. Community Conservation Committee (CCC) and Management Consul of Community Conservation (MCCC) established in the in relevant PA of the complex. These two bodies are local bodies which in support local administration and NGO create consultation opportunities at local level and agree on priority conservation measures that benefit both to the biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in support of conservation. These bodies is paradigm shift from the traditional

to-down approach to conservation, rather the conservation is view as a common goal and therefore the priority need to be define in consensus and with participation of all. While the Management Consul of Community Conservation is a large forum for consultation, the Community Conservation Committee is considered to be an executive organ which ensures in collaboration with the PA conservators the implementation of the conservation agreed activities. Supporting creation and functionality of these local bodies will enhance participation for conservation and give a change of communities buying-in of the need to engage for conservation efforts.

Output 2.1.4 A package of awareness raising activities targeting the local community and private sector to reduce conflicts and increase support the conservation objectives

Output 2.1.5 Local Development initiatives relevant for biodiversity conservation supported

Output 2.1.6. One (1) programme to develop capacity and build the skills of local communities and opinion leaders in area of sustainable management and utilisation of biodiversity is designed and implemented in project area

Component 3. Enabling policies and institutional Environment to support conservation

The recent diagnostic conducted in 2013 in the process of the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) indicated that deforestation due to extension of agricultural land, fire outbreak and pollution are serious threats to PA and buffer zones in the project areas. To ensure good conservation practices by reducing pressure on PA and corridors and fight against illegal activities, there is need to establish an enabling institutional and policy environment. To achieve these objectives various analyses have recognised the need for the following outcome and outputs which the project will help to achieve:

Outcome 3.1. Good management practices adopted in the Conkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga PA complex

Output 3.1.1. A Biodiversity observatory and environment monitoring systems to improve scientific understanding of the value of biodiversity

Output 3.1.2 National policies and regulations related to PA management review and enforced to avoid illegal and unsustainable activities

Output 3.1.3. A Mechanism which include trans-border cooperation to support enforcement and build key national stakeholders capacity to fight illegal activities established

Output 3.1.4. Ecological Connectivity in the PA complex (Conkouati – Dimonika – Tchimpounga) understood and maintained

The PPG phase will help to bridge the data and information gaps but also to conduct assessment of environmental and social impacts of the gazzement of proposed PA and corridor, but also the entire complex. Key issue rose during consultation by the local forestry officers and UNEP, by local stakeholders and NGO during the PIF development is the issue related to local community and private sector participation as a condition for conservation efforts success. All recommended that a thorough social dynamic and the interest of local communities and private sector have to be assessed and win-win model be proposed and implemented during the project operational phase.

A.1.5. The incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing

The added value of the project will build on current baselines characterized by national and regional dynamism toward biodiversity conservation through creation of PA and PA complex and the communities and private sector engagement to ensure management effectiveness and therefore generate Global Environmental and Socio benefits. More specifically the **Component 1: Protected areas and biodiversity corridor:** the GEF funds will support the process of gazzement of a new PA (Ntomdo Forest) including development of its Management Plan. This increment will help to operationalized the implementation of the recommendations that come up from the SWOT analysis conducted with UNEP support and which identifies the creation of this protected area as one of the key priorities to ensure the conservation of Mayombe landscape. This will generate the GEB by expanding the national PA coverage from 13% to 13,28% of the territory. Complementary to the gazzement of Ntomdo Forest, the creation of the ecological corridor between Conkouati- Douli and Dimonika, will increase the landscape management approach of the complex. The GEF funds will help to analyse during the PPG the environmental and social impacts of the creation of the corridor and the PA and measures to mitigate negative impacts for environment and social sustainability will be implemented. The component 1 will therefore support the establishment of network of PA in

Mayombe which help to protect the biodiversity and support livelihood options of local communities' thereby generating global environmental and social benefits.

The **Component 2: Community & Private sector participation** of the project is addressing the communities and private sector participation in PA management effectiveness. The current baseline include two important national processes: a) UNEP-GRASP support to the Lossi Interzone, with funding from the Spain-UNEP partnership for protected areas in support LifeWeb has resulted (together with other contributors) in the first gorilla tourism project in a community forest; b) the proliferation of private sectors companies primarily engaged in the mining and forest production sectors, had led to an agreement with the Government through an MoU within which the private sectors committed themselves to support the protection efforts through providing financial support to USLABs but also by contributing to local development funds. These approaches even though not perfectly working well, had set up basis for communities and private sector involvement in PA management effectiveness. The GEF additionally through this component will support analysis of these approaches (during PPG stage) to come up with recommendations for building a sustainable model for the use as necessary in the entire country and elsewhere. The model will be agreed upon as result of proceedings of national and or regional forum on the thematic particularly as experience from other countries will be explored. A typical example which will be considered is the one of the National Communities Participation Strategy for PA management developed and implemented by the DRC Institute for the Nature Conservation (ICCN) which will be evaluated with UNEP support in coming weeks. The developed model will be tested in the project area but also by other interested partners within their planned initiatives. The implementation of the model will be supported by implementation of targeted incentives alternative livelihoods options activities for local communities, but also creation in project area of local organs (Local Committees for Conservation, USLAB, etc.) which will strengthen the communities and private sector involvement in the conservation activities. The model if implemented will ensure PA effective management and livelihoods for local communities thereby generating GEB and socio-benefits. The GEF increment will in addition allow for building capacity of both local communities and opinion leaders in sound PA management through implementation of a designed programme which will result from need assessment that will be conducted during the PPG phase. The programme will be built around increasing awareness by the stakeholders of value of biodiversity and the economic opportunities which may arise from effective management.

Component 3: Enabling policies and institutional Environment to support conservation. The SWOT analysis conducted during the regional process for the creation of the Mayombe Transboundary PA and recently diagnostics conducted in the process of the NBSAP revision (2013), had established the key treats to the PA management in the project area include i) expensing of agricultural lands; ii) bush fires; iii) illegal exploitation of natural resources (poaching, mining, etc.) and pollutions. These treats if not addressed will lead to increased deforestation and less enforcement of existing laws which are supposed to stopped these illegal activities and therefore will reduced conservation efforts and will render difficult the connectivity expected with the creation of the Conkouati – Douli – Dimonika – Tchimpounga PA complex. The GEF resources will support promotion of good practices in natural resources management by creating enabling environment for law enforcement (output 3.1.2) , biodiversity and environment monitoring (output 3.1.1), establishment of enforcement mechanism which will include Transfrontier cooperation to address illegal activities (output 3.1.3) and developing and implementation of measures and good practices to ensure connectivity (output 3.1.4). These outputs will contribute to sustainable natural resources management and therefore will generate GEB through an enabling policies, institutional and capacity environment in relation to component 2.

A.1.6. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

The project area is a significant biodiversity hotspot, therefore GEF investment will yield GEB. The Mayombe forest(which include the actual project area), shared between DRC, Angola, Congo and Gabon, forms the southern-western margin of the Congo Basin's tropical rainforest, and of the distribution of a large variety of related flora and fauna, including species of global importance such as the chimpanzees, lowland gorillas, forest elephants buffalo, hippopotamus, leopard, mandrill, whale, dauphin, lamantin, marine turtles, blue duiker, yellow-backed duiker, duiker black backed , Pangolin, guenon of Brazza, spot nosed guenon, and many other species including following specific birds *Tigriornis leucolopha*, *Canirallus oculus* and *Scotopelia bouvieri*. Also *Pseudochelidon eurystomina* consider as visiting bird. Two species from Zambezi

biome, *Lybius minor* and *Petrochelidon rufigula* have been identified. *Bombylonax breweri*, considered as a rare species is found in Conkouati National Park. Two species *Pseudochelidon eurystomina* and *Merops malimbicus*, have been identified as using Conkouati as reproduction area. The project area is comprised of dense moist forest, along a narrow stretch in parallel to the Atlantic coast. The project area rainforest is surrounded by a mosaic of lowland drier rainforest, woodland and savannah. Following decades of intensive degradation with very little protection, most the project forest area, especially in its southern part, is comprised of various phases of succession of secondary forest, up to the climax primary forest, in small remnant patches.

The project forest area, overlapping the mountainous area of the Lower Guinea, the western-central part of the Guineo-Congolian center of endemism, is considered to be part of a Pleistocene refuge area as evidenced in botanical data. The mountainous area of the Lower Guinea is considered to be of conservation value for its plant endemism. The coastal flora is also high in plant endemism. Faunal biodiversity in the project forest is related to the Guineo-Congolian center of endemism and is remarkably rich. BirdLife International has identified four Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the area. The forest is home for a large diversity of mammal species, including species of outstanding global interest, such as the central chimpanzee, western low land gorilla and forest elephant. The known south-western limit of mandrill's distribution is in Conkouati-Douli national park (NP) in the northern part, and the African manatee is found in the large rivers and lagoons related to the project area. The project forest ecosystems area crosses two ecoregions designated by WWF: the Atlantic Equatorial Coastal Forest ecoregion, and the Western Congolian forest-savannah mosaic ecosystem. It overlaps considerably with one of Conservation International's High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas (HBWAs). The northern part of the forest area overlaps with the southern part of the Conkouati Landscape, one of 12 Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Landscapes, selected as conservation priorities by the USAID-Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). The forests in and around Dimonika Biosphere R serve and in Conkouati-Douli National Park have also been classified as Intact Forest Landscapes: large remaining tracts of forest landscapes minimally disturbed by human economic activity. The proposed project area forest is listed as one of 11 existing and planned Transfrontier Conservation Areas between signatories of COMIFAC. The project forest is also one of 17 existing and planned Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) region.

A.1.7. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project innovativeness is justified by the tree key areas:

- The traditional approach of PA management in general considers the individual PA. The present project even though consider the specificity of concerned PA, the project is considering a landscape approach to the PA management by creating a complex which will include also corridor to ensure connectivity (Component 1&3);
- The local communities and private sector involvement in PA management effectiveness has been weak if not inexistent. The project innovation is based on the building on rare experiences in the country and the region to come up with model that will be tested and promoted in project area ecosystem (component 2);
- In general, biodiversity monitoring is achieved through development of indicators which are tracked during the course of projects. This project will be innovative in going beyond indicators development and monitoring but also will established an institutional set up which will be capacitated to ensure monitoring but also serve as a tool for guiding decision making in area of environment monitoring.
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The project sustainability will be achieved through the building on existing initiatives and partnership, the development of local and private sector participation model witch will establish a long term partnership in PA management and ownership and creating an enabling institutional enabling environment for natural resources monitoring and sustainable use.

In terms of the scaling up potential, the local communities and private sector participation model will be scale –up in other area and countries as it will be built on experiences and stakeholders contribution through forums. The biodiversity and natural resources observatory will also be a key output with the scaling up potential.

A.2. Stakeholders Identify key stakeholders (including CSO, indigenous people, local communities or institutions, gender

groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation

Stakeholders	Mandate	Role in the project preparation (including potential for cofinancing)
Government ministries (Ministries in charge environment, forestry, protected areas, agriculture, mining and local administration)	Overall responsibility for environment and forestry policies, development and protection in Congo. Responsible of regional and transfrontier cooperation	It is involved in coordination, planning, validation and implementation of project preparation activities. They, will help to identify capacity building need and design of the capacity building activities. They will ensure consideration of transboundary cooperation and regional directives in the project design
Government Ministries (local-level technical services)	Responsibility for implementing environment and forestry programmes within their administrative Region particular the Conservators of the PA within the project zone	They will be key partners in data gaps analysis and collection, will facilitate consultation with local stakeholders, take active part in project activities design and planning, and will help to identify capacity building needs. Will also provide co-financing.
Commune of Madingokoye Commune of Mvouti • Commune of Pointe Noire	Overall responsibility for managing and contributing to the socioeconomic development of local populations within their jurisdictions	Will form important links with local populations and will play a key role in the design of the socio-economic outputs of the project. They will be key partners in ensuring that adequate consultation is established with local communities to have their Free Prior Informed Consent on some project intended activities including PA creation and livelihood options Will also provide co financing.
UNDP	Multilateral and GEF Agencies implementing various initiatives in the country	As UN Agency in charge of coordination of UNDAF, will play an important role in ensuring synergy and complementarity with UN, including GEF Agencies, activities in the country.
Local Development funds Council for investment	Committee in charge of investing funds generated from extractive industries and other payment for ecosystems services in local socioeconomic projects	It will take part in the planning and support cofounding from Local Development Funds
International NGOs • WWF, WCS, JGI, HELP, John Aspinall	International NGOs active in conservation and development. Implementing conservation and development projects within the TRIDOM area	They will play an important role in feeling data and information gaps, in full project design. They will provide Project co-financers. They may provide technical support particularly in area of Parks Management.
Local NGOs • National NGO and Specialized centres: RAPAC, COGEREN, ADEMA, GERDIB, CERVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serves as important link to the local communities especially in the implementation of sustainable livelihood projects - Play important role in research and field activities 	Will take part in stakeholders' consultations and will advise on which role they can play in the project Implementation, sustainable livelihood projects. They will be source of Cofinancing for the FSP

		Conduct targeted research works
Private sector operators (extractive industries and forestry companies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIB/OLAM – Congolaise Industrielle de bois • Operator Oil Maurel & Prom • UFA Dzanga-Mokab • Sintou Potash • Maurel & Prom and Perenco • Company TOTAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some are owner of forestry concession and conduct forest exploitation - Some are active in supporting anti-poaching - Support conservation efforts - Some are active in mining sector 	Partner in mainstreaming activities and contribution to investment in local development projects. Will help in the identification of their capacity building needs and awareness. Also indicate their participate in the alternative livelihood activities to be implemented during the project Offering cofinancing opportunity.

A.3. Risks: Indicate risks including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that may prevent project objectives being achieved and, if possible propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

No	Risks Statement	Level	Mitigation Measures
1	Socio-political instability	Low	Political situation is currently calm and is likely to improve in near future The project strategy is designed to circumvent political instabilities, and to work with partners (governmental, local and non-governmental) that are sure to continue to be involved in conservation over the long term.
2	Institutional instability	Moderate	The project will work with various institutions working in the area to ensure adequate coordination mechanisms that guarantee participation in various project activities
3	Environment (no respect of and/or monitoring of engagements - cahier de charges et non monitoring (bas), Environmental management plans, epidemics (Ebola)	Moderate	Different platforms coupled with government commitment will ensure extractive industries respect engagements and implement environmental management plan
4	Economic recession: this may affect the private sectors which are key partner in the project area	Low	Sustainable mechanism will be put in place to ensure durability
5	Financial : delay in payment and disbursement of funds	Low	Greater efforts will be made to eliminate administrative bottlenecks in finance disbursements
6	Security : trans-boundary conflicts	Moderate	Government partners' conscious of this will take measures to avert this. Agreements have been signed with neighbouring countries and the project will support implementation of measures that favour cooperation for biodiversity conservation.
7	Communities engagement	Moderate	The poverty situation and the long term negligence of local communities in conservation efforts may render difficult project activities. The project has designed socioeconomic, community projects support and awareness raising activities. This will

			facilitate community buying-in and their full engagements in the project
8	Wildlife poaching drivers	Moderate	The alarming level of wildlife poaching in the area is a serious risk. However, the regional level commitment (central Africa Countries) to fight the poaching and the engagement of local communities in the project will help to minimize the risk.
9	Climate resilience	Low	Key climate change risk in the area is the possible occurrence of climatic condition for the outbreak of Ebola disease which may jeopardize the project momentum. There are currently local and international NGO fighting human-animal transmission by avoiding contact through providing incentive to local people to reduce wild animal protein intake by providing alternatives. This will not only support conservation, it will also reduce risk of climate impacts on disease outbreak.
10	Others : lack of communication and transparency as well as porosity of borders	Moderate	The project will build communication skills of partners through various platforms

A.4. Coordination Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives.

The project will developed a strong collaboration with the following initiatives:

- UNDP/GEF project “Conservation of Trans-boundary Biodiversity in the Minkébé-Odzala-Dja Inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon”. This project was designed following constructive exchanges with Congo TRIDOM component provided useful information so as to produce impacts and avoid duplication of effort. The project will particularly work with TRIDOM team in the assessment of local communities and private sector participation in effective PA management. The project teams will work closely in organizing the forum and development of the model which will be piloted in both projects sites. It will also build on anti-poaching activities piloted by TRIDOM, to come up with long term measures and strategy to fight illegal hunting.
- World Bank and IFAD are conducting in the country development projects related to poverty alleviation and capacity building of local stakeholders to boost productivity. The GEF project will cooperate with those projects in linking conservation with poverty alleviation and alternative livelihoods. These projects have been identified as co-funding sources for this project, however, as these programme have a nationwide coverage, the level of those cofinancing in project area will be indicated at CEO endorsement
- International NGOs (WCS, WWF, JGI, HELP, etc.) are implementing initiatives which are relevant to the project and which are related to anti-poaching law enforcement and capacity building of private sectors and local administration to ensure biodiversity conservation and PA management. As partners of this project, these NGOs will be playing a key role in project planning and implementation on the ground.
- UNEP GRASP programme and the UNREDD will collaborate with the project in the areas of Gorillas protection strategy and engagement of private sector in REDD+, respectively. These initiatives are within the same UNEP Division therefore facilitating coordination.
- In order to ensure adequate monitoring of GEF portfolio in Congo, it has been agreed with the National GEF OFP that this project will facilitate the creation of periodic review process for the GEF portfolio of the country. This will be very helpful not only in monitoring, but also in ensuring synergy and complementarity between all national GEF projects. At regional level, the CBSP project of particular interest will be;
- UNEP/GEF CBSP A Regional Focus on Sustainable Timber Management in the Congo Basin;
- UNDP/GEF CBSP - Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin,
- GEF/WB CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin.
- CBSP- FAO/GEF project on Sustainable and CBSP – UNDP/GEF Sustainable financing of Protected Areas system in

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1.National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant

conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.:

This project is consistent with Congo's various national policies and priorities, commitments to global environment management and to the plans responding to the multilateral agreements and trans-boundary cooperation on environment issue. The project also originated from one of the approved project under the National Portfolio Identification Exercise to be financed by the GEF5 Congo STAR allocations, but refocused following discussion and guidance from partners including GEF secretariat and UNDP. Key national policies relevant to the project include:

- Strategic Document for Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction (DSCERP 2012-2016)
- Action Plan for the Economic and Social Revival (PARESO)
- National Environment Action Plan
- National Forestry Action Plan
- Great Apes Survival Action Plan
- MAB-UNESCO Programme
- Sector Programme Forestry and Environment
- Rural Development Master Plan
- COMIFAC Convergence Plan

The project is aligned with the NBSAP and is particularly relevant to support the implementation of the following key legislation and agreements:

- Law No. 37-2008 on wildlife and protected areas
- Law 10-2004 of 26 March 2004 establishing general principles to be applied on land tenure. The law indicate the composition of land tenure and established the procedures to own land. The law establish the obligations related to development of specific laws related to forestry code, mining code etc.
- Law No. 16/2000 of 20 November 2000 on the Forestry Code. This law outlines the sustainable management of forests in Congo, including specifying the conditions for exercise of rights of use by local populations (Articles 41 and 42), as well as the content and the development principles of Development Plan of UFA (Articles 55 to 60)
- Law No. 003/91 of 04.03.1991 on the protection of the environment. It strengthens the legislation in several areas of the environment including the preservation of fauna and flora cultural, natural and historical.
- Decree No. 2002-437 of 31 December 2002 laying down the conditions for the management and use of forests under Law 16/2000 (the Forest Code). National Guidelines for the sustainable management of natural forests of Congo Chapter III of this Decree details the methods of preparation and implementation of the Management Plan; specifying the technical development of Management Plans. Divided into three parts: general guidelines for forest concessions, recalling the definition of an FMU, the objectives of forest management and giving general guidance for development (UFA limits, definition of the different series ...) design guidelines for different series, defining the objectives of the series and giving instructions for their management, drafting guidelines for management Plan;
- Decree No. 103 of 30/01/1984 laying down rules on the export of wildlife and wild flora
- Decree n ° 99-149 of 23.08.1999 on the organization and operation of the fund for the protection of the environment.
- Decree No. 86/775 of 07/06/86 mandating the environmental impact assessment;
- Law No. 16-2000, 20 November 2000 Forest Code: It does not refer to protected areas explicitly. But it defines the rules for the sustainable management of their surrounding areas.
- Decree n ° 6075/MDDEFE/CAB 9 April 2011 determining the species fully and partially protected.

The project is also in line with various international and regional MEAs ratified by the country. These include;

- The Cabinda Accord and MoU, setting the terms for collaboration in the conservation and sustainable management of the Mayombe forest ecosystems, signed between DRC (Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism), Angola (Ministry of Environment, MINAMB) and the Republic of Congo (Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment, DDEFE), in July 2009
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), called Washington Convention (Law No. 034/82 of 27 July 1982);
- Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Act No. 19/85 du July 19, 1985);
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially for Waterfowl, called the Ramsar Convention (Act No. 28/96 du June 25, 1996);
- Convention on Biological Diversity (Law n ° 29/96 of 25 June 1996);
- Convention on Climate Change (Law No. 26/96 of 25 June 1996);
- Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Law No. 14/99 of 3 March 1999).
- African Convention on the conservation of wildlife and natural resources, called Algiers Convention of 1968;
- Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Law No. 32/96 of 22 August 1996);
- Convention on the fight against desertification in countries seriously affected by drought and desertification and / or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (Act No. 008/99 of 8 January 1999);
- Agreement of cooperation and consultation between the Central African States on the conservation of wildlife, Libreville, 16 April 1983

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

Republic of Congo is a flexible Country in terms of GEF 5 STAR allocation. The GEF resources requested for this project will come from the country BD and LD allocations. In addition, the country is using the opportunities of matching two Focal Areas resources to request the Sustainable Forest Management bonus to address the barriers related to forest law and regulatory framework including law enforcement to reduce pressure on forest resources and ensure sustainable flow of services provided by ecosystem services. The project main objective is to ensure biodiversity conservation through creation of PA and PA complex, ensuring connectivity of PA systems through ecological corridors and ensuring management effectiveness through enhanced local communities and private sector participation.

The project is in line with GEF-5 **Biodiversity strategy objective 1**: improve the sustainability of protected area systems **Outcome 1.1**. Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas. The project will contribute to this outcome through Component 1, the creation of new PA: the Ntombo Forest PA (93,300 ha) and PA complex Conkouati – Douli – Dimonika – Tchimpunga (696.476ha). This will bring the total coverage to 4, 446, .800 ha ha Or 13.27% of the territory.

The project, through component 2 will contribute to **GEF 5 Biodiversity Strategy**, particularly to **Objective 2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors, Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation, Output 1. Policies and regulatory frameworks (number) for production sectors...** The project will contribute to this objective through Component 3 **creation of enabling policy environment** (output 3.1.2: National policies and regulations related to PA management review and enforced to avoid illegal and unsustainable activities) **removing knowledge barriers** (output 3.1.2. biodiversity and environment monitoring, output 3.1.3.Establishment of enforcement mechanism which will include Transfrontier cooperation to address illegal activities and output 3.1.4.Developing and implementation of measures and good practices to ensure connectivity; Output 2.1.1. A national model on community and private sector participation in PA developed based on on-going models in the country and the region, Output 2.1.2 New USLABs created for the Conkouati - Dimonika – Tchimpunga Complex. Output.2.1.3. Community Conservation Committee (CCC) and Management Consul of Community Conservation (CGCC) established in the in relevant PA of the complex, Output 2.1.4 A package of awareness raising activities targeting the local

community and private sector to reduce conflicts and increase support the conservation objectives), **development of incentives** through development of alternative livelihood (Output 2.1.5 Local Development initiatives relevant for biodiversity conservation supported).

Through its components, the project will also contribute to LD- 2&3 and SFM/REDD plus Strategies of GEF 5.

The project linkage to Arch Targets is presented in table bellow

Aichi Biodiversity Target	Aichi Target Indicators	Project Components	Project Outputs
Target 1 : By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably	Trends in awareness, attitudes and public engagement in support of biodiversity Trends in communication programmes and actions promoting social corporate responsibility Trends in public engagement with biodiversity	Component 2 Component 1	Output 2.1.1 Output 2.1.2 Output 2.1.3 Output 2.1.4 Output 2.1.5 Output 1.1.1 Output 1.1.2 Output 1.1.3
Target 4 : By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve that production and consumption have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 5 : By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	Trends in pressures from direct and underlying drivers	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 6 : By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, locally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 7 : By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Trends in area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 8 : By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	Trend in emission to the environment of pollutants relevant for biodiversity	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 11 : By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effective and equitably managed, ecologically representative	Trends in protected area condition and/or management effectiveness including more equitable management	Component 1	Output 1.1.1 Output 1.1.2 Output 1.1.3

integrative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes		Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 14 : By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	Trends in the condition of selected ecosystem services	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 15 : By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Status and trends in extent and condition of habitats that provide carbon storage	Component 3	Output 3.1.1
Target 19 : By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	Trends in coverage of comprehensive policy-relevant sub-global assessments including related capacity building and knowledge transfer, plus trends in uptake into policy	Component 3	Output 3.1.2

B.3. The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

The preliminary and interim phase of the Mayombe Trans frontier Project (2010-2011) which identified the actual project area and activities in the Congo component of the Mayombe⁸, was executed by UNEP-GRASP, with financial support from the Norwegian Government, and with IUCN-West and Central Africa Programme contracted as the implementing agency, for the three signatory countries of the Cabinda Accord and MoU. The project is within UNEP mandate and in line with UNEP’s ‘Green Economy’ primary objective. UNEP is actually in the process of developing a National Programme with Republic of Congo to strengthen its country presence and collaboration. UNEP is implementing field activities in the project area through the LifeWeb initiative and the Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP). Furthermore, UNEP is currently implementing both biodiversity and Enabling Activities (NBSAP, NAP Alignment, Biosafety and Climate Change National Communications) project in Central African countries including Congo. UNEP has therefore a history of executing national projects with Congo. UNEP’s focus within the GEF covers activities in conducting environmental assessment; ecosystems evaluation and promoting ecosystem service and greening livelihoods. UNEP has collaborated with other institutions and Agencies including UNDP, FAO and World Bank number of strategic projects and programmes in the country. UNEP in addition to the above-mentioned sectorial and country involvement will use its close ties with Civil Society to entrust project execution with non-governmental institutions which are regularly working with the project sites local communities. UNEP will give direct support to the national execution partners through (i) regular field/country missions, and (ii) UNEP Regional Office in Africa will have active role in ensuring the UNEP led initiatives are fully embedded in a global UNEP wide support to Congo through UNDAF (currently the UNEP Regional Office for Africa is discussing with the Ministry in charge of environment, to develop a national country programme)

The project is fully in line with the UNEP Programme of Work (POW) for 2010-2011 and 2012-2013, and the medium Term Strategy. It is linked particularly to UNEP:

⁸ Ron, T. 2010 - 2011. Mayombe Transfrontier Project. Mission and technical reports and strategic documents presented following consultancy missions on March 2010, May 2011, and August 2011.

(i) **Subprogramme 3: Ecosystem Management and its Expected accomplishments** (a) Enhanced capacity of countries and regions to increasingly integrate an ecosystem management approach into development and planning (b) Countries and regions have capacity to utilize ecosystem management tools (c) Strengthened capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services and their related outputs;

(ii) **Subprogramme 1: Climate change in its Expected accomplishments** (d) increased investment towards reduction in greenhouse gas emission by land use, land-use change and forestry and its related *Outputs 1-4*

(iii) **Subprogramme 4: Environmental Governance Expected accomplishments** (a) The United Nations system, respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively realizes synergies and demonstrates increasing coherence in international decision-making processes related to the environment, including those under multilateral environmental agreements (b) Enhanced capacity of States to implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental priority goals, targets and objectives through strengthened laws and institutions (c) National development processes and United Nations common country programming processes increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability in their implementation (d) Improved access by national and international stakeholders to sound science and policy advice for decision making and their related outputs; and


(iv) **Subprogramme 6: Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production and its related Expected accomplishments** (b) Increased investment in efficient, clean and safe industrial production methods through public policies and private sector action (c) Consumer choice favors more resource efficient and environmentally friendly products and their respective outputs.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Joel J. Loumeto	Director General of Environment, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT	03-30-2013

15. B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi		11/01/2013	Adamou Bouhari Task Manger BD/LD, UNEP/DEPI/G EF	+25420762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

Annex 1: International Classification Protected Areas in Republic of Congo

N°	Designation	Categorie s IUCN	Superfici es (Ha)	Superfici es extension (Ha)	Superfici es at present (Ha)	Date of creation	Date of extensio n
1	Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park	II	386 592	37 278	423 870	1991	2012
2	Odzala- Kokoua National Park	II	126 600	1 228 000	1 354 600	1935	1955; 2003
3	Conkouati –Douli National Park	II	504 950	0	504 950	1999	-
4	Ntokou-Pikounda National Park	II	427 200	0	427 200	In course	-
5	Mont –Fouari Fauna Reserve	IV	15 600	0	15 600	1956/19 58	-
6	Nyanga-north Fauna Reserve	IV	7 700	0	7 700	1958	-
7	Tsoulou Fauna Reserve	IV	30 000	0	30 000	1963	-
8	Léfini Fauna Reserve	IV	400 000	230 000	630 000	1951	1963
9	Dimonika Biosphere Reserve		136 000	0	136 000	1988	-
10	Lac Télé Community Reserve	V	438 960	0	438 960	2001	-
11	Patte d’Oie Reserve	IV	240	- 146	94	1935	2009
12	Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Reserve	IV	7 000	48 526	55 526	1995	1999
13	Lossi Fauna Reserve (Gorilla Sanctuary)	IV	35 000	0	35 000	2001	-
14	Lesio Louna Gorilla Sanctuary	IV	44 000	129 000	173 000	1999	2009
15	Nyanga-south Hunting Domain	IV	23 000	0	23 000	1958	-
16	Mont –Mavoumbou Hunting Domain	IV	42 000	0	42 000	1958	-
17	Yengo-Mohali Cinegetic Interest	VIII	56 000	0	56 000	?	

Annex 2. Existing and proposed protected areas and corridors in project areas

Source: Ron, T. 2011. Potential for designating Protected Areas for conservation and for identifying conservation corridors as part of the planning process of the Mayombe forest TPA. Mayombe Transfrontier Project. Prepared for the Governments of Angola, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNEP and IUCN. (Map prepared by Pintea, L., JGI)

