REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Creation of Longo Bay Marine Protected Area to support Turtles Conservation in the Republic of Congo			
Country(ies):	Republic of Congo	GEF Project ID:[1]	5806
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01277
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and Sustainable Development	Re-Submission Date:	September 28, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): ➢ For SFM/REDD+ ☐ ➢ For SGP ☐ ➢ For PPP ☐	N/A	Project Agency Fee ($):	67,671

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)
BD-1:	Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems **Outcome 1.1:** Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 1. New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems. Output 2. New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected threatened species (number).	GEF TF	712,329	2,635,000
		Total project costs		712,329	2,635,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To ensure conservation of the marine biodiversity through participative protection of the marine turtle habitat

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Confirmed Cofinancing ($)
1. Creation of the Marine Protected Area	TA	Enabling Legal, institutional, technical and participative frameworks for the creation of Marine Protected Area	1.1. Thorough stakeholders (local communities, private sector, Government institutions, NGO, etc.) consultation conducted to agree on the creation, location and responsibilities. 1.2. Base line information/data on ecological, biological resources status, socioeconomic situation and investment	GEF TF	200,000	777,284

[1]Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework when completing Table A.

			opportunities, established 1.3. Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plan (definition of the management plan, assessment of technical and capacity needs, human resources need, determination of the necessary boundaries, regulatory framework dissemination) developed and governance structure established 1.4.Loango MPA regulatory framework adopted and the decree of the creation taken by relevant authorities 1.5. Financing Mechanism identified and establishment for the MPA (e.g establishment of ecological compensation measures, revenues from licenses, taxes on coastal residents, PA entry fees, tax on tourism, fiduciary funds, concessions, etc.)			
2. Suppoting monitoring, awareness raising and advocacy on Marine Turtles	TA	Capable institution to support marine turtle's conservation	2.1. Awareness and Advocacy for on sea turtles towards effective conservation of feeding and nesting areas and release after capture, conducted 2.2. Targeted research activities (e.g. in-water monitoring - movements and migration habits using "manta tow" technique[3] for example, monitoring of nesting beaches, Satellite tagging of sea turtles, feeding, genetic characterization, search for other biotopes, etc) conducted in consultation with all stakeholders including local actors and responding to identified needs on the field.	GEF TF	300,000	1,010,000
3. Alternative livelihood in support of MPA	TA/Inv	Available alternatives livelihood options to reduce pressure on marine turtles and increase revenue	3.1 Alternative Income Generating Activity (AIGA) options identified, validated by stakeholders and, implemented.through Small-scale pilot testing 3.2. Feasibility study on valorization of the historical site conducted 3.3. A package of ecotourism activities on key options (e.g. release of turtles cached by fishermen, the slavery history of the bay, swallowing of the lagoon, Loango museum, Diosso gorges, boating)	GEF TF	147,572	442,716

[3] A diver equipped for snorkeling is being pulled at constant speed by a boat. His mission is to collect observations of sea turtles on depths ranging from 5 to 25 m deep. Another person records the GPS position, and another observer, on the boat, watches the surroundings to notice any presence of sea turtle

			developed 3.4. Environmental education including development of marine turtle's observation Charter developed 3.5. Artisanal fishing sector structured, impact of fishing gears and technique reduced and value of fishery products enhanced			
Subtotal					647,572	2,230,000
Project management Cost (PMC)[4]				GEF TF	64,757	405,000
Total project costs					712,329	2,635,000

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME ($)

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount ($)
National Government	General Directorate of Forestry/Forestry Funds	Cash	2,100,000
CSO	Renatura	In-Kind	500,000
CSO	RDHD (Reseau Development Humain Durable)	In-Kind	5,000
UN Agency	UNESCO	Cash	20,000
CSO	WCS Congo	Cash	10,000
Total Co-financing			2,635,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	BD	Republic of Congo	712,329	67,671	780,000
Total Grant Resources				**712,329**	**67,671**	**780,000**

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

[2] Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)	Project Total ($)
International Consultants	147,000	542,430	689,430
National/Local Consultants	35,000	129,150	164,150

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? N/A

[4]PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

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(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF[5]

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

This section was described under B.1 in the PIF document, however a more detailed analyse is provided below.

The Republic of Congo (RoC) has signed and ratified several international conventions and other legal texts related to the conservation and valorization of forest ecosystems and biological diversity. RoC has progressively organized its national set of laws and legal texts on environment conservation and wildlife valorization. This has led to the inclusion of the environmental topic in the fundamental law of the Republic of Congo. The RoC Constitution of 20 January 2002 states in Article 35: “Any citizen has a right to a healthy, satisfactory and sustainable environment and has the duty to defend and protect it. The State shall ensure the protection and conservation of environment.” The Republic of Congo has signed, ratified or acceded to the following conventions, international and sub regional agreements and legal texts (protocols and charters):

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, Iran, 1971).

This convention has been ratified by Congo by law N°28/96 of 25 June 1996. Article 1 stipulates that within the meaning of the Rasmar convention wetlands also include coastal marine waters of less than 6m in depth. The Ramsar Convention takes a broad approach in determining the wetlands that come under its aegis: swamps and marshes, lakes and rivers, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans. The guiding principle of the Ramsar convention is to promote the rational use of resources for a sustainable development and to prevent the depletion of resources of wetlands. Contacts have been initiated with the Ramsar Convention and a dossier has been made by Renatura and delivered in 2010 to the Ramsar Convention with a view to the classification of the Loango Bay as a Ramsar site.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Washington, USA, 1973, amended in Bonn, Germany, 1979).

CITES attempts to ensure that trade in endangered species do not threaten the existence of those species. Marine turtles are listed under Annex 1 of the CITES meaning that the international trade of marine turtles and their by-products (including marine turtle meat, eggs, shells and scutes) is prohibited.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

The CMS was signed by the Republic of Congo on 23 June 1979 and ratified by Congo through Law n°14/99 of 3 March 1999. Marine turtles are listed in Annexes I (threatened migratory species) and II (migratory species requiring international cooperation) of the CMS.

TheWorld Charter for Nature, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1982.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982.

The Montego Bay Convention was signed by the Republic of Congo. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, Rio 1992) (multilateral treaty).

The Republic of Congo has ratified the CBD by the Law n°29/96 of 25 June 1996. The Convention has three main goals: i) conservation of biological diversity, ii) sustainable use of its components; and iii) fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. Its objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It is often seen as the key document regarding sustainable development.

[5] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

The project makes reference to the Convention of Biological Diversity and particularly to the Strategic Plan 2011-20 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The strategic goals, Aichi Target and indicators that the project will contribute to are indicated in the table below:

Strategic Goal	Target	Indicators to which the project will contribute
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	**Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.	Trends in extent of marine protected areas, coverage of key biodiversity areas and management effectiveness (A) Trends in representative coverage of protected areas and other area based approaches, including sites of particular importance for biodiversity, and of terrestrial, marine and inland water systems (A) *Project Component 1.*
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	**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 benefits that humans derive from selected ecosystem services (A) Population trends and extinction risk trends of species that provide ecosystem services (A) Trends in delivery of multiple ecosystem services (B) Trends in the condition of selected ecosystem services (C) *Project Component 3.*
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	**Target 18:** By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Trends in which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan (B) *Project Component 2*
	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 (B) *Component 1, 2 and 3* Number of maintained species inventories being used to implement the Convention (C) *Project Component 2*

Further, the RoC has ratified the following conventions related with conservation, wildlife and ecosystems protection and thus related to MPA creation:

- **The World Heritage Convention** (Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage) (Paris, 1972) ratified by Roc by the Law 19/85 of 19 July 1985.
- **The Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer** (Vienna 1985).
- **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC), Rio 1992. This convention was ratified by RoC by the law 26/96 of 25 June 1996.
- The **Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter**, or London Convention ratified by RoC through the Law 10/80 of 21 July 1980.

At the regional and sub regional levels, the RoC ratified the following conventions aiming at harmonizing the conservation strategies in Africa and Central Africa:

- The **Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** (i.e. the Maputo Convention, 2005),
- The **Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region** (Abidjan Convention in short), ratified by Congo through the Law 21/85 of 19 July 1985,
- The **Bamako and Basel Conventions on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa**, ratified by the Law 97/96 of 26 June 1996.
- **Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement. Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora** (1994), ratified by RoC through the Law 32/96 of 22 August 1996.

In addition, RoC is a member of the **African Wildlife Conservation Organization** (OCFSA), the **Conference on the Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa** (CEFDHAC) and takes part in conservation and protection programs such as the ECOFAC (French acronym for Central African Forest Ecosystem) and RAPAC (French acronym for the Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa). An IUCN Expert group was commissioned in 2013 by RAPAC to work on a strategic plan for marine protected area creation in Central Africa. The expert group drew up recommendations and highlighted areas of interest for the creation of Marine Protected Areas in the sub-region. In the Republic of Congo, the Loango bay was identified by the expert group as a priority area where high biodiversity meets strong anthropogenic pressure.

The Republic of Congo is a State party to **the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)** which has a "2015-2025 Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Conservation and Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems". The importance of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is highlighted in the plan under the following targets:

- Operational target 3.1.1: Reinforce the network of national and transboudary protected areas, representative of all the terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems.
- Operational target 3.1.2: Ensure the ecological monitoring of biological diversity within the Protected area and beyond.
- Operational target 3.1.3: Promote the economic valorization of protected areas, wildlife sector and ecotourism.
- Operational target 3.1.4: Reinforce surveillance measures and capacities to fight against poaching and wildlife criminality.
- Operational target 3.1.5: Promote the labelling of sustainable management and valorization of Protected Area.

In direct link with the Loango MPA creation and marine turtle conservation, the Republic of Congo is a signatory to the **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) **concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa**, i.e. Abidjan Memorandum signed in 1999. The MoU covers 26 range States (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Portugal (Azores, Madeira), São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain (Canary Islands), Togo and United Kingdom). As of May 2013, 23 range States have signed the MoU. The aim of the MoU is to safeguard six marine turtle species that are estimated to have rapidly declined in numbers during recent years due to excessive exploitation (both direct and incidental) and the degradation of essential habitats.

The Signatories agreed to work closely together to improve the conservation status of the marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend. To that end, they shall: i) Endeavour to put in place measures for the conservation and, where necessary and appropriate, strict protection of marine turtles at all stages of their life cycle (including eggs, hatchlings, juveniles, sub-adults and adults); ii) Review and, as necessary, revise national legislation, and ratify or accede to those international conventions most relevant for the conservation of marine turtles, so as to enhance the legal protection given to these species;

iii) Implement in their respective countries, subject to the availability of necessary resources, the provisions of the Conservation Plan annexed to the MoU; iv) Facilitate the expeditious exchange of scientific, technical and legal information needed to coordinate conservation measures; and cooperate with recognized scientists of international organizations and other range States in order to facilitate their work conducted in relation to the Conservation Plan; v) Assess the implementation of the MoU and Conservation Plan at regular meetings; vi) Provide the secretariat an annual report on the implementation of the MoU and Conservation Plan.

The will and commitment of the RoC to create a MPA including a threatened sea turtle feeding ground is therefore a direct application of the Abidjan Memorandum Targets. This will has been expressed through the conclusion of the 4th edition of the National Workshop on Protected Areas (JNAP) held on 20-22 June 2013 in Brazzaville. The first recommendation of the working groups towards the Forest Economy Ministry and RAPAC was the creation of a Marine Protected Area.

RoC took part in in the second phase of the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project. From 2004 through 2012, GCLME project has undergone two phases: i) the first phase involved 6 countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Benin, Cameroon and Liberia); ii) the second phase built on and extended the experience to 6 additional countries: Congo, DRC, Angola, Gabon, Togo and Sierra Leone. The project was intended to be implemented over five years. It was extended four times, with the final extension to June 2012 leading to an operational phase of seven and a half years. Fifteen countries developed national action plans (NAPs) and six national demonstration projects were completed with results disseminated. The project invested substantially in individual capacity building with over 80 workshops. Together these represent important foundational steps towards the project development goal, to create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME. Key outputs in this area - reflecting strong partnerships with UNEP GPA, FAO, IMO and the Abidjan Convention - include development of regional fisheries management plans, national plans of action on land based sources of marine pollution (NPAs-LBS), adoption of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities, and adoption of the amended regional Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Western and Central African Region and a related Regional Contingency Plan. During its implementation, the GCLME project brought contributions to the Convention of Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and Montego Bay Convention, by adding all the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) treatees. The overall development objective of the GCLME project, Combating Living Resources Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) through Ecosystem-based Regional Actions, was to create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME to: i) recover depleted fish stocks; ii) restore degraded habitat; and iii) reduce land and ship-based pollution in the GCLME. The Loango MPA Project is thus entirely in the line of the dynamic initiated by the GCLME project.

Several international and regional instruments promote the Marine Protected Area as a way to tackle the widespread degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems. Instrumentsconferring a high legitimacy to this approach include The Rio declaration, the CBD and the Johannesburg Action Plan.

The RoC and United Nations System has signied a new UNDAF 2014 – 2018. In this current UN Assistance Framework, the Axe 5: Balanced, supported and sustainable development and it related Outcome 5: By year 2018, the institutions and populations particularly women, applied sustainable environmental management policies which include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and output 2: The institutions and populations implement biodiversity conservation tools; provide adequate framework for this project. By supporting the Government to create the Loango Bay Marine Protected Areas and the marine turtle's observatory, the project will contribute significantly to the development and application of biodiversity conservation tools. Furthermore, the various training and awareness raising activities planned within this project will be opportunity for developing the capacity of national stateholders in the application of conservation measures.

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

N/A

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

The project is in line with the UNEP MTS 2014 – 2017 and particularly the Ecosystem Management Sub-Programme and Expected Accomplishment a) Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased.

This project lies also within the following areas recognized by GEF as areas where UNEP has a comparative advantage:

- Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers, notably by strengthening science-to-policy linkages and by strengthening environmental monitoring and assessment;
- Technical assistance and capacity building at country level, notably by strengthening technology assessment, by demonstration and through innovation, and also by directly developing capacity;
- Knowledge management, including through awareness raising and advocacy.

The project is consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the current UNEP Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013) and fits under the Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programs. UNEP's advantage also stems from competences developed during the recent implementation of the project: Developing a Generalizable Method for Assessing Vulnerability and Adaptation of Mangroves and Associated Ecosystems". This project had activities in Tanzania and Cameroon.

UNEP through Abidjan Convention, UNEP REDD+ programme and Regional Office for Africa is directly working with the Ministry in charge of marine in Republic of Congo and it has also recently establish a Sub-Regional Office in Abidjan. Several branches of UNEP and associated organizations will contribute to the design and implementation of the project, mainly the UNEP/DEPI Biodiversity Ecosystem Services Branch, UNEP Fresh Water and Marine Branch and Quality Assurance Section (QAS).

UNEP's is mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP's mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action. UNEP is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment. As such it is the only GEF Agency whose core business is the environment.

On Biodiversity, UNEP's work on ecosystem services through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an important building block for its work in the GEF. UNEP utilizes a unique combination of skills from its divisions of Environmental Policy Implementation, Trade, Industry and Economics and Environmental Assessment and its collaborating centre - WCMC producing a body of expertise on the subject of Ecosystem Services. It has developed partnerships with the GISP Secretariat, CABI and IUCN, important for dealing with the second highest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss, that of invasive species. Its' Regional Seas Programme, involving regional conventions and action plans, are important for UNEP's work in the GEF for identifying and managing networks of marine protected areas and fish refugia. UNEP has also assisted some 139 countries in developing national biosafety frameworks building on its experience in biosafety and is now assisting those countries to make such systems fully operational.

On cross-cutting capacity-building, UNEP's experience in assisting countries with environmental assessment and data management, environmental law and policy, compliance and enforcement, and working across conventions is important to its work in the GEF.

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

<u>The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers</u>

The Congo has 17 protected area: 4 national park (Nouabale Ndoki, Odzala-Kokoua, Conkouati Douli, Ntokou-Pikounda), one biosphere reserve (Dimonika), two gorilla sanctuaries (Lesio Louna and Lossi), one natural reserve (Tchipounga Chimpanzee Sanctuary), one community reserve (Lac Télé), four wildlife reserves (Tsoulou, Fouari Mount, Nyanga North, Lefini), one forest reserve (Patte d'oie), two game reserves (Mavoumbou Mount and Nyanga South) and one zone of cynegetic interest (Yengo-Mohali), covering a total of 4,353,500 ha or about 13% of the national territory. Only one protected area has a marine part: the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD). The marine part of the PNCD covers 120,000 ha.

Loango Bay Proposed MPA:

The Loango bay is located on the Atlantic Coast of Congo, 20 km north of Pointe Noire, the country's economic capital. This bay is bounded by Loango Cape to the south, also named 'Pointe Indienne', and the Kouilou river mouth to the north. Pointe Indienne is also the name of a part of the village of Loango located just behind the cape. Four villages, namely Pointe Indienne, Loango 2, Loango 1 and Matombiare included in the perimeter of the MPA proposal.

Population and socioeconomic activities: The project area includes 4 villages among which 3 are coastal (Pointe Indienne, Loango 2 and Matombi) and one (1) continental (Loango 1). The human population of the 4 villages is about 3,900. The socioeconomic activities of these population include (i) artisanal fishing which include fishermen (220 people), fish materials owners (125 people) and women who smoke fish; (ii) service guards for the resorts, touristic facilities and residence along coastal area; (iii) itinerant and subsistence agriculture; (iv) dry season agriculture; (v) non-timber forest products collection which generate around $2,000 per year for each person involved in this activity; (vi) livestock husbandry; and (vii) handicraft which is less practiced due to lack of promotion of the products. Artisanal fishing and the marine turtles concentrate in the rocky area of the sea which leads to a lot of accidental catching of the turtles. The estimated monthly cash for the artisanal fishing is 14,400 kg which generate about $72,000 of revenue from the direct selling of the fish. The designated area of artisanal fishing is officially set at the first 6 miles offshore. The agricultural activities concern 400 households in the project area with 1 ha of land per household each year. This leads to clearing of 400 ha of new land each year. It is estimated that the revenue generated by the farming is $250 per household per year.

The role of women: The socioeconomic analyse conducted during the PPG highlithed the women in the project area are more involved in fish smoking, collection of non timber forest product and commercialisation of agricultural products. The analysis revealed that the role of woment can be strengthen through the support to these activities bit also through promotion of their participation in tourism promotion, livestock production and support to dry farming which has great potential for income generation.

Geology and pedology of the of the project area -Geological formation of this part of the Kouilou region is a coastal sedimentary basin made of cretaceous strata covered with superficial sandy-clay formations. Quaternary deposits have occurred in the river and swamp beds. Under these coverage formations, exist cretaceous formations with marly limestones more or less bituminous. The continental platform is 60 km wide. Until 20 miles offshore, the coastal zone is characterized by sandy and rocky seagrounds exploited by artisanal and industrial fisheries. The first 6 miles of the continental shelf are reserved for artisanal fisheries (fishing law N°2-2000). Marine biotopes are rich and varied. According to Fontana (1981) it is made primarily of coral formations and cryptogam meadows (algae). The rocky point of the Pointe-Indienne consists of marine deposits of dolomitic sandstone belonging to the Loango formation also named Dolomite of Loango, from Turonian (~90-95 Ma) (upper Cretaceous). It is one of the few representatives of the cretaceous outcrop, witness of the oceanic phase of the Congo basin and of the creation of the Atlantic ocean when the Gondwana continent splitted into South America and Africa. Creataceous outcrop are visible at Mvassa, Pointe Indienne and Nkounda.

Biological productivity of the Pointe Indienne and Loango Bay -Apart from the rocky sea ground at the Pointe Indienne, the Loango bay is made of muddy and sandy/gravelly sea grounds with zone other small zone of outcropping rock plates. Turbidity, light and oxygenation conditions seem to vary widely according to the season. During the dry season/cold season, the light and oxygen are present only in the very shallow waters. Photosynthetic activities are restricted to the area very close to the coastline. Food chain are thus more relying on the circulating particles than the primary productivity from the benthos. During the wet/warm season the turbidity condition are far improved, dissolved oxygen and light make the primary production possible down to a depth of 15m.

Vegetation -The Loango bay hosts three majors types of vegetation in relation to the three geomorphological landscapes: i) forest patches in the hill areas; ii) a mix of sub littoral vegetation in the plain and plateau areas; iii) a halophilic vegetation fringe bordering the beaches. The savanna-forest mosaic in the hills exhibit three facies:

- relict marshy areas hosting *Saccoglotis gabonensis*, *Erythroxylon mannii*, *Carapa procea*, *Quassia Africana*, *Fegimanra africana*, *Erismadelphus exsul*, *Napoleonea vogeli* and *Symphonia globulifera*. This relic sector is located in lowland. Swamp forests related to brackish water are characterized by the high density of *Anthostema aubryanum*.
- Flooded wetlands bordering rivers and lakes and freshwater sector of lagoons. They are characterized by *Alstonia congensis*, *Uapaca heudelotti*, *Mitragyna stipulosa*, *Nauclea pobeguinii* and *Raphia* spp. Floodplains also host species such as *Berlinia bracteosa*, *B. grandiflora*, *Coelocaryon botryoides*, *Guilbourtia* spp. and *Sclerosperma manii*.
- A forest sector on land more representative of the savanna-forest mosaic. This sector belongs to the sublittoral forest made of Guttiferae and Sapotaceae. In this sector three main facies can be distinguished: the typical forest, the sparse transition forest with Marantaceae/Zingiberaceae and a facies with *Aucoumea klaineana*.

The sublittoral mix of vegetation cover the littoral plain and plateau sector. It host a potential forest vegetation made of small patches of trees. We can distinguish: a relict marshy type, a flooded wetland type, a mangrove with *Rhizophora racemosa*, *Avicenia nitida* and *Pandanus candelabrum*, and the relict littoral forest of which the best representative are in the Diosso cirques.

The narrow fringe of littoral halophilic vegetation is regularly bordering the beaches and is made of pretty degraded low littoral shrubs. They are characterized by the presence of *Dalbergia ecastaphyllum*, *Eugenia whytei*, *Ritchia littoralis*, *Ximenia americana*, *Manilcara obovata* and *Fegimanra africana* and *Phoenix vaginatum*. Between this assemblage and the Ocean lays a herbaceous vegetation made of *Ipomea prescaprae*, Paspalum vaginatum, *Cyperus* sp. and *Canavalia rosea*.
The Looango bay also host Coastal Thicket on white sand. This type of vegetation is made of trees and vines, forming a dense thicket from 2 to 8 m in height. Some trees reach up to 15m, such as *Euphorbia teke*, *Fegimanra africana* & *Tessmania dawei*. The understorey vegetation includes only a few plant species such as *Dracaena braunii*, with the exception of the thicket margins where several species are observed. Epiphytes are rare. Species are mainly represented by evergreen trees. The thickets extend up to 2.5 km inland and appears only on white sands, around 10 to 20 meters above the sea level. The distribution of many species is restricted to the host Coastal Thicket on white sand only. A high proportion of these species have High conservation value due to their scarcity.

Fish resources and biodiversity -153 fish species have been identified in the marine coastal waters of the Congo (Fontana, 1981): Small pelagic species essentially *Sardinella aurita*, *S. maderensis* & *Ethmalosa fimbriata*, and demersal fish species make up the bulk of the fish numbers. Various fish species and crustaceans are targeted by artisanal fisheries at the Pointe Indienne and Loango Bay. Other species are only passing by. Some of the species observed are classified on the IUCN red list (Table) (Girard 2014), primarily sharks and rays. These include:

- Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) (EN),
- Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) (EN),
- Smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*) (VU),
- Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) (VU, CITES Annexe II).
- African wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus luebberti*) (EN),
- Blackchin guitarfish (*Rhinobatos cemiculus*) (EN).
- Daisy Stingray (*Dasyatis margarita*) (EN).
- Pelagic Thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*) (VU).
- Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus)* (VU)

Published works have addressed some aspects of the fish resources (Fontana, 1981) and interactions of fisheries with endangered marine fauna (Girard, 2014). Note that oysters and mussels are naturally occurring within the area of interests. Oysters have been exploited in the past. Reasoned ostreiculture projects could be developed in the Loango bay.

Cetaceans -Different species of cetaceans may use the coastal waters included in the area of the project or pass through the bay:

- At least three species of dolphins: (i) The short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) (least concern according to the IUCN red list), (ii) the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) (least concern according to the IUCN red list) and (iii) the humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) (VU according to the IUCN red list). Residual populations of the latter are very rare and threatened along the coasts of Central Africa.
- Various species of whales, mainly seasonal, including the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) (VU, IUCN 2014).

Marine turtles -Congolese waters are occupied by different populations of marine turtles. Five of the seven world sea turtle species can be encountered in Loango bay waters:

- Two species reproduced in Congo coastal waters and nest on Congo's sandy beaches, namely Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).
- Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) occur in the waters and nests are sporadically recorded.
- Marine turtle feeding in nearshore waters mainly on rocky seagrounds: the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

A recent publication in peer reviewed journal confirm the importance of the Pointe Indienne feeding ground for green turtle (Girard 2013). Other sea turtle feeding grounds could exist on other rocky sea grounds along the coast of Congo: at Mvassa and Nkounda. These areas have not been assessed accurately until know but according to local knowledge the density of sea turtles is lower than at the Pointe Indienne. GPS Argos devices were used by Renatura on green turtles and hawksbill turtles

to track individuals and define their homeranges at 'Pointe-Indienne'. The tracking data analysis demonstrated that green turtle are relatively sedentary: The tracked individuals have stayed on the rocks and no individuals was observed moving away from the rocky sea ground during the study. Additionally, a recent tracking (26 Dec 2014 - 15 Jan 2015) of an adult green turtle exhibited the same homerange pattern.

Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) has changed recently (IUCN 2014) from Critically endangered to vulnerable. It does not affect the emergency to protect the area of Loango bay hosting 4 species of sea turtles: At the global scale, Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) are in critical danger of extension, Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) are in danger of extinction and Olive ridley turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea) and Leatherbacks turtles are vulnerable.

Note that IUCN status is based on global evaluation. If we consider the status of local sea turtle populations with genetic specificity or defined as clear sub-populations to be preserved in order to maintain biodiversity: olive Ridley turtle in Atlantic have been strongly decreasing during the past 20 years. Additionally, Hawksbill turtles in Central Africa have shown genetic specificity. It is urgent to prevent the extinction of this genetic uniqueness. The only known nesting cluster of the west African hawksbill is located in Sao Tome and Principe and hosts less than 100 nest per year with a decreasing trend. The hawksbill juveniles observed in Loango bay are thus of particular interest for the regeneration of this highly threatened subpopulation.

Terrestrial fauna -The most recent data on terrestrial fauna has been synthetized by Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire (1991). It consists of a compilation of the data available on this part of the Kouilou district. Data on the terrestrial fauna are also made available from some other piecemeal studies about butterflies, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Kouilou district may host approx. 60 species of mammals, 200 to 250 species of birds and about 50 species of reptiles. A collection of butterflies from 345 species has been described in the Bas-Kouilou area and in the Mayombe (Bampton et al., 1991). Those butterflies belong to 9 different families. One of the species *Pseudoneaveia jacksoni* (Lycaenidae) is endemic to the Congo. The most represented families are Lycaenidae (with 109 species) and Nymphalidae (with 139 species). Amphibians - 39 species of anuran amphibians have been collected in the Bas-Kouilou area (Largen & Dowsett-Lemaire, 1991). Most of them being forest dwelling amphibians even though many of them also use the herbaceaous landscape around the forest patches and savanna. *Dicroglossusoccipitalis, Ptycadenaanchietae*& *P. taenioscelis* are typically encountered in savanna landscapes. Lizards and snakes - Twelve species of lizards have been described belonging to Agamidae, Chamaeleondae, Cordylidae, Gekkonidae, Lacertidae, Scincidae and Varanidaen families. 25 species of snakes belonging to 5 families including Boideae: The African rock python (*Python sebae*), as well as numerous Colubridae representatives. Three species of Elapidaea have been observed, namely the water cobra (*Naja annulata*, formerly *Boulengerina annulata*), Jameson's mamba (*Dendroaspis jamesoni jamesoni*) and the forest cobra (*Naja melanoleuca*). Birds - 425 species pf birds have been identified from the Kouilou river mouth until the Mayumbe. Along a flora and fauna complexity gradient, the number of breeding species increase from shoreline shrubs to the coastal forests in cirques, and from the forest of coastal plains to the Mayumbe forests. 42 species have been found in the herbal savannas, the type of habitat representing the major part of the Loango bay inland park. Mammals - Various group of mammal species are encountered in this part of the Kouilou district. Some of them deserve particular attention such as the giant otter shrew (*Potamogale velox*, Insectivora), a semiaquatic, carnivorous tenrec. Primates and monkeys are also present as well as pottos and galagos. It seems that in the area of the project, due to the geographical proximity of the town of Pointe Noire, only small mammals still persist.

Aquatic fauna - Data on continental waters fauna and flora are primariliy issued from results of exploration of the lower section of the Kouilou river and some lakes in the surroundings (Teugels et al., 1991) and the lagoon complex in the Conkouati National Park (Mamonekene & Maloueki, 1997). Coastal small streams in the vicinity of Loango even though not very diversified, host a fish fauna characteristic of this part of the Congo. Marine species representatives are very frequent and wetland species with accessory aerial breathing such as *Clarias* spp, *Ctenopoma* spp, *Microctenopoma nanum & Parachanna insignis*.

Erosion phenomenon of the coastline. The company "SEAS Sarlu" was commissioned to build breakwaters disposals and rock fill structures. Nevertheless according to some international experts these disposals could impact strongly on the current littoral shape in the northern part of the Loango bay. To our knowledge no impact studies has been implemented to assess the impact of the breakwater/rock structure project.

Current management in the area of interest -No dedicated structure is currently managing activities in the project area. The artisanal fishing activities are done without any coordination. Most of the time fishermen are hired to go fishing and they do not own their own boats and fishing gear. The boat and gear owners are in small numbers, each of them owning several boats. Currently no structure is organizing the artisanal fishing activities in the Loango Bay. The fishing products processing

is minimal consisting in drying and smoking the fish. At Pointe-Indienne and in the Loango Bay, artisanal fishing is threatened by illegal industrial fishing. The national fishing zone is divided into two parts: (i) the first six miles offshore is , considered as reproduction zone for marine resources and is reserved for artisanal fishing; and (ii) thee exclusive economic zone (EEZ) used by industrial fishing vessels. For several years now, industrial trawlers have come to fish in the zone reserved for artisanal fishing, tearing away and destroying the dormant gillnets and reducing drastically the available marine resources. This illegal competition puts at risk the lives and livelihoods of small artisanal fisheries in Loango Bay. Since 2012, Rénatura has been developing a partnership with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministry (FAM) and the company Total E&P Congo to put in place surveillance and control patrols to enforce the fishing zones. Administrative accredited agents on board can control and in case of illegal practices or in case of non-compliance with the fishing regulation and zoning arrest suspects.

Loango MPA historical sites - The MPA project is located on an important historical site on several aspects: i) Loango bay was a slave trading post of regional importance, ii) Loango is the entry site of the first Catholic mission in Congo, iii) It is the cradle of the Vili culture and of the Mâ Loango Kindgom. During the slave trade, Loango bay was a trading post of regional importance along the Atlantic coasts of Africa. More than 2 million slaves originating from diverse areas corresponding to the current Angola, Southern Gabon, RoC, DRC and Chad were have been converging toward Loango bay. The ancient port of embarkation of Loangois is delimited to the south-east by the Pointe Indienne Cape, and to the North-West by the Matombi village. Transactions were taking place where the Kouilou Prefecture building now stands. Slaves walked along the mango tree walkway to access the berthing site where they boarded on ship's boat to join the slave ship waiting 30 km off the coast. The 'port of embarkation' site is housing historical remains which testify to the fate of millions African slaves:

- The stele which marks the spot of the slave market and the departure point of the caravans;
- The three mango trees related to the ritual of the 'forgetting tree': before departure the chained slaves walked around the tree 7 times for women and girls and 9 times for men to ensure that their soul will come back to Loango once dead;
- The berthing site - which was a mudflat - still exists in the form of dock.
- The slavery route to the place of embarkation that was planted on both sides with mango trees. The two tree rows materializing the slavery route still exist.

The President of RoC, Denis Sassou Nguesso has commitment to build a memorial on the Loango slavery route. Additionnally, the Loango cemetery is housing the graves of the first missionaries and it is highly threatened by erosion. Some of the graves have been destructed.

Loango bay is also the cultural center of the Vili culture and of the Mâ Loango kingdom which had 7 provinces in the past. A museum dedicated to the Loango kingdom history and to the Loango culture is located in the vicinity of the MPA project. The Loango ancient port of embarkation has been submitted by the RoC in 2008 on its UNESCO tentative list (http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5373/). The inclusion in the tentative list represents the first step in the UNESCO World Heritage Classification Process.

Application for the Biosphere reserve classification - The Loango bay has been proposed to become a biosphere reserve. During the Loango MPA stakeholder meeting held in November 2014, UNESCO representatives were present. They showed strong interest for the Loango MPA project and explained how the two processes could interact. Man and biosphere is a scientific programme, and has been in existence since 40 years and relies much to existence to Biosphere reserves. MAB can help the country to put in place the MPA. The MAB program put into practice the ecosystem resilience principle. Thus MAB opportunity could help to establish the MPA baseline. Central Africa has 13 biosphere reserves of which two are located in the Republic of Congo: Odzala and Domonika. The Loango bay MPA project meets many requirements for its classification as a biosphere reserve: mosaic of ecosystems, with a strong involvement of all the stakeholders in the process, socio-eco-systemic approach and hosting high biodiversity. Size of the Loango MPA is also appropriate to qualify for the Biosphere reserve status and the reserve would include not only marine part but also terrestrial areas. Given the economic activities in the area there are opportunities to apply sustainable development approaches. To reach this goal the strategy must be clear to assure that economic activities do not disturb the sustainability of the biological resources. The protection and enhancement of the historical slavery route is part of the UNESCO mandate and Congo included the site on the indicative list. Next step is to look for a way to insert the slavery route of Loango in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It will be then a strong asset for tourism development and a positive step toward the Biosphere reserve classification. Additionally, a biosphere reserve requires three level of zoning: i) The center/core of the reserve that is fully protected, ii) A buffer zone for scientific, education activities as well as other activities in conformity with the environment and wildlife protection objectives, iii) A peripheral zone dedicated to sustainable economic activities. According to the UNESCO representative the biodiversity

interest of the Loango bay requires to be further documented with robust inventories, in order to bring forward the real interest of the bay beyond sea turtles. Biosphere reserves are excellence sites where MAB program collects scientific data and where innovative governance modes are experimented, based on the improvement of local population livelihoods and natural resources management. The nomination dossier is submitted to the coordination council made up of representatives of member States and deciding if the candidate site has to be inserted in the Biosphere reserve list. The Biosphere reserves remain under the responsibility of the country. UNESCO does not take in charge of its management.

Threats to biodiversity in the target area:

Impact of fisheries on sea turtles: Accidental captures in fishing nets represent an important threat primarily to juvenile turtles feeding on the rocky sea ground (juvenile green and hawksbill turtles) and to adult turtles reproducing in the waters on the continental platform during the nesting season (adult males and females of Olive Ridley turtle and Leatherback turtle). These captures take place mainly in artisanal dormant gillnets. Commercial trawlers seem to have lower impact even though interaction between trawlers and sea turtles in Congo waters would need further assessment.

Increased coastal urbanization and industrialization: The Republic of Congo plans to create a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), including several mineral ports, in the Pointe-Noire Bay, stretching north from northern limit of Pointe Noire up to the southern limit of the Pointe-Indienne, close to the start of the rocky sea ground where sea turtles are feeding. The SEZ project addresses the expansion and development needs of the Pointe Noire town and its industrial activities. This SEZ project needs to be developed from a sustainable development perspective that does not pose direct threats to the Pointe Indienne and Loango Bay and its unique biodiversity. Further, land acquisition by industries inside the limits of the MPA represents a threat to the implementation of the MPA project.

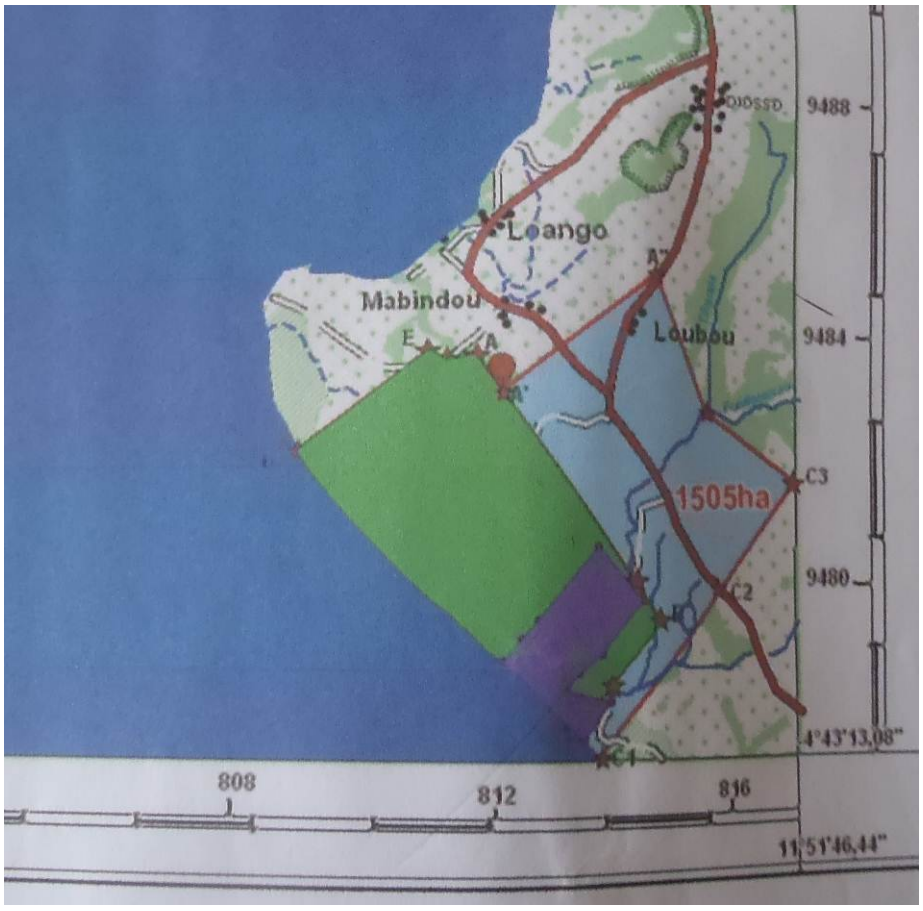

Figure 1: Layout Map of the planned Special Economic Zone

Overexploitation of the marine resources: According to data available (global data about fish stocks along Gabon, Congo and Angola coasts), stocks of demersal fishes are over-exploited while pelagic fishes are underexploited. Data obtained from

marine evaluation campaigns carried out by the vessel "DR FRIDJTJOF NANSEN" between 2008 and 2010 suggest a significant decrease of the fisheries resources in link with the increase of the number of the commercial trawlers fleet.

Erosion: Congo littoral is highly vulnerable and particularly sensitive to erosion. Its sensitivity is due to: i) the fragile structure of the soil; ii) hydrodynamic, climatic and anthropogenic phenomenon. Erosion phenomenon is intense in the Pointe noire Bay and in the Loango Bay. It started in the 1960's and has increased in during the 1970's in the Loango Bay. It has led to the destruction of a 300m-long dune ridge that was isolating a 100m-width lagoon existing in the bottom of the bay until the end of the 1950's- early 1960's. Between 1973 and 1974, erosion excelerated to cause a coastal retreat of 3 to 5 m per week during the dry season (Makaya JF, 1988). At some locations, erosion is responsible for important socio-economical impact such as habitat destruction, fishing berth destruction, and disappearance of agricultural land, cemeteries, and fishing areas. Currently, the erosion phenomenon in the Loango bay leads to beaches replaced by cliffs and it is menacing the National Road n°5 connecting Pointe Noire to the Kouilou District. The current data on the erosion phenomenon in the Loango bay states that the coastal retreat speed lays between 1,16 meter and 1,41 meter/month according to A Kitsoukou (1992) and 1,5 to 2 m/month according to Makaya (1994) and Batchy (2003).

Pollution: During the past few years, several small-scale oil discharges have been observed along the Congo coastline and particularly on the rocks of Pointe Indienne and in the Loango bay. A larger scale oilspill has been recorded from Sept. 2013 until early 2014. The deposition of crude oil and tar on the rocks and sea ground had deep impacts on food chain and environment. The exact cause of the oil spill has still to be established.

The baseline scenario and associated projects

The Government of Republic of Congo national investments on Protected Area: The GoRC has decided to make investment in PA creation and management as cofinacing to this project. The Government through the Ministry in charge of PA will provide national budget allocation worth $2.1 milliom to support the PA creation and management. This commitment is materialized by iner alia the creation of Congo Foundation of Protected Areas and Wildlife. The Government investment in the MPA has started to be materialised during the PPG phase as the whole expenses related to the inception of the preparatory was supported by the national Government.

Renatura sea turtle monitoring program: Since 2003, Renatura is implementing a sea turtle conservation program including four components:

- For more than 12 years, Renatura has been monitoring sea turtle nesting activities along the Atlantic coast of RoC from the Cabinda frontier up to the southern limit of the Conkouati-Douli National Park (a complex of beaches stretching for 110km). The Renatura monitoring program includes counting of sea turtle nests and tracks and incubation follow-up. Data have been used to produce mid-term nesting trends for the monitoring area. The sandy beaches stretching in the Loango bay are included in the Renatura monitoring. Field technicians doing the monitoring can dissuade poachers from harvesting the nests or killing the nesting female through dialogue and awareness but they have no power of law enforcement.
- Since 2005, a specific field program was launched to address the issue of sea turtle incidental catches in artisanal fishing gears. Every year since 2005, thousands (1,000 to 3,000 a year) sea turtle by-catches are observed along the coasts of Congo. The major part of the by-catches observed occurs in dormant gillnets and primarily at the Pointe Indienne Cape, in the Loango bay. The by-catch release program is based on an agreement with artisanal fisheries to get the release of sea turtles entangled in fishing nets in turn for non-monetary compensation (wire bobbins are given to fix the net damaged by the release). This program leads to the release of thousands of sea turtles every year, 80% of which take place at the Pointe Indienne. The capture and recapture data collected through this program, together with the sea turtle satellite tracking made it possible to identify and characterize the importance of the Pointe Indienne rocky sea grounds as a feeding ground for sea turtles.

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WCS-Conkouati sea turtle monitoring program: Since 1999, WCS, together with the Congo government, is in charge of the management of the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD). The wildlife monitoring in PNCD includes a sea turtle program. Every year during the nesting season (September-March) field teams are monitoring sea turtles along the sandy beaches of the PNCD (a 60km-long stretch of beach). Field teams ensure the protection of nesting females and nests and collect field data that are then stored at the Conkouati Base Camp and recorded into a local database. WCS-Conkouati also launched a sea turtle by-catch release program to address the issue of incidental catches of sea turtles in traditional fishing gears. Additionnaly, WCS owns its own boat to patrol at sea and ensure law and zoning enforcement within the boundaries of the marine part of the PNCD. The WCS contribution to the GEF project is estimated at $10,000.

Tchimpunga chimpanzee sanctuary and natural reserve project: The international NGO 'Jane Goodall Institute' and the

Congo government are managing a chimpanzee sanctuary located north to the Loango Bay, in Tchimpunga. A management plan for the natural reserve is in the process of being drawn up and the stakeholder consultation phase is in progress. The Tchimpunga conservation program includes a strong environmental education/awareness component implemented by a well-trained education and awareness team.

Integrated management of mangrove project supported by FAO: A project of integrated management of mangrove, associated wetland and coastal forest ecosystem in RoC is implemented by the Directorate-General of the Forest Economy (DGEF), in cooperation with the Directorate-General of the Environment (DGE), and other partners, and the technical support of FAO. The project, planned to run over three years, aim at reinforcing the protection and reducing the degradation of these biotopes by supporting cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation within an established national framework and in helping local communities to reorient their economical activities enhancing their livelihood and contributing to the biodiversity conservation. The main goal of the project is to reduce and prevent mangrove degradation, including wetland mangrove associated with coastal forest ecosystems through reinforcement of cross-sectoral cooperation and involvement of local communities. It includes: i) the establishment of an enabling institutional legal framework to ensure the sustainable management of mangroves; ii) the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of mangrove ecosystems; iii) the elaboration of management plan and rehabilitation plans for mangrove and coastal forest ecosystems; and iv) the commitment of local communities in the management plan implementation. At the national level, the project includes activities aiming at building and implementing a strategy to protect mangrove ecosystems. It will be supported by the reinforcement of the environment surveillance capacities, the creation and dissemination of better information on mangrove ecosystems and improvement of cross sectoral dialogue mechanisms. On the littoral, two coastal sites have been chosen to prepare and implement sustainable management plans of the mangroves: in Malonda (Louemé lagoon, 10km south of Pointe Noire) and the Kouilou river mouth (north of Loango bay).

Special Economic Zone is planned in the Baie of Pointe Noire just south of Pointe Indienne Cape -The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Pointe-Noire covers an area of 3150 hectares. Feasibility studies of the special economic zone of Pointe-Noire, made by the firm JURONG Singapore are still ongoing. Actors of SEZ are the Ministry in charge of the Special Economic Zones, the Departmental Directorate of the Pointe Noire Special Economic Zone in charge of the SEZ management, and the private operatorswhich are likely to establish in the SEZ:Bos Congo, Cominco, Congo Minig, DMC Iron, Exxaro, Luyan des Mines, MPC Mag Minerals Potasse, MPD. Interests of these companies are being represented by an employers' union named UNICONGO.

Fishing activities – Artisanal and industrial fishing comprise the primary income generating activities in the project area. Loango bay and particularly Pointe Indienne Cape, is home to the Congo's largest artisanal fishing community, with 220 fishermen and 125 owners of fishing materials and equipments. Three groups of actors are involved in this activity: the fishermen, the owners of fishing gears, pirogues and outboard motors, and the women in charge of the fish processing and selling. The owners of the fishing gear and materials recruit the fishermen to perform the fishing activities. The fishermen collect 60% of the income generated by selling of the fishing products while the owners keep 40% of the income in turn for the rental of the equipment, materials and gear (40% for the fishermen 60% for the owner when the equipment include an outboard engine). Artisanal fishermen at Loango Bay are not organized in trade union nevertheless at least two fishermen associations exist: **Association pour l'Autopromotion des Initiatives communautaires de Pêche (AICP)** representing the artisanal fishing boat bosses and **Association des Patrons-Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Congo (APPAC)** an organization younger than the previous one, active in the area of the project and representing the owners of artisanal fishing boat and gear. Fishing boats and gear in Loango bay count approx. 200 pirogues (mostly non-motorized) and 1,200 gilnets. Several fishing techniques are used but the most frequent are bottom and surface dormant gillnets; there are the beach sennes, drifting nets, lines and hooks, and the trays for the seasonal fishing of sardinellas.

Industrial fisheries operating inside or in the vicinity of the project area are: AGIMEX, HARRIS, Lulu, NDJIRI Pêche, PEMACO, Rong Shang, SOCOGAP, SOPEM, SO.CO.PEC.

There are **conflicts over resource** use between artisanal fisheries and industriel fisheries in the area of the project. Industrial fishing in the first six miles of coastal waters is strictly forbidden by the law. This zone of shallow water is reserved for artisanal fishing. Industrial trawlers are frequently observed within the first six miles and some of them have been arrested and fined thanks to the patrols jointly organized by the Fishery Ministery, Renatura and Total E&P.

Fishing activities' management and control are under the responsibility of the Departmental Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture. A local NGO the "Matombi Association for Sustainable Development" (AMDD) is developing activities related to health, education, sport and culture as well as income generating activities to support sustainable development of the coastal population in Matombi.

Several hotels and restaurants are located is the area of the project: Aquaclub restaurant, 'La bonne Franquette' restaurant, 'Relais du Kouilou' hotel and restaurant. Nevertheless tourist activity is at a fairly low level. The monastery of the Visitation established in the area of the project is maintaining the first evangelisation site of Central Africa and the Loango cemetery. Cultural and historical sites are under the responsibility of the Kouilou Departmental Directorate of Art and Culture.

A breakwater project has been initiated to fight against erosion in the Loango Bay. The breakwater project is implemented by the company SARLU. Recognizing the importance of fighting against the destruction of the graves by erosions in the Loango cemetery, the Monastery of the Visitation decided to support the breakwater project by providing land to host the breakwater project base camp. Despite the national experts' investigation during the preparation phase of the Loango MPA project, it has not been possible to find the Environmental and Social Assessment of the breakwater project.

The UNEP/GEF BD FSP "Creation of Conkouati Dimonika PA Complex and Development of Community Private Sector Participation Model to Enhance PA Management Effectiveness"**:** The creation of the Conkouati-Dimonika PA complex is a project implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the RoC (Project executing partner) and funded by GEF. The project objective is to ensure biodiversity conservation and management effectiveness through creation of PA complex and implementation of communities and private sector participation model. The project will be implemented as the Congo component of transboundary Mayombe PA complex. Sites identified as components of the complex are the Conkouati-Douli National Park, the Biosphere Reserve of Dimonika and the Natural Reserve of Tchimpounga, and the N'Tombo area (currently under forestry concession) and the Kakamoueka corridor.

Ongong or planned investment in support project objectives (Cofinancing) include:

a. The Government of the Republic of Congo (GoRC) cofinancing: $2,100,000.

The Government of Republic of Congo national investments on Protected Area: As indicated at PIF stage and now confirmed with a cofinacing letter from the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development, the Government financing include the support to the sea turtle Focal Point which has been nominated but also the Ecogards who are working along the coastline inside the Conkouati National Park to enforce the regulation protecting wildlife and sea turtles. The Government in the framework of this project has also commited to invest cash cofinacing of **$2,100,000. This investment will cover:**

- The salaries of National Project Director, who will be seconded to the project
- Purchase of vehicles which will be used for the project field work/missions
- Rehabilitation and handing over to project team of offices of the former Tropical Forestry Technical Centre (CTFT)
- Office equipment
- Technical and administrative support to project activities
- Establishment of the Observatory and appointment of technical scientific staff

This investment will support all the project components.

b. The NGO – Renatura sea turtle monitoring program: $500,000.

Renatura is addressing the issue of sea turtle by-catch due to industrial fisheries thanks to a program involving the Congo government, the private sector and the civil society. A joint action has been built involving the Congo Fishery and Aquaculture Ministry, Total E&P and Renatura to implement at sea surveillance patrols. The patrols are done twice a week to check the compliance with the law of industrial fishing vessels and to enforce fishing zoning. The Loango bay and most particularly Pointe Indienne is an area of conflict between artisanal fisheries and industrial fisheries. Furthermore, Renatura is implementing an education program for kids and youth in coastal villages and in the town of Pointe Noire, as well as awareness programs for adults in the Kouilou region. These Renatura investement worth $500,000 will support the implementation of component 2 of this UNEP/GEF Project.

c. NGO WCS-Conkouati sea turtle monitoring program: $10,000

WCS Investment in project area and which will contribute to both project components include:

- Wildlife monitoring in Conkouati-Dimnica National Park (PNCD) which includes a sea turtle program
- Protection of nesting females and nests and collection of field data that are then stored at the Conkouati Base Camp and recorded into a local database.
- Sea turtle by-catch release program to address the issue of incidental catches of sea turtles in traditional fishing gears
- Patrol at sea and ensure law and zoning enforcement within the boundaries of the marine part of the PNCD

d. UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program: $20,000

The GoRC has requested UNESCO to consider the Loango Bay as a World Heritage site. The discussions with Government are ongoing and UNESCO has been participating to the PPG process. One of the outcomes of this partnership is that UNESCO recommended that due to the biodiversity richness particularly the marine turtles, the site be included as candidate for both Man and Biosphere and World Heritage Site. UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program has commited to provide technical assistance to help the country meet the requirement for the nomination process. The inscription of this site as UNESCO site will be a huge opportunity for the tourism which is planned to be promoted within this project and the income from the ecotourism will support the conservation efforts.

e. **National NGO Reseau Development Humain Durable (RDHD): $5,000 in-kind**. This NGO is very active at local level and they have been participing to the PPG process. The NGO is commited to support the awareness raising campaign for the creation of MPA and conservation of the rich biodiversity of the site.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

In general terms, the approach of the project remains as proposed in the PIF with the same major Components. That said, the detailed incremental / additional cost reasoning for the project, and the sub-components have been adapted to the more in-depth analysis of the baseline situation that has been possible with the PPG, in particular the identification of synergies and partners for the Project Area that was not programmed at the time that the PIF was prepared, and a rationalisation of proposed activities to fit with the limited budget.

The GEF alternative scenario: The gender consideration will be finetune by a comprehensive gender analysis study in the year 1 targetting particularly how gender considereation will be ensured in the implementation of anticipated project activities. The recommendation of the study will guide gender consideration in all project activities. While the study on "Gender consideration in the context of the MPA" will be conducted as a practice to raise the profile of GEF and UNEP policies on Gender consideration, some of the project activities already foreseen in the project will have implication on gender. More specifically, in line with Component 3, output 3.5 described bellow, the project will support :

- Conservation of fishing zones which contribute to the sustainability of fishing activities which employ a large number of women in the project area either at marketing stage of fish conservation process
- Support to the organization of the traditional fishing activities which will ensure that adequate revenues will go to the women
- Provisions to women of fish smoking stoves to reduce pressure on natural resources and at the same time provide mean for alternative livelihood for women
- Support alternative livelihood activities involving women. These activities will include gardening, animal husbandry, poultry production, small enterprises like sewing, small restaurants establishment, etc.

Component 1: Creation of the Marine Protected Area

With the exception of the Marine part of the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD) (120,000 ha), the Republic of Congo has no Marine Protected Area. During the 4th Protected Area National Workshop, the first recommendation of the working groups towards the Forest Economy Ministry and RAPAC was the creation of a Marine Protected Area. The government of the RoC has expressed its will to create a marine protected area to strengthen and complement its protected area network and in reponse to its commitment towards international conventions. The Congo coastline stretches for 170 km, 60km being included in the PNCD. Several rocky sea grounds are distributed along the coastline: at Mvassa (South of Pointe Noire), Pointe Indienne Cape (Loango Bay) and Nkounda Cape (included in the PNCD). It has been demonstrated that the rocky sea ground of the Pointe Indienne- Loango bay is a feeding ground hosting thousands of green turtles mostly juvenile and some

hawksbill turtles all along the year. Loango bay is also housing several historical sites of international standing which are not well promoted, poorly maintained and threatened by coastal erosion: the slavery embarkation port, the slavery route, the Loango cemetery and the first evangelization site of Central Africa. The site has been proposed for UNESCO World Heritage classification, it is currently on the inventory list of the RoC. Natural resources are not properly managed in the Loango bay, both at sea and on land. The fishing practices in the Loango bay are not sustainable and the sea turtle by-catch rate by artisanal fisheries is tremendously high (thousands of turtles every year). The wildlife fauna and flora studies available are addressing biodiversity at the Kouilou region level, the biodiversity has not been specifically assessed in the Loango bay. Some results suggest the existence of rare plant assemblage on land including highly threatened flora species and interesting/rare benthic wildlife including rare gorgons and corals. The Loango bay and particularly the Pointe Indienne Cape are threatened by the industrial development (Economic Special Zone just South of Pointe Indienne in the Pointe Noire bay) and the running urbanization of Pointe Noire, and frequent oil spill (tar) incidents. Additionally, Loango bay is an area of conflicts over resource use between artisanal fisheries and industriel fisheries in the area of the project. Industrial trawlers are frequently observed within the first six miles reserved for artisanal fishing.

The GEF Loango MPA project will provide a comprehensive framework for the creation of a marine protected area at Loango bay, including Pointe Indienne: the stakeholders' consultation and cross sectoral dialogue will ensure their consent and early involvement. Consultation and early invovlment of the stakeholders will allow for the elaboration of appropriate MPA legal frame, management and governance scheme to suit the local context. Funding mechanisms will be drawn up upon dialogues with private sector operating in or in the vicinity of the projet (hotels and restaurants, tourist operators, mining and gas industries settled in the nearby SEZ, fisheries). Discussions will be reopened on the appropriate solution to fight against coastal erosion in a sustainable way.

Baseline complementary studies including wildlife fauna and flora inventories will be implemented in the Loango bay both on land and at sea to further characterized the landscape and flora assemblages, to detect other threatened and rare flora and fauna species occuring in the area of the project, and to establish the final boundaries of the MPA. A management plan will be elaborated based on the results of inventories and on the stakeholder consultations, including MPA delineation, as well as a community based MPA management and governance scheme. The appropriate legal status for the MPA will be decided upon stakeholders and expert consultations and the Loango MPA creation decree will be drawn up and proposed for promulgation. In parallel, the UNESCO world heritage dossier will be complemented to apply for the Biosphere Reserve classification.

Outcome 1: Enabling Legal, institutional, technical and participative frameworks for the creation of Marine Protected Area

Since the PIF, the national experts' consultation provided a more detailed analysis of the steps of the creation of the MPA.

Road map of the creation of the MPA**:** According to the national law on fauna and protected area, the Marine Protected Area (MPA) is included in the definition of the protected area. The MPA creation is thus governed by this law and subsequent texts. The initiative can originate from either the communities/local population or from the State, which is the case for the Loango Bay MPA. Note that whoever the instigator may be, scientific studies and researches are the key elements triggering the creation initiative.

In the case of the Loango bay MPA, the creation road map will be implemented in conformity with the national laws, international standards and commitments made by the Republic of Congo, in particular toward Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, etc. At the national scale, the road map of the MPA creation includes the following steps: (i) The official launch of the MPA creation project (decision of the State following well documented scientific studies), (ii) The official launch of the project took place on 22 July 2014 at the Prefecture of the Kouilou District, (iii) The Management Plan establishing the studies and work in time and space to be implemented in the protected area. The management plan elaboration is intricated with the protected area classification process. The MP elaboration and approbation is required before the classification decision by the State. This timeline is a requirement from international standards and convention such as the two conventions mentioned above, (iv) The implementation of comprehensive studies of impacts according to the legislation in force. It is a prerequisite laid down in Article 8 of the Law n°37-2008 (28 Nov 2008) on the fauna and protected areas, (v) The protected area classification which is a participative process laid in the laws and subsequent texts (Law n°16-2000 of 20 November 2000, Article 23. Law n°.003/91 of 23 April 1991 for the protection of the environment, Article 11. Law n°37-2008 of 28 November 2008 on wildlife and protected area Article 8 al 2, Article 24 al 1. Order n° 6509/MET/MATD specifying the modalities under which forest may be classified and declassified), (vi) The classification decree as a result of the classification process. It is the act by which the measures taken with general agreement during the MPA creation process become enforceable and applicable to all. It legislatively acknowledged the status of protected area to the area concerned. The

GEF Loango MPA Project will make it possible to develop the legal, institutional, technical and participative framework enabling the creation of the Marine Protected Area in the Loango bay.

Output 1.1: Thorough stakeholders (local communities, private sectors, Government institutions, NGO, etc.) consultation conducted to agree on the creation, location and responsibilities.

Since the PIF, The project was initiated with early consultation of all the stakeholders, in order to secure a successful partnership.

In the framework of the preparation phase of the project, the Congo government looked for solution to generate interest and wide participation of all the Loango Bay MPA project stakeholders. The Official launch of the MPA project took place in Pointe Noire in July 2014. Besides, Meetings were organized on 4 and 5 November 2014 involving a large diversity of stakeholders: managers of the private sectors, representatives of the agencies of the UN system (UNESCO, PNUE PNUD and FAO), government and administration representatives, as well as representatives of the NGO involved in the sea turtle conservation and the Loango bay MPA project, especially Renatura but also WCS and JGI. Additionally, a roundtable was organized on Nov 5. The government side gave the opportunity to private sector representatives to get involved in the MPA creation process. At the end of the exchanges, the organizer suggested the idea to work on mechanisms to ensure the durability of the project. Solutions were proposed to support the action and for the activities currently implemented by local population and fishermen communities, occurring in the Loango Bay.The meeting revealed that the private sector is willing to get involved in the process. *Operational phase:* The GEF will fund regular consultation meetings during the MPA Management Plan elaboration process to ensure: i) social impacts of the PA Management are properly addressed, ii) local understanding and acceptance of the proposed options particularly legal status options, iii) participatory management and use schemes within the MP, iv) discussion and validation of the zoning of the areas under different level of protection, v) involvement of all stakeholders particularly coastal communities in the governance. Financing mechanism will be further defined and roundtables will be organized with private sector to ensure understanding and acceptance.

Key indicators and deliverables will include:

- Meetings organized and held at every important step of the MP elaboration process: at least one stakeholder consultation meeting every six months to check for the compliance of the MP proposals with the needs and its acceptance among local communities and civil society.
- Stakeholder consultation meeting reports
- Written agreements showing the acceptance of the MPA MP proposals at every step of the MP elaboration process: including acceptance of the MPA boundaries, protection zoning, legal status and governance scheme.

Output 1.2: Baseline information/data on ecological, biological resources status, socioeconomic situation and investment opportunities, established

Except for marine turtles, baseline data available at the end of the preparation phase are not sufficient to feed the MPA creation process. In depth review of the literature gave an insight of biodiversity at the scale of the Kouilou District nevertheless none of the inventories available specifically targeted the Loango Bay and its vicinity. The GEF Loango MPA project will allow to establish a more comprehensive list of threatened fauna and flora species occurring in the area of the project – both in the marine part and the terrestrial part. The MPA baseline study will also include further characterization of the sea ground landscape and benthic diversity in the candidate zone in relation with sea turtle feeding resources, as well as measurement of the baseline level of pollutants in the coastal waters, sea ground, land soil and food chains. Part of these data may be gathered from nearby industrial project and collected in synergy with impact studies carried out in the nearby ZES. Mapping of the area of particular interest (high biodiversity spots, rare flora or fauna, particular landscape, geological formation) will be produced to feed the choice of the MPA boundaries and protection level according to the zone within the MP process. Complementary studies will rely on the existing national network of academic institutions (Rural Development insititute, Marien Ngouabi University), scientific and research institutes (IRD, IRSEN, ENSAF, Marien Ngouabi Schools of Life Sciences and Engineering, etc.), industry and administrative authorities (Ministry of Scientific Research). For the necessary field data collection, use will be made of the local NGO field staff.

The GEF will fund the wildlife and fauna inventory studies which will include:

- Constitution of the national scientific team made of national experts, academics, trainees and local field staff;
- International expert work to supervise the inventory studies, validate the filed protocols for inventory purpose, define

the scope of inventories;
- Field data collection campaigns by trainees and local field team under the supervision of national academics;
- National reporting synthetizing the result complemented by international experts.

Additionally, a technical support may be obtained from the French Marine Protected Agency. The National French Strategy for MPA Creation (2012) states that one of its objectives is to provide support and expertise to encourage and boost the MPA creation abroad. This opportunity of support and expertise will be further explored.

Key indicators and deliverables will include:
- Inventory results and reports with list of species, their level of endemism and IUCN red list status, some abundance indexes when possible for the species of particular interest;
- Mapping of the area of particular interest for flora and fauna conservation;
- Publication of the results in scientific journals.

Complementary studies, wildlife inventory program and partners
The national expert consultation provides further recommendations ad information related to the baseline inventory work to be done on wildlife and flora in the MPA candidate area. Line transects and quadrats as well as other appropriate methods will be implemented to determine more precisely the richness of inland (terrestrial and aquatic) and marine fauna and flora.
National skill and expertise to take advantage of:
Several partners may be usefully mobilized in this inventory task. National Academics and Researchers (IRD, etc.) will be involved in marine fauna and flora surveys with the logistical support of Renatura. Tim Collins (WCS) may advise/supervise the whales and dolphins'inventoryin the Loango bay. Jérome Mokoko (WCS) will supervise the bird inventories, Victor Mamonekene from IDR will lead the ichthyological inventories. Given the occurrence of shark and ray species in the Loango bay, the consultation of an international shark and rays expert is highly advisable: for instance Alec Moore, Regional Vice Chair at IUCN Shark Specialist group.

Complementary information to add to the MPA baseline

Data available from the coastal industrial project impact studies in the nearby Special Economic Zone will be gathered and included to complement the baseline studies. Terrestrial landscape and sea grounds should be thoroughly described including information on the nearby sandy banks and shoals ("banc du Mulet", "banc du Conflit") in order to be able to discuss the possibility and interest to include these spots inside the MPA boundaries. Rare species of corals and gorgona have been identified during impact studies of the mineral port projects in the vicinity of Loango bay. It is thus of importance to develop an accurate inventory of benthic fauna and flora existing at Pointe-Indienne, in the Loango bay and on the nearby shoals. Baseline studies will also include an evaluation of the current level of chemical pollutants in the environment (oil by-products and heavy metal) and an assessment of the marine and terrestrial water quality, including measurements of:
- Concentration of heavy metals,
- Concentration of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and other polycyclic aromatic (PAC) compounds
- pH and conductivity
- Salt concentration
- Major ions concentrations: Ca, K, Na, Mg

A baseline assessment of the degree of coverage of rocky sea ground by tar will be added.

Output 1.3: Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plan (Definition of the management plan, assessment of technical and capacity needs, human resources need, determination of the necessary boundaries, regulatory framework dissemination) developed and governance structure established

The Loango bay is a populated area and the largest part of the artisanal fishing activity of the Congo's coastlineis concentrated within it. The only existing natural resource management is based on the traditional systems. Loango bay is also a geographical area of resource use conflict between industrial and artisanal fisheries.The development of the neaby ESZ and the urbanization of Pointe Noire are putting additional pressure on the area. The Loango bay is on the inventory list of the UNESCO World Heritage Program.

The GEF Project will allow for establishing a Management Plan (MP): (i) in coherence with the ESZ and Pointe Noire development plans, ii) including the delimitation of MPA boundaries including the major spots of biodiversity based on thorough inventories, and iii) including a governance mechanisms involving the local community. The early commitment of all sectors (civil society, private sectors, local community, government and international institutions) will allow for innovative

management reconciling environmental, social and economic concerns.The GEF project will enhance the cross-Ministerial dialogues to ensure the harmonious development of concomitant projects. It will also improve the situation toward social concerns by ensuring the strict enforcement of the zoning. It will therefore protect artisanal fisheries interests. All the information made available for the Loango Bay MPA Management Plan as well as the establishement of the MP by itself will feed and support the UNESCO World Heritage and Biosphere reserve application.

GEF will fund:

- The expert work to design a MP draft for the MPA and the governance scheme and the complementary studies that may be needed to design the Management Plan;
- The meeting to discuss and adapt the MP mapping and participatory scheme along the MP elaboration process (as part of the Output 1.1.);
- The necessary capacity building and information sharing meeting all along the MPA MP process;
- The validation and acceptance of the MPA MP by stakeholders.

Key indicators and deliverables will include:

- The Management Plan drafts at different stages of the MP elaboration process;
- The governance scheme established and validated by stakeholders;
- Final boundaries of the MPA based on inventories and consultations and validated by stakeholders.

The MPA MP elaboration process could benefit both technically and financially from a strong collaboration between the MPA project and the Man and Biosphere Program of the UNESCO.

MPA delimitation proposal

The national experts' consultation has resulted in a raw/rough delimitation proposal of the future MPA (Appendix 2.). It covers an area of approximately 3,000 ha and it is bounded by:

- Northerly the river named "red river" bordering the Matombi village;
- Southerly a buffer zone separating the MPA from the Special Economic Zone;
- Easterly the track that connects the Pointe Indienne Village and the Mabindou Village until its intersection with the National Road 3 the border then follow the National Road until the Matombi Village;
- Westerly a parallel starting from the red river and entering into the ocean until the 6 miles limit;
- From the intersection of the last parallel with the 6 miles limit the MPA area will be closed by designing another parallel oriented South until the southern limit of the MPA.

It represents a first step to be refined at later stages based on:

- Discussion with the local stakeholders
- Results of landscape, wildlife, flora inventories.
- Requirements related to the legal status that will be finally selected for the MPA.

This first delimitation proposal will undergo more indepth studies and consultation during the operational phase of the project.

The marine part of the MPA delimitation proposal covers the homeranges of the green turtles (n=3) and hawksbill turtles (n=2) that have been tracked by Renatura thanks to GPS-Argos platform (Appendix 1). Nevertheless another option could be to extend the MPA to the entire rocky sea ground stretching at pointe Indienne and representing an area of high biodiversity (Appendix 2, MPA proposal option 2). The extended MPA option covers an area of approximately 6,000 ha.

Should the UNESCO Biosphere scenario be selected, a three level zoning will have to be proposed with:

- A center zone with no activities, fully protected;
- A buffer zone where activities are in conformity with the environment and wildlife protection objectives;
- A peripheral zone dedicated to sustainable economic activities.

Each area will be delimited taking into account the results of fauna and flora and landscape inventories as well as results from socio-economical studies.

Management scheme built upon stakeholders consultation and based community involvement

The management plan of the MPA will have to take into account the interest of the diverse stakeholders. Reconciling

economical growth and social rights and protection of the environment. According to the preliminary studies done so far, the best option would be to classified the Loango Bay and Pointe-Indienne as a community based marine protected area, registered in the list of the Biosphere reserve, and benefited from the UNESCO status of “Man and Biosphere” or “World heritage” site.

This management mode requires a real involvement and empowerment of local stakeholders. In addition to the fund provided by the Congo government, the MPA activities could by partly self-financed by developing the natural and historical tourist assets of the Loango Bay and by the implementation of a fiduciary fund involving partners from the private sector. It will make sense to include in the management plan a community based management of the artisanal fishing activities supplemented by a reinforced control of the zoning of fishing areas. Artisanal fishermen will benefit from a better zoning enforcement since illegal incursions of industrial boats in the artisanal zone are currently frequent. An efficient resource management may lead to a regeneration of marine resource beneficial to the local fishing community. The NGO Renatura jointly with the Aquaculture and Fishery Ministry already put into force patrol in the area of the project in order to enforce the zoning of fishing areas and control industrial fisheries practices and vessels. The patrolling means may be reinforced to ensure the control of the MPA and to prevent illegal industrial fishing. Two associations of fishermen have been identified in the area. They may get involved in the structuration of the fishing community to develop leadership to represent and defend the interest of the fishing community and smooth the consultation process as well as the management of the resource. Marine resources exploitation will take into account the environmental issues and the need for sustainable management. It seems advisable that only marine resources are exploited and only by the traditional fishing community. Recreational fishing could be organized under the condition it is controlled and surveyed. A certain amount will be paid in exchange for the right to practice recreational fishing.

The management plan will also include a compensation scheme to balance the constraints and restrictions related to the MPA. It will be done through the development of alternative livelihood activities such as handicraft, ecotour guides, etc. The minimal fishing products processing consisting in drying and smoking the fish could benefit from improved tools, materials and processes in order to reduce the arduous nature of work, improve significantly the sanitary conditions and the quality of the final products and thus its commercial value. Governance ensuring a good balance and empowering the local community in the decision scheme will be refined together with all the stakeholders at the start of the operational phase of the project. Destruction of the plant cover in the terrestrial part of the MPA will be avoided by explicitly prohibit cutting trees and selling charcoal from relictual natural forest located in the cirques. Compensation measures will be designed to balance this restriction. Additionally, the Management plan will assess different options in order to reduce interaction between sea turtle and artisanal fisheries: seasonal restriction of the fishing activities (area restriction, type of gears, mating period). The use of fishing gears proven to reduce the by-catch risk will be encouraged. Full protection of the rocky sea ground all along the year. Options will be discussed with stakeholders and appropriate compensation measures will be implemented. MPA MP may include additional fishing restriction concerning other threatened marine resources based on baseline wildlife and flora studies. Other activities such as sand mining may be regulated inside the MPA.

Specific issues to address in the Management Plan

Natural habitats to be managed and preserved include not only the coastal marine habitat but also the terrestrial part of the MPA. Conservation measures will thus be oriented toward these two. For the marine habitat, the conservation measure will for instance include the control of any potential disturbance with possible negative impact on waters, sea grounds, benthic and pelagic fauna and flora. Pollution risk from any origin will need to be prevented or at least reduced. In case of oil spill, an emergency plan will be designed to reduce its impact. To avoid collision and injury to marine turtles, number, speed and location of motorized boat will be controlled and only recreational boat and artisanal fishing embarkation will be allowed inside the MPA boundaries. Industrial vessels transit will be prohibited. Measures will be taken to control the erosion phenomenon in the bay and the best-documented option will be chosen based on its sustainability and considering the global objective of the MPA and the interest of local fishing community living on the natural marine resources of the Loango bay. The company “SEAS Sarlu” was commissioned to build breakwaters disposals and rock fill structures in the Loango Bay. Nevertheless according to some international experts these disposals could impact strongly on the current littoral shape in the northern part of the Loango bay. To our knowledge no impact studies has been implemented to assess the impact of the breakwater/rock structure project. We thus recommend the government to require a more rigorous impact studies for the breakwaters, including the comparative analysis of different options to fight against the erosion in Loango bay and conduct a comprehensive analysis based on sand movement modeling for every option. There are other solutions that may be put forward, and a constructive dialogue should start with international experts (many projects of this type have been experimented in Japan and USA and some of them led to disastrous environmental impact). The breakwater project as it is currently configured, must be frozen soonest to allow for further option and impact studies. The construction of the disposal

will definitely disfigure the Loango bay and would strongly impair the benefit of the MPA process.

Conflicts between artisanal and industrial fisheries: Artisanal fishing is threatened by industrial fishing illegally fishing in the 6 miles zone. This competition puts at risk the lives and livelihoods of small artisanal fisheries in Loango Bay. The partnership developed by Renatura since 2012 jointly with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministry (FAM) and the company Total E&P Congo and implementing patrols to enforce the zoning and fishing regulation may be reinforced in the framework of the project in order to ensure an optimal protection of the MPA area and zoning and to defend the interest of artisanal fisheries.

Pollution: The Baseline studies shall include the assessment of pollution and disturbance in the marine coastal waters of the Loango bay. Addressing the intensity and origins of the pollution will allow for proposing remedies measures. The Autonomous Port of Pointe Noire, located 20 km south of the Pointe Indienne and the dredging activities related to the port extension and creation of a deep water channel to access the port is for instance a highly possible source of major oilspill. To anticipate a possible oil spill, the National Emergency Response Plan will be implemented and to ensure that the Loango Bay will be included in the priorities of this intervention scheme. Each oil company has its own intern intervention plan, and those plans are coordinated by AOPC. The Total E&P Congo is developing a special intervention plan for the oil and wildlife in collaboration with Sea Alarm, an NGO from Belgium. The management staff of the MPA could take inspiration from those plans to build his own emergency plan and integrate it within the more global national plan.

Complementary information that may be useful for the MPA Management Plan elaboration process:

A technical guide about the governance of protected area learned from West Africa experiences and presenting the steps to follow has been edited by IUCN (Borrini-Feyerabend, 2010). This document will serve as a basis for the elaboration of the Loango MPA Management Plan (MP) and Governance Scheme. The Renatura NGO and the Jane Goodall Institute (an NGO managing a Gorillas sanctuary in the Vicinity of the Loango Bay) have good expertise on environmental education and awareness. These skills and expertise may be exploited to build and reinforce local capacities in the framework of the MP. In Matombi the association “Matombi development” could play a key role in the implementation of local development initiative and could offer a frame to enhance exchanges and discussions with local stakeholders. Other skills and expertise available among conservation practitioners in the NGOs may be useful to train the technical staff in charge of the surveillance and follow-up of the MPA: eco tourism skills and field conservation technician (wildlife observers, data collectors). In the coastal villages of Loango Bay and Pointe Indienne, population is young and many young men are trained to be fishermen and already gained a good experience of the marine environment. This experience could serve in the operational phase of the project, including the surveillance of the marine protected area. The deployment of the MPA in the Loango Bay will necessitate capacity building for all the stakeholders of the project: authorities, as well as coastal population, private sectors staff and managers operating in the vicinity of the project. Authorities and local population will be informed and made aware of the interest of the MPA implementation on their land so that they will be able to improve acceptance and encourage involvement in the MPA management and governance. Regarding the private sectors, the companies operating in the vicinity of the project have been listed and first contact has been made through a roundtable. The Private sector will be involved in the MP creation process and in the operational phase. This project gives an opportunity for private companies to comply with national and international environmental requirements. Given the fact that extractive industries have significant impact of their environment, the private sector will have the occasion to demonstrate its social and environmental responsibility by contributing to the restoration and safeguard of an area of particular interest. MP of the MPA will include an innovative financing process for the MPA relying on the collection of taxes on recreational activities, industrial activities. This tax based fund mechanism will involve the government through the Protected Area Agency and the Forestry and Sustainable development Ministry.

Output 1.4: Loango MPA regulatory framework adopted and the decree of the creation taken by relevant authorities

Some additional information since the PIF:

The detailed Road Map of the MPA creation has been detailed above. During the project preparation phase, the national experts made a preliminary oversight assessment of legal framework options available for the Loango MPA creation. The GEF project will include a more thorough analysis of the legal options with their implications and limits. The best option will be chosen based on the stakeholders consultations and validated by local communities. As the consultation and awareness raising activities conducted during the PPG targeting the local communities, opinion leaders and private sectors clearly indicated the bying-in of all stakeholders for the creation of the MPA, the GEF support will be oriented toward the effective creation of the MPA.

During operation phase, GEF will fund:

- Complementary expert work to define the regulatory framework options, and select the appropriate fiduciary fund option according to the context.
- The consultation process of the stakeholders on the selection of the best MPA regulatory framework option and on step-by-step of the MPA gazettement process
- Support all the processes leading to the creation of the MPA including support working group/experts on the drafting of the Creation Decree
- Dissemination of the Decree of the MPA creation

Key indicators and deliverables will include:

- Expert reports listing options and detailing their implications and limits.
- Report of the consultation meeting and written acceptance of the best option by local stakeholders.
- All the steps necessary to be followed for the creation of MPA are effectively concluded
- Decree for the creation of the MPA
- Capacity building activites to all stakelholders for the effective management of the MPA

Output 1.5: Financing Mechanism identified and establishment for the MPA (e.g establishment of ecological compensation measures, revenues from licenses, taxes on coastal residents, PA entry fees, tax on tourism, fiduciary funds, concessions, etc.)

During the preparation phase, a stakeholder meeting and a roundtable with private sector were held to identify potential innovative financing processes. Some options have been suggested, including financing through social responsibilities of coastal industries of the nearby Special Economic Zone.The major companies likely to settle in the SEZ were represented. The financing options were quite favourably received by the stakeholders.

The GEF project will enable to select the appropriate financing scheme and to set up the administrative and institutional framework necessary to implement the financing mechanism.

During operation phase, GEF will fund:

- Additional meetings and complementary expert work to define the funding mechanism, to propose institutional framework and administrative machinery and select the appropriate fiduciary fund option according to the context.
- Expert work to list the fiduciary fund options with their implications and limits.
- Meetings and exchanges with privates sectors and other stakeholders inform about the fiduciary fund options and to get acceptance of the selected option.
- Development of the administrative machinery and institutional framework to implement the funding mechanism.

Key indicators and deliverables will include:

- Expert reports listing financing option and detailing financing scenarios, level of risks according to the fiduciary fund options and income estimates according to the scenarios.
- Report of the consultation meeting and written acceptance of funding mechanism by local stakeholders.
- MPA financing mechanisms and Institutional framework established.

Component 2: Suppoting monitoring, awareness raising and advocacy on Marine Turtles

Along the Congo coastline, the data on sea turtle including nesting activities, in water observation and by-catch, are collected by diverse organizations. The two main organizations working on sea turtle conservation in Congo are WCS-Conkouati in the Conkouati-Douli National Park (60km of coastline) and Renatura on the rest of the coastline (110km). The two organizations are collecting sea turtle using different type of data collecting formats (different data sheets and different computer database). For more than ten years large datasets have been produced by field conservation programs but they are heterogenous. They are neither pooled together nor shared with national and international institutions. Thus the sea turtle data available do not feed into the national and international strategies and the decision-making in the field of nature and biodiversity conservation. No global views of the sea turtle species status and trends are available neither at the national scale nor at the subregional scale.

The component 2 of the GEF project will allow for the creation of a national observatory, including a national sea turtle database fed by the field conservation programs operating along the Congo coastline and managed by a sea turtle database

manager. Implementation of common training session for all the field staff working on sea turtle and elaboration of common datasheet will enable to feed the database with standardized data. Data pooling at the national level will create a consolidated data source that will be made available to national and international academic & research institutions (including IRSEN and The Schools of Life Sciences and Engineering within Marien Ngouabi University). It will lead to the enhancement of data through optimization of its use by researchers and as well as decision makers. Additionnaly, with the sea turtle observatory, a national sea turtle scientific committee will launch sea turtle research programmatic activities to boost and prioritize research in the field of sea turtle in Congo.

The creation of a national database will require data sharing about sea turtles in Congo. These data will need to be fully harmonized in order to be properly introduced in the common database. First, it is necessary to define the objectives of the database and thus the data to be recorded in it. Additionally the good functioning of the national observatory/database will require to define a Charter of Use and Ownership of the data hosted in the national database.

Outcome 2.1. Capable institution to support marine turtle's conservation

Output 2.1: Awareness and advocacy on sea turtles towards effective conservation of feeding and nesting areas and release after capture

Coastal populations in the area of the Project are not well aware that marine turtles are threatened species fully protected by the Congolese law. In the area of the project, Renatura and Jane Goodall Institute and WCS Conkouati are already implementing awareness campaigns towards adults and environmental education programs toward kids and youth. Renatura has also developed a by-catch release program to address the issue of sea turtle incidental catches in artisanal fishing nets. This program implies that Renatura has close ties to the fishermen community in Loango bay. GEF will provide fund to enhance the awareness and advocacy work already done by the three NGOs and other national stakeholders. GEF will support the existing release program already underway in Loango bay and Pointe Indienne (including release compensation/incentives materials such as fishing net wire bobbins).

In order to ensure sustainability of the awareness raising and the advocacy for marine turtles, the above mention partnets NGO experieces will be coupled with those of some key initiatives around world to come up with a robut sustainable awreness raising and advocacy programme in the project area. The particular experiences of the following initiatives will be particularly considered. These will include:

- The Kélonia: The Observatory Of Marine Turtles Saint Leu (Reunion Islands , France). It is involved in research and protection of sea turtle programs and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean.
- The Fundación Yepez: It is a Mexican NGO dedicated to sea turtle conservation and environmental education as well as many other projects all designed to care for the beautiful blue planet. The main activity is the conservation and protection of sea turtles, which return to the same place where they were born, to nest 20 to 30 years later.
- The Barrier Island Sanctuary Management and Education Center (Barrier Island Center – Florida USA) is an educational center located in the heart of the Archie Carr Refuge, a major nesting site for sea turtles. Through a partnership with the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EELS), the Sea Turtle Conservancy manages and conducts the educational programs offered at the Barrier Island Center.
- The Sea Turtles Observatory in French Polynesia: it is an independent structure created in 2011 and managed by **te mana o te moana**. Considering the stakes, regarding these endangered and protected species' conservation, the Observatory is an important tool for awareness raising and participatory management.

The awareness and advocacy activities will for example consider key activities conducted by the Observatory for Sea Turtles in French Polynesia. These activities include:

- Develop a network of volunteers for observations, in all costal line of Republic of Congo, to supply the existing Renatura and WCS database with more information
- Spread the available information on sea turtles towards the public, tourism operators and environmental actors
- Provide technical assistance (in the form of trainings, or publications)
- Create links with other existing networks in the region and elswere
- Implement new research and conservation initiatives, in concertation with local actors, and responding to identified needs on the field
- Provide an operational structure to help the conservation of marine turtles.

Key indicators and deliverables will include:

- Yearly reporting of the stakeholders including the three NGO detailing their awareness and educational activities, including the number of adults/youth and kids affected by the awareness and education program..
- Established collaboration with other structures conducting awareness and advocacy on marine turtles and the concreate lessons learn from these exchanges
- Support provided to the existing institutions to conduct awreness raising and advocacy

Output 2.2: Targeted research activities (e.g. in-water monitoring - movements and migration habits, monitoring of nesting beaches, Satellite tagging of sea turtles, feeding, genetic characterization, search for other biotopes, etc) conducted in consultation with all stakeholders including local actors and responding to identified needs on the field.

Thanks to the monitoring work done along the Congo's coastline during the last fifteen years, sea turtle nesting beaches in Congo are well described and characterized. There is now a need to get better knowledge about the biology, ecology and distribution of the sea turtle life stages occurring on the Congo continental shelf, especially non-nesting individuals such as males, juvenile and subadults of both sexes. Other issues related to the potential impacts of coastal pollution could also be addressed through the research program. Additionally there is a need to get long term trends of the nesting population and accurate identification of the feeding ground and sea turtle abundance and life stages on these feeding grounds to feed the SWOT sea turtle global database and conservation priority setting. The GEF project will help to energize and organize the research related to sea turtle in Congo. The knowledge gaps that will be addressed will enable field conservation programs to implement more efficient conservation programs and strategies. The research programs will involve the research institutes of Congo, including IRSEN and The Schools of Life Sciences and Engineering within Marien Ngouabi University.

Furthermore, the project will establish collaboration with other internatial centres who's experience will be important for the project. Collaboration will particularly be established with WCS Madagascar (through their Brazzaville Office) which has been partnering with Kélonia to improve conservation status of marine turtles in Ankivonjy and Ankarea MPAs of Madagascar. Kélonia and WCS developed an education program, with the design of a marine turtle exhibit, and al-so to train local community members from Ankivonjy an Ankarea MPAs of Madagascar to monitor marine turtle nesting activity and to ensure protection of the nests

Instead of creating an independent data base, the project will collaborate with existing international data bases to ensure hosting and use of internationaly recognised methods for turtle's data collection and anagement. Turtle monitoring data will therefore be integrated into a regional database, named TORSOOI, developed by Kélonia and IFREMER (the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea) to promote marine turtle data harmonization and standardization and to facilitate data exchange between countries. The Marine turtles programs in the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) are part of the oldest of the world and have resulted in the production of a large amount of data on the biology, ecology and behaviour of these animals.

To promote the harmonization and standardization of on-going and future data collection, the strengthening of existing collaborations and development of new ones, and also to facilitate data exchange, the TORSOOI database has been developed (in French: TOrtues marines du Sud Ouest de l'Océan Indien, or TORSOOI). This initiative compliments and strengthens already existing data bases, particularly the IOSEA (Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia Marine Turtle MoU) and Quadrige2 (French) data base. This database was developed to promote standardization of protocols and data formats as recommended by organisations such as IOSEA and the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

TORSOOI is available to researchers and organizations in various countries of the region who are conducting research and monitoring programmes on marine turtles in the SWIO, including all five species encountered in this region: Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

TORSOOI is a tool that can store and organise information on tags (flipper, PIT and satellite), measurements of clutches, hatchlings, and individuals (nesting females, immature…) biological samples (genetics, isotopes…), photos for individual identification, and data on threats (bycatch, stranding, poaching, boat strike…). It can organise, synthesise and produce preliminary reports and graphs from nesting beach and tagging projects. In accordance with recommendations of the IUCN MTSG and IOSEA, TORSOOI has developed a proposal for standardized field data sheets which corresponds completely with, and sustain, the protocols captured in the data base. Data ownership in TORSOOI is fully protected by restricted access through unique login and password self-defined by each user. Data can be accessed only by their owner, and this person is the only one who can decide whether and with who they want to share what information.

GEF will fund:

- Parnership development with current institutions both at national and international levels in the area research and capacity development in the conservation of marine turtles.
- One national meeting per year to share with stakeholders about the questions still to be addressed about sea turtle biology and life history in link with the sea turtle population observed in Congo coastal waters. The organization involved in sea turtle field conservation together with local coastal communities and academics from Congo will select the questions to address in priority and will build protocols and activity planning to gain knowledge on these questions. The outcome of that meeting will serve as a basis for a two-round scientific planning and detailing roles and responsibilities of the persons and organizations involved, as well as the project of publications.
- A meeting with the NGO manager and national and international scientific experts will result in clear a research program.
- Meeting to define the research program and to implement appropriate field protocols to collect the necessary field material.
- Targeted research works with direct impacts on conservation and eventually the participation to scientific meeting to learn and disseminate scientific the results.
- Initiatil investment to ensure that marine turtles data collected can be pooled in regional and international data bases
- Capacity building of partners institutions to ensure their effective participation and collaboration with international data base

Among the possible research subjects of interest:

- Genetic of the juvenile green turtle aggregation observed in Loango bay and its link with known nesting population in the Atlantic.
- Genetic of the juvenile hawksbill observed in the Loango bay and possible link with the relictual nesting population observed in Sao Tome and Principe
- Feeding resources of the resident population observed in Loango bay according to stomach content analysis
- Insight on the life history of the individual observed in Loango bay according to their N and S isotopique profile and
- Level of contamination of sea turtle and eggs in Congo waters in link with the oil exploitation
- Further studies of the seasonality of the sea turtle on the feeding ground at Pointe Indienne
- Identification of other feeding grounds (other rocky sea grounds around) and connection between them (genetic profile, tracking reveling isolation of exchanges)
- Evaluation and ranking of the threats on sea turtle in the Loango bay to design a better conservation strategy
- Impact of pollutant on sea turtle biology
- Monitoring of the Fibropapilloma occurring in green sea turtles in Loango bay and comparative trends with other feed ground in Central Africa/West Africa
- Effect of global warming on sandy beach environment and its possible consequence on sex ratio of hatchling from the beaches of Congo.

Component 3: Alternative livelihood in support of MPA

Outcome 3: List of alternatives livelihood options to reduce pressure on marine turtles and increase revenue, established

Four villages (Pointe Indienne, Loango 2 Matombi and Loango 1). are located in the area of the Loango MPA project with a total population of 3,900 inhabitants.. According to the first socio economical analysis done by the national expert during the GEF project preparation phase, artisanal fishing is currently the predominant income generating activity for coastal communities in the Loango bay, and then house guarding/caretaker and agriculture. The craft sector is weak but could develop with the enhancement of cultural and historical site in the Loango bay. The artisanal fishery in Loango bayis poorly organized, quantities and and sizes of commercial catches are decreasing and fish products preservation and processing are rudimentary. Artisanal fishing in Loango bay and particularly at the Pointe Indienne is responsible for thousands of sea turtle by-catch ever year. The Loango bay benefitted from a strong tourism potential remaining largely untapped:

- The slavery route and the Loango cemetery;
- Ecotoursim based on sea turtle watching.

Small-scale community development microprojects such as the restoration of the water tank and the school roof have been funded in Loango bay thanks to income generated by ecotourism based on the Renatura sea turtle release program.

The survey and consultation with local communities conducted during the PPG phase indicated two majors support need from the project to local population. These include (i) organization of artisanal fishing communities in associations to make them more structured so as to benefit more from their activities and provide them with support in area of preservation of fish; and (ii) support to alternative livelihood activities which may include dry farming with irrigation materials and promotion of non-timber forest products like *Gnetum spp*

The GEF project will include the development of alternative income generating activities (AIGA) based on a more detailed socioeconomical analysis and on stakeholders' consultation. The AIGA will give particular attention to gender equity and promotion of the role of woment in key activities including fish smoking, tourism, alternative income generating activities. This component will ensure the community anchorage of the MPA creation project and it will balance the restrictions related to the MPA creation. The creation of the MPA will inevitably lead to restrictions primarily for fishermen (period, location, intensity of fishing activities). The AIGA component of the Loango MPA project will prevent the loss of income for the community. The project will pay particular attention to AIGA involving women and youth. Simultaneously with the stakeholder consultation to define the AIGA to be developed, a feasibility study will be undertaken on valorization of the historical site, support will be provided in structuring initiatives for the the artisanal fishery sector and development of ecotourism, and the use of fishing practices/gears reducing the impact of artisanal of fisheries on sea turtle will be spread. Thus the GEF project will lay the groundwork for sustainable development of AIGA in the Loango bay and build on preexisting dynamic such as the ecotourism developed by Renatura and historical site enhancement project intitiated by the Congo's government. The structuration of the artisanal fishery sector will also provide a background to enable fishermen representatives to emerge. The structuration of artisanal fisheries is a prerequisite to efficiently adress the issue of sea turtle by-catch, improve the artisanal fishing sector and to put in place a satisfactory governance scheme involving local community within the future MPA.Output 3.1: Alternative Income Generating Activity (AIGA) options identified, validated by stakeholders and implemented.through Small-scale pilot testing.

GEF will fund :

- Stakeholder meetings and expert work to build concrete sustainable AIGA fitting with the needs and expectation of local communities in the Loango bay, with the purpose of compensating social group identified as impacted by the MPA project.
- The test phase in the field: three small-scale AIGA project implemented in the field to check for their suitability and profitability in the Loango bay context.

Key indicators and deliverables:

- Expert work report and stakeholder meeting conclusion detailing the AIGA selected to be further tested on a small scale;
- Three small scale AIGA implemented in the field;
- Results of the AIGA tests including evaluation of the income generated;
- A strategy to spread the most promizing AIGA to be included in the MPA MP and funded by the MPA financing mechanisms.

Output 3.2: Feasibility study on valorization of the historical site conducted

GEF will fund a feasability study on valorization of historical site.

Key indicators and deliverables:

- Feasability study including a list of key historical sites in the Loango bay area and a preservation, restoration/enhancement plan for these sites.

Output 3.3: Ecotourism centered on key options (e.g. release of turtles cached by fishermen, the slavery history of the bay, swallowing of the lagoon, Loango museum, Diosso gorges, boating) developed

GEF will fund the design/elaboration of a tourism package including touristic key sites located in the Loango bay.

Key indicators and deliverables:

- Tourism package including touristic key sites located in the Loango bay;
- Tourist tour options described in the package tested and evaluated.

Output 3.4: Environmental education including development of marine turtle's observation Charter developed

A Wildlife Watching Charter focusing on marines turtles will be developed to provide a framework for tourism based on the wildlife watching.

GEF will fund:

- The creation of a Wildlife Watching Charter;
- Environmental education session toward the local communities in the Loango bay

Key indicators and deliverables:

- Wildlife Watching Charter established;
- 4 environmental sessions implemented per year in the Loango bay (twice a year in each of the four villages).

Output 3.5: Artisanal fishing sector structured, impact of fishing gears and technique reduced and value of fishery products enhanced

In order to tackle the issue of frequent marine turtle by-catches in artisanal fishing gears in Loango bay and primarily at 'Pointe Indienne', Renatura has developed and tested in the past years gillnets specially shaped to reduce the risk of sea turtle by-catch (Girard, 2013). According to the first testing in the field, the alternative gears induce less by-catch without degrading - and sometimes increasing - the level of commercial catch. In the frawework of the Loango MPA project Renatura will start the spreading phase of the alternative gears.

GEF will fund:

- The development of a local production of alternative gillnets designed to reduce the risk of sea turtle incidental captures
- The spread of the alternative gears among fisheries and the experiment to show them that the level of targeted catches is maintained/increased compare to traditionnal gears.

Key indicators and deliverables:

- A yearly stakeholder meeting. First meeting to launch the alternative gear production and implementation and subsequent meetings to share about results and issues;
- alternative gears produced (30);
- alternative gears used by artisanal fisheries in the Loango bay;
- comparative studies about the level of sea turtle by-catch and the level of commercial catches.

Changes of outputs formulation from the PIF to CEO endorsement Request

PIF Stage	Modification and Rational for modification	Reference

Output 1.4. Output 1.4: Lounago Bay MPA PA created	Output 1.4: MPA regulatory framework drafted and follow the regular process for the PA creation *The rationale behind the modification is that the creation of PA is a legal process which can take longer than the project and it is beyond project control. The project will support all the necessary requirements for the creation and will conduct advocacy for the creation.*	Logframe and related sections
Output 1.5: A financing Mechanism for the MPA established (e.g establishment of ecological compensation measures, revenues from licenses, taxes on coastal residents, PA entry fees, tax on tourism, fiduciary funds, concessions, etc.)	1.5. Financing Mechanism identified and establishment for the MPA (e.g establishment of ecological compensation measures, revenues from licenses, taxes on coastal residents, PA entry fees, tax on tourism, fiduciary funds, concessions, etc.) *The slight modification included now is related to the identification of the appropriate financing mechanism taken note of possible option after analysis.*	Table B CEO ER and Logframe
Output 2.3: Awareness and Advocacy for on sea turtles conservation conducted	2.3. Awareness and Advocacy for on sea turtles towards effective conservation of feeding and nesting areas and release after capture, conducted . *More clarification is given to the advocacy and awareness activities to make it more focus*	Table B CEO and Logframe
No output	3.1. Alternative Income Generating Activity (AIGA) options identified, validated by stakeholders and, implemented.through Small-scale pilot testing. *This new output is included as response to GEF Secretariat review guidance at PIF approval*	Table B CEO ER and Logframe
Output 3.4: A report on feasibility of valorization of local communities fishing products elaborated.	3.5. Artisanal fishing sector structured, impact of fishing gears and technique reduced and value of fishery products enhanced. *Review to be more focus on local capacity development, impact monitoring and durability of traditional fishing*	Table B CEO ER and Logframe

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

This section was developed under A.3. in the PIF document.

Risk Statement	Risk type	Risk Level	Mitigation measures
Increased degradation of Loango Bay. The Bay is regularly affected by intensive flooding as result of sea level rise. The likelihood of the risk is also high as the Bay is already being subjected to erosion	Environmental	High	The project will advocate for the implementation of Loango declaration on fighting coastal erosion. The planned involvement of Private sector and development of financial mechanism will be an opportunity to leverage funds to fight degradation. Also the awareness raising activities will lead to the sensitization on the coastal zone protection. The PA management plan which will be developed will address in integrated manner all environment issues and adequate measure to address them through a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.
Reluctance from the Government to proceed with creation of the MPA as result of possible change of Government following coming elections. Some lobbying particularly from industrial fishing industries or beaches inhabitants can influence the Government not to go for the protection of the area	Political	Medium	The MPA will be a participative process which will start with broader stakeholders' consultation which will agree on the Protection extent and location. The awareness raising and environmental education will increase the awareness the recognizance of the need to create the MPA Involvement of all the political and opinion leader to ensure strong and long term commitment for the creation of the MPA
Abandonment of the creation of the World Heritage site by UNESCO and Government: the current erosion is seriously affecting the site which may lead to the disappearance of the cultural heritage.	Socioeconomic	Medium	The project will accelerate the process by supporting the Government to accelerate discussion on the creation of the WH site. The project will support the Government to meet the criteria for the creation including mobilizing additional resources from partners including UNESCO
High level of pollution which may lead to the turtles extinction	Environmental	Medium	The stakeholders' consultation will agree on immediate, short term and long-term actions to address the treats including through law enforcement which recognizes the principle of polluters to pay for remediation. The partnership with private sector will ensure awareness and environment stewardship
No financial resources to implement the management plan	Strategic	Medium	The financial mechanism that will be established will address the issue of alternative livelihood support and the implementation of the Management Plan.
Climate change risk: The second national communication (2009) indicates a sea level rise of 5 cm on coastal area is anticipated around 2020. This may lead to possible flooding of coastal area and intrusion of sea water in fresh water with consequence on biodiversity.	Environmental	Medium	The observatory which will be established will collaborate with relevant institutions to have regular data on sea level and climate variation. The information will be used in designing awareness raising and research activities particularly on turtles migration and nesting habits.
The implementation of a breakwater project with a possible strong negative impact on the Longo Bay environment.	Environmental	Medium	To lobby and use legal requirements (thorough impact assessment study) to suspend the breakwater project and start a new consultation process with stakeholders and erosion experts. List alternative sustainable solutions to fight against the erosion. The commitment of key minsitries (in

			charge of marine, fisheries, maritime economy and tourism) at the higher level (Ministers individualy monitoring the project progress) is an important positive element to address this risk.
The further extension of the Economic Special Zone	Environmental	Medium	Clear delimitation of the MPA and dissemination of the information toward the Ministry in charge of the Economic Special Zone. Close cooperation and involvement of this Ministry in the Loango MPA creation process.
Poor acceptance of the project within the coastal communities and power shifts due to PA declaration affecting local leaders	Social	Medium	Consultation meetings will be organized all along the MPA creation and Management Plan elaboration process. Design of a governance scheme strongly involving the local communities. Socio-economic benefits provided in priority to those whose access to resources within the MPA will be restricted by the development of sustainable AIGA in the area of the project. The involvement of all the line ministries with interest in the area will ensure a strong advocay for adherence of all opinion leaders in the process.
Confict between artisanal fishing and industrial fishing companies which may affect the serenity in the creation of MPA	Social	Medium	Because the industrial fishing companies enter the restricted area for artisanal fishing (0 to 6 miles) there are recurrent conficts between the 2 groups. To mitigate this risk the project will advocate for the law enforcement to ensure that all stakeholders respect what has been established by law. Canoes patrols will be ensuring surveillance both to ensure respect of the MOA limits and provide alerts in case of the non compliance of designated fishing areas for both groups.

During the PPG, the additional risks were added to the table above:

- The risk of implementation of a breakwater project with a possible strong negative impact on the Loango Bay environment. Measure to address this risk: to lobby and use legal requirements (thorough impact study) to block the breakwater project and start a new consultation process with stakeholders and erosion experts. List alternative sustainable solutions to fight against the erosion. The commitment of key ministries (in charge of marine, fisheries, maritime economy and tourism) at the higher level (Ministers individualy monitoring the project progress) is an important positive element to address this risk.
- The risk of extension of the Economic Special Zone. Measure to address this risk: clear delimitation of the MPA and dissemination of the information toward the Ministry in charge of the Economic Special Zone. Close cooperation and involvement of this Ministry in the Loango MPA creation process.
- The risk of poor acceptance of the project within the coastal communities. Measure to address this risk: Consultation meetings will be organized all along the MPA creation and Management Plan elaboration process. Design of a governance scheme strongly involving the local communities. Socio-economic benefits provided in priority to those whose access to resources within the MPA will be restricted by the development of sustainable AIGA in the area of the project.

A.7. Coordination with GEF and other non GEF relevant financed initiatives

The project will build and complement the ongoing GEF-funded projects executed in the Republic of Congo and the region: Mangrove Project, Bushmeat Project, Lac Télé/Lac Tumba Project, etc. In addition to coordinating with GEF-funded projects, the Loango MPA project will build and complement the on-going regional projects such the preservation of high value ecosystems.

The Loango MPA project will complement the coastal protection ensured by the Conkouati Douli National Park, which is funded by GEF as part of the Conkouati Dimonika project. Conkouati, with its sandy beaches, is part of the Gabon Congo complex and represent the world largest nesting site for Leatherback turtle while the Loango MPA project aim at preserving a sea turtle feeding ground hosting populations of green turtles and hawksbill turtles. The Conkouati project will be involved in the Loango MPA project as an important contributor to the observation effort along the coastline that will provide sea turtle data and feed the national sea turtle database.

UNEP/GEF project "Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network – The Bahamas" is under implementation. The project aims at expanding protected area coverage of globally significant marine biodiversity and increase the management effectiveness of the national marine protected area network across the Bahamian archipelago. The Loango Bay project will learn from this project particularly on the creation of the MPA. If necessary, UNEP/GEF will arrange exchange of experience through exchange visits or bilateral discussion of the two countries team in margin of some international meetings like CBD COP.

The Project will build upon another preexisting project implementing a comprehensive sea turtle conservation program along the Congo's coastline: the Renatura sea turtle conservation project. The sea turtle nesting monitoring implemented by Renatura all along the the Congo's coastline outside the Conkouati National Park will be a major contributor to the national sea turtle database. The Renatura release program addressing the sea turtle by-catch issue in traditional fishing gears will be integrated in the Loango MPA management plan process. The solid relationship and trust built upon +10 years between Renatura and the artisanal fishermen community in Loango bay will be one of the building blocks for the creation of a community based MPA in Loango bay. The joint Renatura /Fishery Ministry/Total E&P program implementing at-sea patrols to enforce fishing regulation and zoning will be integrated and reinforced as part of the MPA enforcement scheme to ensure the zoning compliance. The awareness and environmental education aspects of the Loango MPA project will also rely largely on Renatura's education and awareness staffs and expertise.

The Tchimpunga Project managed by the Jane Goodall Institute and the Government of Congo was intitially a chimpanzee sanctuary. It is currently developing a management plan for its natural reserve spreading north-east of the project area. The Loango MPA project will benefit of experiences gained by the Tchimpunga project during its natural reserve management plan construction process. Results of flora and fauna inventories within the boundaries of the Tchimpunga natural reserve represent useful reference materials. The JGI also has trained environmental education and awareness staff that will be involved in the education/awareness aspects of the Loango MPA project.

The Project will coordinate with, and exchange experiences with the Integrated management of mangrove project supported by GEF through FAO. The project of integrated management of mangrove, associated wetland and coastal forest ecosystem in RoC is implemented by the Congo's government and other partners, with the technical support of FAO. Aiming at reinforcing the protection and reducing the degradation of these biotopes by supporting cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation within an established national framework, the Mangrove project selected four test sites to prepare and implement sustainable management plans of the mangroves. One of the test sites selected for integrated management is the Kouilou river mouth located north of the Loango MPA project area. The mangrove project includes support to local communities to reorient their economical activities enhancing the livelihood and contributing to the biodiversity conservation. Thus synergies and complementarities shall be sought to maximise the impact of the AIGA component of both the Loango MPA project and Mangrove Project in the area stretching south to the Kouilou river mouth. Additionally, possible mangrove relictual muflats detected within the boundaries of the proposed Loango MPA will be integrated in the mapping inititiative of the Mangrove project and in the Mangrove management plan and rehabilitation plans.

The Project will coordinate with, and exchange experiences with a project to improve the artisanal fisheries sector within the Beninese Community and involving Japanese cooperation with the support of UNDP. For complementarity will be sought to benefit from the solution developed to improve fish processing and pratices within this project. Solutions may be extended to the Loango bay during the operational phase of the MPA project.

The Loango bay MPA project will build upon the framework established by the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) Project. The overall development objective of the GCLME project, Combating Living Resources Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) through Ecosystem-based Regional Actions, was to create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME to: i) recover depleted fish stocks; ii) restore degraded habitat; and iii) reduce land and ship-based pollution in the GCLME. The Loango MPA Project is thus entirely in the line of the dynamic initiated by the GCLME project.

Through its third component, the Loango bay MPA will continue the efforts formerly undertaken by the FAO Participative Fishery Management project to ensure the artisanal fishery sector structuration. A pilot project entitled "Participative Management of Fisheries in coastal regions of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, and Mauritania" was implemented from 2004 through 2006 within the FAO Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP). The project goal was to: “Promote a political and institutional environment to enhance livelihoods of coastal fishing communities” and its objective was “the improvement of natural resources management thanks to cooperation between coastal fishing communities, the government and the civil society”. In Congo the project led to the creation of 46 socioprofessional organizations with 8 apex organizations: 1 national consultative committee of fisheries, 1 departmental fishery committee in the Kouilou department and 5 local fishery committees. Nevertheless these structures remain informal since there is no legal recognition of fishing communities. A co-management framework was proposed thanks to the pilot project defining a cooperation scheme between fishery administration and other institutional stakeholders. This framework plans the creation of a national consultative fishery committee, a departmental fishery committee and of local 5 fishery committees in every of the four coastal district and in the Pointe Noire town. The regulatory texts needed to legally established this scheme have been elaborated and follow the legal promulgation process. In the meantime, consultative processes are done through the informal commitees, apex organizations and organizational charts elaborated that the pilot project contributed to establish.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

A stakeholder analysis was conducted during the Project Preparation, funded by the PPG. Main actors that will be involved in the creation process, management and governance of the Loango MPA belong to administrative authorities, private companies, international organization (bilateral and multilateral), organization from the civil society (NGO, associations) and representative and authorities from the local communities. The coordination and involvement of these stakeholders in the project will be mainly their participation in the project steering committee meeting (see steering committee composition in Annex H), participation in key project technical works including consultation and validation and bilateral collaboration.

Key stakeholders are presented per category and their respective roles in the table bellow:

Name of the institution	**Role in the project**
Government institutions	
The Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development (MEFDD)	MEFDD is the Executing Agency (EA) of the project. MEFDD will be the lead implementing entity in collaboration with its partners, including MTE. Project Director (PD) will preferably be Regional Delegate for MEFDD. The PIU will be lodged in the Regional Delegation of MEFDD, Pointe-Noire.

	MEFDD will recruit inventories experts and database expert. National Sea Turtle Database will be hosted by MEFDD.
Ministry in charge of the Special Economic Zones (MZES)	MZES is in charge of the SEZ project à Pointe Noire Bay. The delimitation of MPA boundaries will require close collaboration with MZES Departmental Directorate of the Pointe Noire Special Economic Zone is in charge of the SEZ management
Ministry of Tourism and Environment MET	Directorate-General of the Environment (DGE, MET) will cooperate with Directorate-General of the Forest Economy (DGEF, MEFDD) to implement the project. MET takes part in the Steering Committee And is in charge of the recruitment of a tourism development expert (Component 3).
District Department of Women Promotion	Promotion of Alternative livelihhoods activities
Prefect of the Kouilou Department or representative (Sub-prefect or rep.)	Involved in the consultation process for the construction of the MPA MP.
Local authorities	Involved in the consultation process for the construction of the MPA MP.
International institutions	
UNEP	UNEP/GEF is the Implementing Agency (IA) for this GEF project. It is also the IA for the Creation of the Conkouati-Dimonika PA complex project.
RAPAC	RAPAC is partner of the project as the network for Protected Area in Central Africa
FAO	FAO is partner of the project as the Lead Agency for the Mangrove Management Project
Rastoma Network	Rastoma is partner of the project as the network for Sea Turtle Conservation in Central Africa
SWOT (State of the Word's Sea Turtles)	SWOT is partner of the project as the World Sea Turtle Data

	Base
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	IUCN is a partner as the leading organization for the regional MPA strategy and the international organization for nature conservation.
Research institutions	
Ecole Nationale des Sciences Agricoles et Forestières (ENSAF) The School of Life Sciences and The School of Engineering within Marien Ngouabi University The Institue for Reaserch and development (IRD) Institut national Recherche en Sciences Exactes et Naturelles – National IInstitute of Research in Natural and Exact Science - IRSEN),	(i) research projects and technical working groups (ii) inventories of the biodiversity of Loango marine and coastal environments; (iii) development of the management plan of the MPA to be created; (iv) training and research programmes on marine turtles; (v) creation of marine turtle data base and data collection; and (vi collaboration on some targeted research works either directly or through some thesis works by these institutions students
Private sector	
JURONG Singapore	JURONG Singapore is in charge of the impact study of the SEZ project. Dialogues for potential funding mechanism based on ZES impact compensation scheme.
Bos Congo, Cominco, Congo Minig, DMC Iron, Exxaro, Luyan des Mines, MPC Mag Minerals Potasse, MPD	Private project with interest and land concessions inside the SEZ. Involved in the consultation process for the construction of the MPA MP. Cooperation for potential funding mechanism based on ZES impact compensation scheme.
Accredited industrial fisheries	AGIMEX, HARRIS, Lulu, NDJIRI Pêche, PEMACO, Rong Shang, SOCOGAP, SOPEM, SO.CO.PEC. Involved in the consultation process for the construction of the MPA MP.
Hotels and restaurants	Involved in the concertation process for the construction of the MPA MP.
SARLU	In charge of the Breakwater project.

Civil Society, NGOs	
Renatura	Involved in the Sea Turtle Monitoring and the sea turtle data collection, feed the national database. Partner implementing awareness, advocacy and education on sea turtle (Sub-Component 2.1. and Output 3.4.) Will take part in the technical working groups Co-financing partner
WCS	Involved in the Sea Turtle Monitoring and the sea turtle data collection, feed the national database. Will take part in the technical working groups Co-financing partner
Tchimpunga Chimpanzee Sanctuary	Partner of the project as initiator of the nearby Tchimpunga Natural Reserve Project
Association pour l'Autopromotion des Initiatives communautaires de Pêche (AICP)	Representing the artisanal fishing boat bosses Partner of the project involved in the MPA creation agreement process and MPA MP.
Association des Patrons-Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Congo (APPAC)	Representing the owners of artisanal fishing boats and gears. Partner of the project involved in the MPA creation agreement process and MPA MP.
UNICONGO	Representative of the business owners and company managers Partner of the project involved in the MPA creation agreement process and MPA MP. Dialogues for potential funding mechanism based on coastal industries environmental impact compensation scheme.
Outreach NGOs : The Matombi Association for Sustainable Development : The association has 34 members incling 20 woment and 14 men. It supports activities related to environment education, Alternative livelihood, eduction, health etc.	Key implementing partners for activities under Component 3. Ensure gender equity in project activities particularly for component 3

L'association Jeunesse pour la vie du Kouilou' (AJVK)	Key implementing partners for activities under Component 3.
The network for sustainable human development (RDHD), etc.)	Key implementing partners for activities under Component 3.
Beneficiaries	
Universities and research institutions	Will have access to the database, will be able to develop research and training opportunities based on the database and field research protocols launched in the framework of the project.
Government of Congo	Establishment of a National Sea Turtle Database Creation of a MPA complementing the existing national PA network Fulfilment of the international conventions related to nature and wildlife conservation.
Traditional fisheries	Preservation and sustainable management of the fishing resources to the benefit of the sustainable artisanal fisheries Better enforcement of the zoning to the benefit of the artisanal fisheries
Local population, town of Pointe Noire	Sustainable development Improvement of artisanal fishing Support to alternative livelihhod activities
Nature Conservation Organization and Sea Turtle Conservation Organization	Protection of a biodiversity hotspot and sea turtle feeding ground

Local population, their representative and local authorities are also engaged in the project.

Administrative organs and authorities are coordinators and actors who will play a key role in the implementation of the project. National administration will define activities related to the project. Departmental administration will follow, monitor and evaluate the activities at the local level. International organizations will get involve in the definition of the activities and will build synergies between their ongoing projects, participate in the validation of the classification process of the MPA and the monitoring and evaluation of the project. Private companies will contribute financially through their social and environmental responsibilities. The fiduciary fund will support the development of alternative sustainable activities in the villages of the Loango Bay. NGOs and association will implement activities of the project according to their experiences and skills, including awareness and education, environmental and wildlife field monitoring and inventories, development of alternative activities within the coastal communities (handicraft, alternative fishing techniques, etc.). Local communities, their representatives and local authorities will get involve in the management and governance of the project. They will also gain from alternative activities created by NGOs and association and funded by the fiduciary fund.

B.2 **Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):**

In addition to the benefits described in the PIF, the PPG has helped to elaborate more on the global environment benefits as followed:

Global environment benefits: The Loango MPA project protect a sea turtle feeding ground of international importance hosting green turtles (endangered according to the global IUCN red list) and hawksbill turtles (critically endangered according to the global IUCN red list). Given the fact that sea turtle assemblages feeding in Loango bay are made of life stages which are only steps in broader life history patterns unfolding at larger scale at the regional scale of the Guinea Gulfe/South East Atlantic or beyond, the protection of the Loango has a global positive impact on the endangered sea turtle populations. The area of the project also houses endangered sharks, rays, dolphins and whales, and possibly rare benthic fauna. Additionally, it protects and maintains assemblages of rare terrestrial plants of regional/international importance. The Loango MPA project provides Congo with its first protected area centered on marine and coastal environment preservation and strengthen its protected area network by complementing it with ecosystems which up to now have not been sufficiently taken into account by the national protected area strategy. The MPA (0.06%of national territory) will increased the national PA network from 13.09% to 13, 15% of the national territory.

The Project will provide socio-economic benefits by the development of sustainable AIGA in the area of the project. for example by prioritising support to those whose access to resources within the MPA will be restricted by proposed management plan, by helping to identify and invest in alternative livelihood activities.

Gender consideration: The project will ensure that women's use of the Marine Protected Areas is equally recognised and that where such uses must be restricted, that they too are given equal access to project support to ensure that they find at least as viable alternatives. The role of women will be strengthening particularly in the fish conservation and dry farming. The women will also play important role in the promotion of livestock production. In line with the Income Generation Activities, the women will be in front line and they will be encouraged to create and run local credits schemes. Women will be very well implicated in the promotion of tourism activities and the local museum will be managed by women.

The creation of the MPA in Loango bay help the artisanal fishermen to improve their practices and gears. The project will contribute to a betterstructuration ofthe artisanal fishing sector and thus help fishermen represent their own interests more effectively. It will for instance increase their negotiating power to solve the zoning conflicts with industrial fisheries.

The protection of the rocky sea ground at Pointe Indienne and shallow waters of the Loango bay will not reduce the profitability of artisanal fisheries. On the contrary it will improve the marine resource renewal, protect it from industrial overfishing and ensure more and bigger catches on the long term for artisanal fisheries. Local communities will gain a more ecologically sound environment and enhanced food security through the preservation of plant and animal biodiversity. The improvement of artisanal gears and practices will aslo benefited to the profitability of artisanal fishing activities.

The enhancement of touristical and historical sites in Loango bay will lead to the development of tourism potential, that will consequently increase the diversity of income generating activities in the area. Slavery and missionnary historical sites enhancement will help to reinforce national identity, pride in one's past and hope for a better future.

Adaptation benefits: The Loango MPA project reduce the vulnerability of coastal waters which is essential for the livelihood of coastal populations, and one of the cornerstones of the food self-sufficiency in RoC. Additionnaly it protects a fragile ecosystem threatened by coastal industrialization, risks of oil spill and running urbanization.

B.3.Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

Cost effectiveness is one of the key underlying principles that guided project design. During the project preparation process a thorough inventory has been made of the existing projects within the area and is carefully tailored to complement the existing initiatives rather than duplicate them. The GEF funds are being used as much as possible to leverage additional funds, by soliciting the private sectors through its socioenvironmental responsibilities, by building synergies between government, civil society and NGOs already acting for wildlife conservation and social development in the area and by providing legal, technical and institutional framework that will enable the creation of an MPA in Loango bay. The design is intended to use the limited GEF funds to maximum effect. The potential impact of the project should have impact well beyond its geographical scope and beyond the GEF project period. The innovative MPA financing mechanism based on a fiduciary fund and relying on private sector through their socioenvironmental responsibility developed and tested by this project should

influence the approach of Protected Area financing in the Republic of Congo. This will have impact well beyond the Project area. Another key aspect of cost-effectiveness is the proposal to improve the impact of preexisting actions. Conservation programs implemented in Congo provide observation efforts and valuable scientific data. Nevertheless these data are not properly used to produce knowledge and for guiding national and regional conservation strategies. The construction of a national sea turtle observatory including a national sea turtle database will ensure the optimal use of available sea turtle data. The creation of the national sea turtle database will give the lead to build other national database related to other species or addressing broader issues.The institutional framework provides a mechanism to regularly operate the database, including the allocation of resources for its conduct, thereby minimising the need for extra-ordinary budgets to run the database on the long term.

B.4. Other additional information

Communication, awareness raising and advocacy:

Environmental education: The national school curriculum particularly the Science of Life and Earth contains modules related to awareness raising on environment issues including the threatened species. However, the teachers in most cases do not have environmental knowledge and lack didactic materials to support the teaching activities. Two ways will be explored by the project to support environment education in project area. These include: (i) establishment of documentary data base targeting teachers to allow them address correctly environment education; (ii) develop field trips and events for schools which aim at sensitization of youth.

During holidays, the youths can be reached via holiday's clubs organized around some environmental thematic issues in different villages. Renatura, one of the project partners, has successfully developed and conduct this approach since 2009. The evenings are dedicated to show to the youths, the images taken during the days and documentary show targeting all the villages.

Awareness raising : to reach the wider audience, the study conducted during the PPG, suggested the following activities :

- Develop communication materials including posters, short video presentation for public places etc.
- Develop and broadcast emissions on thematic of interest to the project
- Organized public festivals, project in public places and events

EXAMPLE OF COMMUNICATION MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY RENATURA

Advocacy: The creation of Loango MPA will be used as an opportunity for advocacy both at national and internal level for the inclusion of marine turtle conservation in different environmental agendas.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&E plan is consistent with UNEP procedures and the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress, including the tracking of activities and financial resources, as agreed in semi-annual work plans and related budget plans, (b) proactively identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c) assess and report on progress towards, and final achievement of planned outputs, outcomes, targets and indicators as outlined in Annex A: Project Logical Framework.

Other stakeholders (NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, private sector and community members) will participate in monitoring activities and mechanisms, and be invited to provide views and perceptions during evaluations.

The M&E plan includes an inception report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term and final evaluations.

The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized in the Project Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

The project Logical Framework presented in Appendix A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators, along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix I, will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification are summarized in Appendix H.

M&E related costs are fully integrated in the overall project budget, with all costs for collection of monitoring information being embedded in the activities.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for data collection and upstream reporting of monitoring information and overall progress towards achieving results to the Steering Committee and the UNEP/GEF on a semi-annual basis. Additional Project monitoring will be provided by UNEP with support from the Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation within the UNEP/ UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in Nairobi.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix J. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

Template for Costed M&E Workplan (to be inserted in the CEO endorsement template)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	• Project Implementation Unit (PIU) • UNEP	$5,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	• PIU • UNEP	None	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	• PIU • Executing agencies and consultants	None (included in management budget)	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	• PIU	None	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	• PIU • UNEP • National partners	$36,000	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	• PIU	None	Annually
PIR	• PIU • UNEP	None	Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	• PIU • UNEP • National partners	None – covered by field costs of project activities.	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	• PIU • UNEP • External consultants	$15,000	At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	• PIU • UNEP • External consultants	$30,000	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	• PIU • UNEP	$10,000	Annually
Project Final Report	• PIU • UNEP	None	Within 2 months of the project completion date

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Time Frame
Co-financing report	• PIU	None	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Total M&E Plan Budget		**$91,000**	

Project Inception Phase

A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be held within the first three (3) months of project start-up with the participation of the full project team, relevant GoC counterparts, co-financing partners, and the UNEP Focal Point, as appropriate. A fundamental objective of the IW will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework and the GEF Tracking Tool. This will include reviewing the results framework (indicators, means of verification, and assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalizing the Annual Workplan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project.

Additionally, the purpose and objective of the IW will be to: a) introduce project staff to project stakeholders that will support the project during its implementation; b) detail the roles, support services, and complementary responsibilities of UNEP staff in relation to the project team; c) provide a detailed overview of UNEP-GEF reporting and M&E requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), mid-term review, final evaluation and financial reportings. Equally, the IW will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNEP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews including arrangements for annual audit, and mandatory budget re-phasings.

The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase. The IW will also be used to plan and schedule the Tripartite Committee Reviews. A report on the Inception Workshop is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting (see details below).

Monitoring Responsibilities and Events

A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: a) tentative timeframes for Project Steering Committee meetings (and other relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms); and b) project-related M&E activities.

Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator (PC) based on the project's AWP and its indicators. The PC will inform the UNEP, the National Executing Agency of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The PC will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the IW with support from UNEP Task Manager.

Specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this workshop. These will be used to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the AWP. Targets and indicators for subsequent years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will occur according to the schedules defined through specific studies that are to form part of the project's activities.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point through six-monthly exchanges with the project implementation team, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock of and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. The UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point, as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to the project's field sites, or more often based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's

Inception Report/AWP to assess first-hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also take part in these trips, as decided by the Steering Committee. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Steering Committee members, and UNEP-GEF.

Annual monitoring will occur through the PSC meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Project Steering Committee meeting at least once every year.

The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve (12) months of the start of full implementation. The project proponent will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNEP GEF Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point at least two weeks prior to the PSC for review and comments.

The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions in the PB. The Project Coordinator will present the APR to the PSC, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the PB participants. The Project Coordinator will also inform the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. UNEP has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be conveyed by UNEP to project stakeholders at the IW, based on delivery rates and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.

The Terminal PSC Review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Coordinator with guidance from UNEP is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNEP GEF and Country Operational Focal Point. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the PSC meeting in order to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the PSC meeting. The terminal PSC review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects being implemented.

Project Monitoring Reporting

The Project Coordinator, with guidance from UNEP-GEF team, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process and that are mandatory.

- A **Project Inception Report (IR)** will be prepared immediately following the IW. It will include a detailed First Year/AWP divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This work plan will include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNEP Task Manager or consultants, as well as timeframes for meetings of the project's decision-making structures. The IR will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any M&E requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12-month timeframe. The IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions, and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the IR will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to the IR's circulation, the UNEP/GEF will review the document.
- The **Annual Project Report (APR)**. It is a self-assessment report by the project management to the project partners and provides input to the UNEP Regional Office reporting for UNDAF process and the Results-Oriented Annual Report (ROAR), as well as forming a key input to the PSC Review. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the PSC Review, to reflect progress achieved in meeting the project's AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following sections: a) project risks, issues, and adaptive management; b) project progress against pre-defined indicators and targets, c) outcome performance; and d) lessons learned/best practices.
- The **Project Implementation Review (PIR**) is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from on-going projects. Once the project has been under implementation for one year, a PIR must prepared by the project management and submitted by UNEP to the GEF. The PIR should then be discussed in the PSC meeting so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project, the Implementing Partner (MEFDD), and the UNEP. The individual PIRs are collected, reviewed, and analyzed by the UNEP Operational Focal Point prior to sending them to the GEF by UNEP-GEF Coordination Office.

- **Half year (July – December) Progress Reports** outlining main updates in project progress will be provided every six month to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager. The January – June progress report stand as the PIR described above.
- **Specific Thematic Reports** focusing on specific issues or areas of activity will be prepared by the project team when requested by UNEP-GEF, or the Implementing Partner (MEFDD). The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNEP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learned exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNEP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.
- **A Project Terminal Report** will be prepared by the project team during the last three (3) months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements, and outputs of the project; lessons learned; objectives met or not achieved; structures and systems implemented, etc.; and will be the definitive statement of the project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's activities.
- **Technical Reports** are detailed documents covering specific areas of analysis or scientific specializations within the overall project. As part of the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft Reports List detailing the technical reports that are expected to be prepared on key areas of activity during the course of the project, and tentative due dates.

Where necessary, this Reports List will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Technical Reports may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive and specialized analyses of clearly defined areas of research within the framework of the project and its sites. These technical reports will represent, as appropriate, the project's substantive contribution to specific areas, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information and best practices at local, national, and international levels.

Project Publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the project in the form of journal articles or multimedia publications. These publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon the relevance and scientific worth of these reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The project team in consultation with UNEP, the GoC, and other relevant stakeholder groups will also plan and produce these publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources will need to be defined and allocated for these activities as appropriate and in a manner commensurate with the project's budget.

Project Evaluations/Reviews.

UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process.

The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in October 2017. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools. The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

In-line with UNEP Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation and, additionally, a Mid-Term Review will be commissioned and launched by the Project Manager before the project reaches its mid-point.

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two

primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process."

Audit Clause

The GoC will provide the UNEP with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNEP/GEF funds according to the established procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals. The audit will be conducted according to rules, and audit policies by the legally recognized auditor of the GoC, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the GoC.

Learning and Knowledge Sharing

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition, the project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNEP-GEF sponsored networks, organized for Senior Personnel working on projects that share common characteristics.

UNEP-GEF Coordination Office has established an electronic platform for sharing lessons between the project managers. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analyzing lessons learned is an on-going process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every twelve (12) months. UNEP-GEF shall provide a format and assist the project team in categorizing, documenting, and reporting on lessons learned. Specifically, the project will ensure coordination in terms of avoiding overlap, sharing best practices, and generating knowledge products of best practices in the area of PA management.

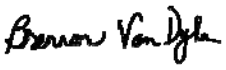
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE*(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Benjamin DZABA-BOUNGOU	Director General of Environment GEF OFP	MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT	**04-11-2014**

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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	**Signature**	**Date *(Month, day, year)***	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email Address**
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi		September 28, 2016	Adamou Bouhari, Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation	+254207623860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Attached as Separate document – Annex A.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Secretariat Comments at PIF Stage	UNEP and Partners response	References
At CEO endorsement, please provide a comprehensive overview of the financing coming from the government and international NGOs on Turtles conservation and related field. Cleared at PIF stage.	A comprehensive analyse of Government and International financing is provided.	CEO Endorsement Section A.4 The baseline scenario and associated projects
Hawksbill population has increased by % at the end of the project are missing and will have to be developed for CEO Endorsement.	The Hawksbill juvenal population observed is very low (around 10 individuals) and the nesting site is to date recognized to be at Sao Tome and Principle. It will be scientifically risky to commit on the increase of this population at this stage due to uncertainty of the area as its habitat. For this reason understanding of this specific population dynamic has been earmarked as part of reseach area during the project phase. Baseline will set after the result of scientific monitoring.	Output 2.7
Thanks for having listed indicative products in Table B; these products will have to be confirmed at CEO endorsement.	Indicators, mid-point and end of project targets defined	Annex A: Logframe with Indicators, and targets
At CEO endorsement, the project will have to be explicit on the kind of financial mechanism that will be developed and the role of the project in this process.	Unfortunetely, the PPG phase and resources have not allowed the project to define adequate finacing mechanism. The first Year of the project will support assessment of possible options and stakeholder agreement on the best option The project will support baseline analyse of option, stakeholders consultation and development legal and fiducial standards for the mechanism to be stablished	Annex A: Logframe – Output 1.5 Section A.5 CEO ER
The information related to the Observatory is not satisfactory. We have some concern regarding the value and sustainability of the creation of this new structure. At CEO endorsement, initial business plan, governance arrangement, and strategy will have to be provided. Finally, initial insight of the economic	Now full description of component 2 and particularly output 2.6 are now provided	Section A.5 CEO ER Outcome 3

and social relevance to support suggested alternative activities will have to be provided at CEO endorsement	Full description of outcome 3 is now provided	
Further detail on how the project will built on regional network e.g. RASTOMA and regional initiative e.g PRCM will be provided at CEO endorsement stage.	Existing initiatives on which the project will build on are describe and the the project will build on those is indicated	CEO ER Output 2.1, 2.2. 2,5, 2.3, 2.4
The co-financing ratio is low, at CEO endorsement stage, a higher level ofcofinancing will be expected.	A slightly higher cofinacing ratio is provided in the CEO Endorsement Request submission. Futhermore, the Government commitment for $2.1 million cash cofinacing from national budget is a great sign for national Government support toward realization of project objective	Cofinancing Table Letter of Cofinacing from national Government
Provide the Tracking Tools	Addressed	Annex J: Project Tracking tools

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[6]

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **54,795**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Todate***	***Amount Committed***
National Consultants	26000	26000	0
International Consultant	5000	5000	0
Meettings/workshops	13000	13000	0
Stationnaries	3000	3000	0
Communications	2795	2795	0
Total	54795	54795	0

[6]If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used**)**

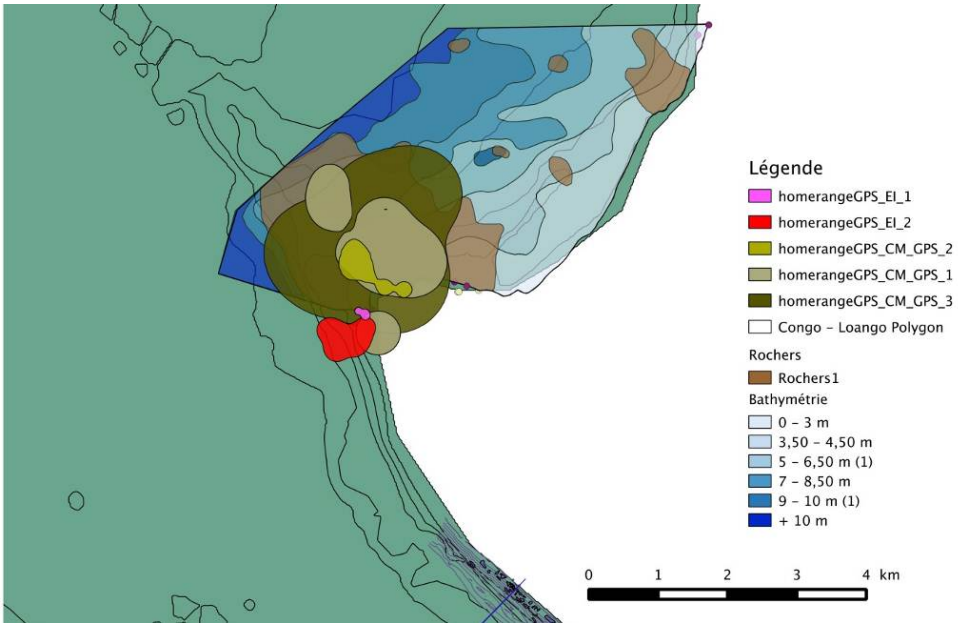
Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

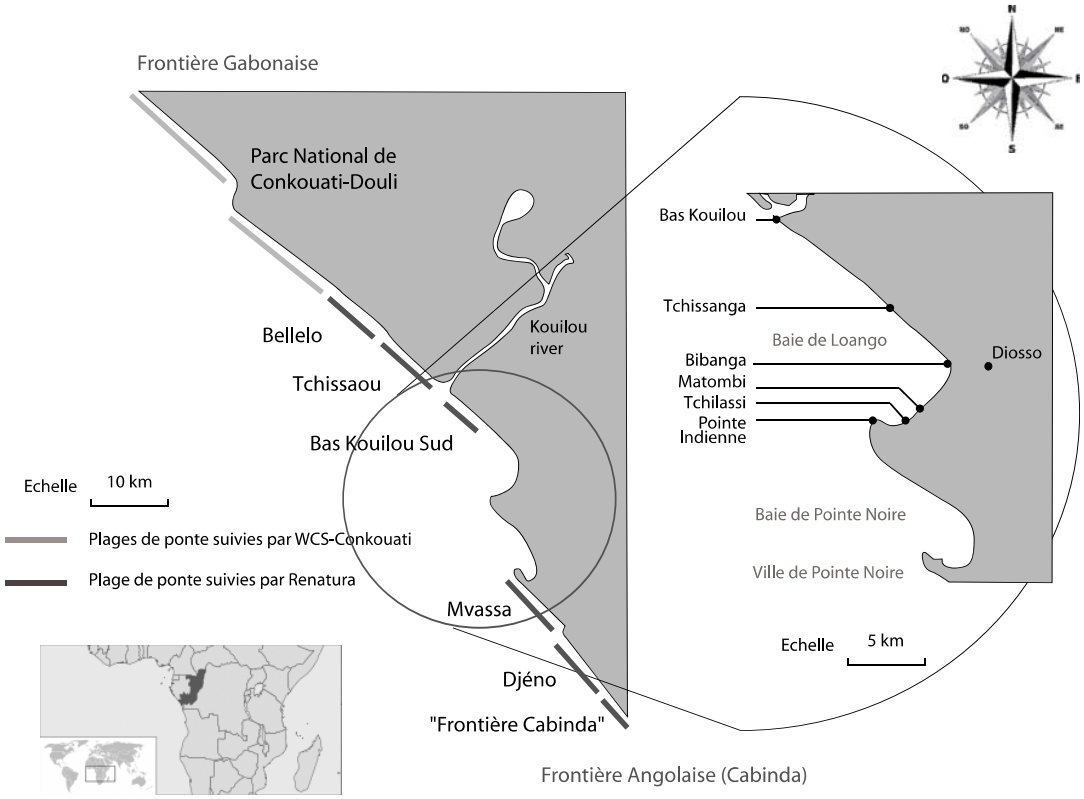
Other Annexes

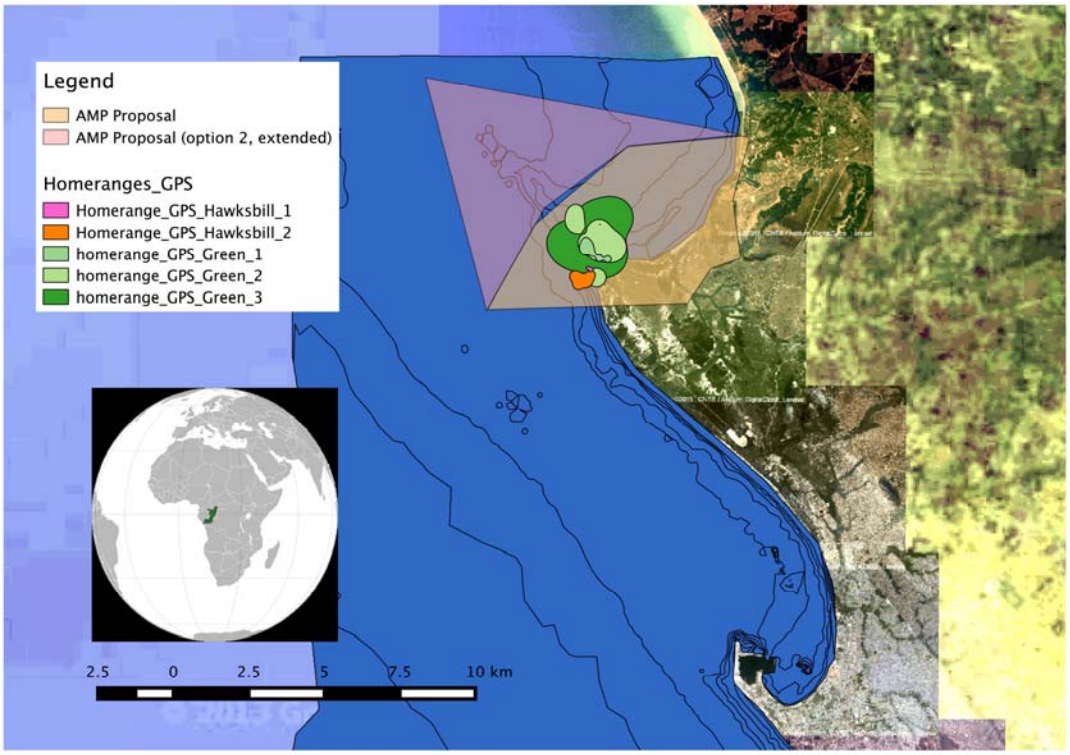
Annex F 1: Detailed GEF budget
Annex G: M&E Plan and budget
Annex H: Implementation Arrangement
Annex I: Key deliverables
Annex J: Tracking Tools
Annex K: LoE
Annex L: Cofinacing Letters
Annex M: Environment and Social Safeguards
Annex N: Accronyms

Appendix 1. Results of the sea turtle GPS/Argos tracking at the 'Pointe Indienne' cape: Home ranges of the sea turtle feeding on the rocky sea grounds



Appendix 2. Layout map of the MPA boundaries' proposal





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