



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Creation of Loungo Bay Marine Protected Area to support Turtles Conservation in Congo		
Country(ies):	Republic Of Congo	GEF Project ID:	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:	12 May 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of parent programme (if applicable):		Agency Fee (US\$):	67,671

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	GEF TF	712,329	2,600,000
Total project costs		712,329	2,600,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To ensure conservation of the marine biodiversity through participative protection of the marine turtles habitat.						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Creation of the Marine Protected Area	TA	1.1. Enabling Legal, institutional, technical and participative frameworks for the creation of Marine Protected Area	Output 1.1: Thorough stakeholders (local communities, private sectors, Government institutions, NGO, etc.) consultation conducted to agree on the creation,	GEF TF	200,000	777,284

	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one meeting organised with each type of stakeholders per year of the project - Creation of at least one interest group among among stakeholders - One detailed and scientifically rigorous report on ecological, biological resources status, socioeconomic situation and investment opportunities of the Loango Bay published at the end of the first year of the project - The Management Plan of the MPA to be created, is developed, validated with all the key stakeholders, published and disseminated as operationnel document at the end of the project - Creation by Government act of - - One institution which include representatives of key stakeholders at the end of the project - MPA regulatory framework drafted and submitted at the end of the project to the Minsitry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development for formalization a - At least one meeting organised each year with the officials of 	<p>location and responsibilities.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Report on the base line information/data on ecological, biological resources status, socioeconomic situation and investment opportunities, elaborated</p> <p>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)</p> <p>developed and governance structure established</p> <p>Output 1.4: Lounago Bay MPA PA created</p> <p>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.)</p>			
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		<p>the Speciale Econmic Zones (ZES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one key stakeholders mmeting each year under the leardership of Agence Congolaise pour la Faune et les Aires Protegees to discuss and agree on the financial mechanism to be established for the Loango Bay MPA - One financial mechanism established for the the Loango Bay MPA at the end of the project 				
2. Creation of Marine Turtles Observatory	TA	<p>2.1. Capable institution to support marine turtle’s conservation</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>The data sheetof the data base developed and validated with all stakeholders (NGO, Government, research institution, regional and international data bases)</p> <p>An online Congo data base on marine tortles is available in the second year of the project</p> <p>Eight (8) team for yearly monitoring of the marine torttule egg laying area created and operate over the 7 months of the laying period</p> <p>140 km along the coastal area are studied and protected during the egg laying</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Web-based Marine Turtles Data Base (Congo Marine Turtle Database – CMTD) established</p> <p>Output 2.2: Network of observation sites established and observers to supply information identified</p> <p>Output 2.3: Awareness and Advocacy for on sea turtles conservation conducted</p> <p>Output 2.4: Training on sea turtle data collection and monitoring conducted and necessary equipment provided</p> <p>Output 2.5: Exchange programme with sub-regional networks (e.g. RASTOMA) and identified partner observatories developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 2.6: Operational</p>	GEF TF	300,000	1,080,000

	<p>period of the marine turtles</p> <p>2000 of bycatch turtles are released each year</p> <p>Realisation of a documentary film on Congo marine turtle at the second year of the project</p> <p>At least one training session organised each year as a collaborative activity with specialized organisations including Renatura, WCS, for the key stakeholders at the onset of marine turtle nesting period</p> <p>At least 8 field staff are equipped each year during the first two year project execution at the beginning of each nesting season</p> <p>At least two (e.g. Renatura, Government expert, etc) representatives of the project key stakeholders participate as necessary to international events for knowledge sharing (e.g. International Symposium on Marine Tortue, South Atlantic Workshop, African meeting of sea turtles) on marine turtles</p>	<p>structure of the observatory created with clearly identified mandate</p> <p>Output 2.7: Targeted research activities (e.g. in-water monitoring - movements and migration habits using “manta tow” technique¹ 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.</p>			
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¹ 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

		<p>At least three (3) data base managers (Government expert at national level, Government expert at local level, Renatura) trained at the end of the second year of the project</p> <p>The Marine turtles data based integrated in National Centre for the Fauna Survey (CNIAF)</p> <p>At least two (2) publication in a peer reviewed journal produced by the end of the project.</p>				
3 : Alternative livelihood in support of MPA	TA/Inv	<p>3.1. Available alternatives livelihood options to reduce pressure on marine turtles and increase revenue</p> <p>On report on feasibility study for the valorisation of the historic value of slavery site of Loango Bay</p> <p>At on agreement with a private sector enterprise for the promotion of the tourism potential of Loango Bay</p> <p>By year 2 of the project</p> <p>At least 15,000 youths are sensitized on marine turtle and biodiversity conservation by the end of the project</p> <p>At least 10 Holiday Nature Discovery Clubs organised in the Coastal area of the project zone by year 3 of the project</p>	<p>Output 3.1: A report on feasibility study on valorization of the historical site elaborated</p> <p>Output 3.2: 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) developed</p> <p>Output3.3: Environmental education including development of marine turtle's observation Charter developed</p> <p>Output 3.4: A report on feasibility of valorization of local communities fishing products elaborated.</p>	GEF TF	147,572	442,716

		One report on valorisation of local communities fishing activities elaborated by the second year of the project			
		At least One workshop organised at local level on project outreach by year 2 of the project			
			Sub-Total	647,572	2,300,000
Project management cost			GEF TF	64,757	300,000
Total project costs				712,329	2,600,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	General Directorate of Forestry	In-Kind	500,000
National Government	General Directorate of Forestry/Forestry Funds	Cash	50,000
National Government	Agence Congolaise de la Faune et des Aires Protégées	In-Kind	50,000
Local Government	Kouilou Department	In-Kind	100,000
Local Government	Municipaties	In-Kind	50,000
Local Government			
CSO	Renatura	In-Kind	100,000
CSO	Renatura/Programmes	Cash	500,000
CSO	WCS Congo	Cash	100,000
GEF Agency			
Others/Private Sector	Special Economic Zone/Pointe Noire Autonomous Port	Cash	500,000
National Government	Projects/Environment Protection Funds	Cash	570,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-Kind	80,000
Total Co-financing			2,600,000

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$ (a)	Agency Fee (\$ (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	BD	Republic of Congo	712,329	67,671	780,000
UNEP	GEF TF					
UNEP	GEF TF					
Total Grant Resources				712,329	67,671	780,000

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
• No PPG required		
• (up to) \$50k for projects up to and including \$1 million	54,795	5,205

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Republic of Congo	54,795	5,205	60,000
UNEP	GEF TF					
UNEP	GEF TF					
Total PPG Amount				54,795	5,205	60,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description (2+)

The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers

The Loango Bay is located in southern part of the Republic of Congo, between Loango Cape in south (also called Indian Create) and the River Kouilou mouth, in North. Its geographical and geological characteristics have made the area to concentrate an important quantity of sediments deposition which render it a very important fertile zone. The oceanic current of the western African coast seems to bring to this area part of the sediments transported by Congo River. The high water turbidity is a characteristic indicator of such phenomenon. The seabed of the bay is a succession of rocky, sandy and clay areas which offer to the zone diverse ecological biodiversity².

On the Congo coastal zones, five marine turtle's species are observed³:

- Between the months of September and March, which coincide with the rainy season, the Congo beaches serve as nesting areas for marine turtles. The commonly observed species include leatherbacks turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Olive ridleys turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). However, Green turtles nesting (*Chelonia mydas*) is also observed from time to time and rarely loggerhead (*Carreta carreta*) turtles nesting is observed. No nesting of Hawksbills turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is observed, but individuals at juvenal stages are observed.
- The Loango Bay in northern Pointe Noire (Economic capital city of the country), green turtles at juvenal stages are observed throughout the year (2000 to 3000 individuals) and those of Hawksbill turtles at a given specific period. The hawksbill is one of the 11 turtles species which the most

² Données disponible pour le classement de la Baie de Loango et la Pointe-Indienne, RENATURA, 2014.

³ Projet de Création d'une Aire Protégée Marine dans la Baie de Loango, RENATURA, Congo.

endangered of the world. The Loango Bay has an important ecological interest as it seems to be a feeding area of the juvenal marine turtles and but also a potential research site to link adults marine turtles migration from nesting sites to feeding areas.

All the turtle's species are considered endangered and are included since 1982 in the IUCN Red List. They are included in the Annex I of CITES since 1973 and in Annexes I and II of CMS since 1979. According to the IUCN 2001 Red List, the leatherbacks and Hawksbills are in critical danger of extension, the Green and loggerhead are in danger of extinction and Olive ridleys is vulnerable. The Loango Bay is also habitat to more than 68 aquatic species. The area is also considered to be second most important area of the nesting for leatherback turtle. It is also established that the water from Congo and Kouilou Rivers carried a lot of floating vegetation which provide protection of young fingerlings against tidal movement.

The historical value of the Loango Bay is worth to be mentioned. During the slavery, many counters for the sales of slaves are created in African Coastal areas. The Loango Bay was one of the important sites of slaves' trades. The old port which served for the exportation of slaves is located between the Indian Crate and Matombi village. Certain commercial agreement were negotiated at Diosso, the Ma Loango King, village, but other agreements were negotiated on Loango Bay. The Loango slave port has seen the departure of around 2 million of slaves coming from the inlands countries. This historical value had led to the initiation of the process to establish a UNESCO Word Heritage site since 2008.

Environmental Threats to the turtles include (addressed in Component 2):

- *Exploitation of turtles and eggs:* In areas that are not permanently monitored, almost all the nests are collected and every turtle encountered is killed for consumption.
- *Fisheries bycatch.* Accidental captures in fishing nets represent an important threat to females' turtles during the nesting season. These captures take place in trawler nets, artisanal gillnets, or beach seines. Commercial trawlers should be theoretically fishing beyond 6 nautical miles of the coastline and outside the artisanal fishing zone, but many are observed to trespass almost daily in the artisanal zone illegally. These trawlers drag several kilometers of nets in the artisanal fishing zone and utilize fishing methods that include the use of explosives, poisons, etc.
- *Pollution.* The marine and coastal environment is polluted by various industrial chemicals. A recent study detected the presence 27 types of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and 5 types of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in Congolese beaches (N'Damité 2006). The relationship between the presence of these products on the beaches and hatching success has not yet been addressed. However, the presence of these products in the coastal waters may explain the regular observation of green turtles with tumors and other growths. At the beginning of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 nesting seasons, many stranding of primarily olive ridleys were observed along the Congolese coast. In October 2005, these strandings were concentrated in the north, near the mouth of the Kouilou River (Fig. 1). During one survey 53 stranding were counted on a 3-km stretch (Bal & Bréheret 2006). No obvious causes of mortality were found on any of the individuals, although death could have been caused by the use of explosives, poisonous substances, or pollution.
- *Coastal erosion:* The construction of Pointe Noire port might have diverted toward the north the sediment deposition thereby creating a deficit at Pointe Noire and Loango Bays, which are the root cause of the coastal erosion. The coastal erosion has become acute during the period of 1973-1974 with a 3 m retreat of the beach per week during dry season. The littoral band being restricted from 1981 the ocean has reached the land which is constituted of sand and clay which lead to the total swallowing of the Laguna. At certain points, the beach retreat is about 800 m. This erosive activity was recognized to be more pronounced at Loango Bay. The erosion has been accentuated by fuel mining leading to the destruction of trees and habitats. The identified causes of the erosion include anarchic occupation of coastal lands, destruction of marine ecosystems, industrial infrastructural development and climate change which visible impacts on the coastal areas is the sea level rise. The treat to the historical site of Loango by the erosion is real and immediate actions need to be taken.

- *Poor law enforcement and international conventions have not been transposed in national laws.*

The baseline scenario and associated projects

The baseline situation is constituted of a favorable policy and political favorable environment for the protected area creation and some operational activities executed by NGO in collaboration with Congolese Government. The enabling policy and political environment include:

- Congolese law does not specifically protect sea turtles. Nevertheless, marine turtles benefit from existing laws that prohibit hunting of wildlife and collection of their products such as eggs between 1 November and 31 April annually, as well as the Park Decree N99-136bis that protects the integrity of flora and fauna in the CDNP;
- Existence of a national network of 17 Protected Areas;
- Institutionalization of National Days of Protected Areas and the 2013 edition has put emphasis on Marine Protected Areas particularly the impacts of human activities on marine turtles.
- Congo is Parties to the Abidjan Memorandum signed in 1999, through which the African countries of the Atlantic coast have highlighted the treats on marine turtles including habitat destruction, pollution and impacts of industrial fishing. They have recognized the importance of marine turtles, their economic, social and cultural values for the local communities.
- Regional Action Programme to fight coastal erosion and Loango declaration signed by countries to establish a network of researchers to find solution for coastal erosion
- Fighting illegal fishing: The Government has recently acquired a surveillance boat for the Conkouati- Douli National Park, making it possible to push back the known trawlers from the protected zone. This very expensive, fuel-consuming technique is very efficient for the protection of carp waters but in the event of a technical breakdown of the surveillance boat, the trawlers return immediately to the waters of the park. Additionally, chasing trawlers out of the park waters unfortunately tends to increase trawler presence in the coastal zones outside the Park, including in Loango Bay.

Main threats weighing on sea turtles in Congo are⁴ i) egg harvesting and female poaching, ii) by-catch in both traditional and industrial fishing gears, iii) erosion of beaches, iv) urban/industrial development of the coastline. During 90's, IUCN and IRD (former ORSTOM) have conducted various works which set the stage for environment education and research activities. To fight against these threats, Renatura an NGO working since 2001 in the area has developed various programmes, which include:

- **Renatura Program of Protection and research both on nesting beaches and off shore.** The goal is to collect accurate data to permit the description of leatherback and olive ridley nesting in Congo and to ensure protection of females, nests and hatchlings on the beaches. In addition, the permanent presence of field technicians drastically reduces human predation.
- **Renatura Environmental awareness and education sessions in schools.** Since 2005, Renatura has developed an environmental education program in coastal villages and in the town of Pointe Noire (the main harbor and the biggest town of Congo). Awareness is raised among adults through mobile exhibitions, movie projections, conferences in town halls and marketplaces. To bring environmental education to children and youth, the Renatura education team implements interactive methods in private and public schools and through leisure activities in coastal villages during holidays
- **Renatura programme on the Release of turtles accidentally caught in fishing nets:** Renatura has developed since 2005 - in collaboration with fishermen - a community-based program to accompany them in the release of incidentally captured turtles when a turtle is captured in a traditional fishing net. Fishermen contact the Renatura release team. The team goes on site to check if the capture is real and if the turtle is alive and in good condition. Field technicians in charge of

⁴ Alexandre Girand & Nathalie Breheret: The Renatura Sea Turtle Conservation Programme in Congo, Munibe Monographs. Nature Series • 1 (2013)

the program also collect data about the capture, take measurements and tag the turtle before releasing it. Damage to the fishing nets is evaluated by Renatura's team (composed of local employees who were previously fishermen). In return for releasing the turtle, Renatura provides the necessary amount of net line bobbin (for little damage) or net pieces (in the case of a large damage) to fix the fishing gear. The program was enabled to allow the release of about 1500 turtles each year.

- **Renatura Programme on development of a community based eco-tourism:** Since 2009, Renatura proposes several tourist activities to discover sea turtles in the field. A portion of the income from tourism is used to fund some of the NGO activities. The other portion is used to promote micro-projects chosen by the local communities which include supportive community livelihood like water supply and education materials for local schools. This programme is contributing in awareness raising for marine turtles conservation.

The current financing of activities related to the conservation of marine turtles and marine biodiversity includes support from Government through the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development, International NGO and other source of financing. The Government financing include the support to the sea turtle Focal Point which has been nominated recently but also the Ecoguards 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 committed to invest cash financing to this project through the national budget and in line with the execution of national Forestry Funds and Environment Protection Funds. The NGO Renatura is investing around \$220,000 in 2014 in protection and conservation of Marine Turtle. This investment is related to their activities on survey and monitoring of nesting sites, release of by-catch turtles, sensitization and environmental education and support to the Ministry of Fisheries to fight illegal fishing. The NGO resources come from contribution from various donors. The private sector contribution can also be mobilized at the level of 1 to 1.5% in relation to the fulfillment of their corporate social responsibility.

The proposed alternative scenario

The current situation of turtles and marine environment in coastal part of the Conkouati – Dimonica Protected Area has indicated that the protection status is an important step toward ensuring species conservation and fighting against illegality. Also, most of the unsustainable activities which may otherwise take place if there is no regulation, are recognized to be reduced drastically in protected areas where access is controlled and due to the protection status, the illegal exploitation are reduced to the minimum. Also the protection status is an enabling condition for resources regeneration to support the conservation efforts and the local community involvement through capacity building, awareness raising and income generating activities options (to serve for investment in conservation and supporting local welfare output 1.5) will ensure sustainability. The project objective is **to ensure conservation of the marine biodiversity through participative protection of the marine turtle's habitat**. This objective will be achieved through the components bellow.

Component 1: Creation of the Marine Protected Area

The successful establishment of the 200 km² MPAs that provide maximum benefit to the ecosystem requires in-depth science and a well-structured, transparent planning process based on the principles of ecosystem-based management. The integrated management planning initiatives which lead to the development of Management Plan, should convene the many users of the marine resources in a comprehensive process of research, dialogue and negotiation. Through this component, the project will build on the baseline constituted by national enabling policy environment and the international processes and agreements which country has signed to take to another level the political will expressed by national authorities in showing the importance of national and regional Marine Protected Areas creation. The component is also building on the recommendation of IUCN and ORSTOM mission carried out from 1998 to 1999 which recommended creation of two turtle's sanctuaries in the area. As indicated in the baseline analysis, there is actually financial resources that come from the government and NGO to

support conservation of marine turtle. Furthermore, there is potential of leveraging funds from private sector as part of their corporate social responsibility. However, these sources are not coordinated and no mechanism exists to ensure long term sustainability of this financing sources. Through the component, the project will support establishment of a financing mechanism which will allow resources predictability and long term sustainability. The Funding mechanism will be built on existing governmental fiduciary structures such as the special fund for Protected Area and other models already operating such as Anti-Poaching Task Force. Key already identified stakeholders who will instrumental in creation of this funding mechanism will include: i) The governmental Agency for Protected Area and Fauna. This governmental Agency is the key actor for the definition of the funding mechanisms; ii) the Special Economic Zone located south the proposed MPA where major potential industrial partners will be concentrated; and the iii) Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) as it has already created a natural reserve close the area of the project and represent an opportunity to accelerate the MPA creation process. The following outcome and outputs will help to achieve the component objectives.

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

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

Output 1.2: Report on the base line information/data on ecological, biological resources status, socioeconomic situation and investment opportunities, elaborated

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

Output 1.4: Lounago Bay MPA PA created

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.)

Component 2: Creation of Marine Turtles Observatory

Currently, Renatura and WCS are conducting sea turtle monitoring particularly the nesting sites and on accidental catches by traditional fishermen. The project will help to put in placed a more structures and institutionalized database which will be fed and accessed by key stakeholders' base on protocols developed and validated through a participatory process. The sea turtle observatory will play a role of coordination for all the actions toward sea turtles in Congo and the institutions involved. The observatory will compile/centralize and disseminate data to stakeholders on need basis. The MPA will be one of the sea turtle conservation actors along the coast. The MPA field work will generate and feed the observatory together with other sources of information, new knowledge and information/data. Once functional (at the end of the second year project), the management of the database will be integrated in existing organization and run by existing staff who are planned to be trained. The database management office will be part of the ministry regular function, thus benefiting financial support from Government and its partners and under the responsibility of the sea turtle Focal Point of Congo. The two other database entry terminals will be located in WCS office in Conkouati and in the office of Renatura in Pointe Noire. The database will be feed by the field programs and shared with the higher scale database, at the regional and international level. National Research Institutes and Universities will be involved in the MPA baseline assessment, management plan development, and research programs (e.g. in-water monitoring -

movements and migration habits using “manta tow” technique⁵ for example, monitoring of nesting beaches, Satellite tagging of sea turtles, feeding, genetic characterization, search for other biotopes, etc) on marine turtles. Proposed research partners institution include CRFL (Research Center on Littoral Forests), CRAF (Centre de Recherche Agronomique et Forestière) and University Marien Gouabi.. Through the component, the project will deliver the following outcome and outputs:

Outcome 2: Capable institution to support marine turtle’s conservation

Output 2.1: Web-based Marine Turtles Data Base (Congo Marine Turtle Database – CMTD) established

Output 2.2: Network of observation sites established and observers to supply information identified

Output 2.3: Awareness and Advocacy on sea turtles towards effective conservation of feeding and nesting areas and release after capture, conducted

Output 2.4: Training on sea turtle data collection and monitoring conducted and necessary equipment provided

Output 2.5: Exchange programme with sub-regional networks and identified partner observatories developed and implemented

Output 2.6: Operational structure of the observatory created with clearly identified mandate

Output 2.7: Targeted research activities conducted in consultation with all stakeholders including local actors and responding to identified needs on the field.

Component 3: Alternative livelihood in support of MPA

1998 – 1999 IUCN, ORSTOM (current IRD) and Congo Government missions, recommended development of environment education programme and full involvement of local communities in conservation effort in that area. RENATURA is conducting an Environment education programme targeting adults and youths in the schools of the project areas. In addition, the NGO is conducting a tourism programme which is generating revenue for local communities’ livelihood. The success of Renatura in marine turtle is a good indicator that great results can be obtained if adequate approaches are used. At the beginning of the NGO activities in Congo in 2000, all the nests were harvested and the nesting females were systematically hunted at night. Following the patrolling of the beach established by Renatura the human predation on nest and nesting female has been reduced to less than 5% of nest or nesting females. The by-catch release program launched in 2005 led to a reduction of the mortality of the sea turtle in fishing nets. An average of 2000 sea turtles, are released alive every year. The method of Renatura which led to the success and which will be used to scale up the action with support of GEF project will include, bottom up action, collaborative with communities, scientifically based action and strong management, rigorous governance and ethics in conducting of the activities. Practical success factors will be consideration of local context include habits and culture, use of scientifically rigorous approach for data collection, strong involvement of local communities, awareness raising etc. Furthermore, the current participation of Renatura in sea turtle regional network is another approach that will contribute to project success. Renatura experience already is used in some other projects such as ACDODES in DRC. The project will build on these success factors to scale up the environment education and explore more options for alternative revenue generation. The key element will be the valorization of the tourism

⁵ 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

potential of the historical sites. Also seed money will be provided to organized CBO to support alternative livelihood initiatives supported by youths and women.

Outcome 3: Available alternatives livelihood options to reduce pressure on marine turtles and increase revenue

Output 3.1: A report on feasibility study on valorization of the historical site elaborated

Output 3.2: Ecotourism centered on key options (e.g. release of turtles caged by fishermen, the slavery history of the bay, swallowing of the lagoon, Loango museum, Diosso gorges, boating) developed

Output 3.3: Environmental education including development of marine turtle's observation Charter developed

Output 3.4: A report on feasibility of valorization of local communities fishing products elaborated.

The incremental cost reasoning and expected baseline contributions

Without GEF Support: The activities implemented by Rénatura and the WCS/ MEFÉ to reduce the impact of coastal inhabitants and local fishermen have shown satisfactory results (see highlighted in the Renatura programmes indicated the baseline analyze section above). However, these results will not be sustainable if a regulatory framework that provides complete protection to sea turtles in the country is not in place and further reinforcements that prohibit commercial trawlers from accessing artisanal fishing zones⁶ are not implemented. The protection nature of Conkouati – Douli National Park, lead to the deployment of illegal fishermen in the Loango Bay increasing the pressure on the natural resources particularly the marine turtles.

GEF Alternative: the GEF support through this project will help to scale up the promising results achieved by the Government in collaboration with Renatura and WCS respectively in Loango Bay and Conkouati – Douli PA by creating a new Marine Protected Area. The creation of the MPA will also ensure the sustainability of the ongoing result. The GEF alternative will also enhance the country and stakeholders capacity in monitoring and conservation of the threatened marine turtles by support the establishment of the Marine Turtle Observatory and building the institutional capacity. The livelihood options to be supported by the project will increase the sustainability by putting the needs of ; local communities in the centre of the MPA but also in providing them with opportunity to be part of decision process for sustainable development centered around Integrated Management of Natural resources. The other incrementality that will arise from this project will rely on the following issues:

- Scientific contribution on the understanding of the richness of critical ecosystems and their role in conservation ;
- Technical and operational knowledge gains as the project will support exchange of experience within the region but also at international level on the marine turtles conservation and creation and management of MPA ;
- Financial : As the project will support stakeholders consultation for the creation of financial mechanism in the support of PA management and biodiversity conservation

Global environmental benefits

The Global Environment Benefit (GEB) that will be derived from the project will include the creation of first Marine Protected Area of the country which will not only expand the national network of the PA, but also will increase the MPA worldwide which are so far recognized to be not very well representing these particular ecosystem contributing therefore to the GEF 5 Biodiversity Strategic objective 1. The creation

⁶ An Update on Sea Turtle Conservation Activities in the Republic of Congo , Gaëlle Ball, Nathalie Breheret1 & Hilde Vanleeuwe, Marine Turtle Newsletter: April 2007.

of this MPA, as a unique nesting and feeding areas for the 5 threaten marines and consider as protected species in the Congo Law on Wildlife, will also contribute to the protection of Marine turtles and their habitat, which are recognized to be endangered by both CITES and CMS and are included in IUCN Red List. These species include leatherbacks turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Olive ridleys turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Carreta carreta*) turtles and Hawksbills turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). According to the IUCN red listing, hawksbill turtles are classified as critically endangered (CR), green turtles are endangered (En), Olive ridleys and Leatherbacks are vulnerable (Vu) (IUCN 2013). The presence of these species in the area is of particularly scientific interest and the research work will contribute to the understanding of the behavior and migration pattern of some of these species which are yet not very well understood. The creation of the MPA will also contribute to the conservation of many other marine species which to date more than 68 of them are recorded and belonging to various groups. The oceanic sea beds in the area are also of great importance in the understanding of the aquatic life.

As an indication of current turtle population in the project area, the sea turtle by-catch numbers recorded at the Pointe Indienne, on the Rocky sea ground located inside the proposed MPA, demonstrated that more than 2000 juvenile greens and tens (10) juvenile hawksbills are dwelling in the area throughout the year. These individuals are at neritic stages recruited along the coastline at a size of approx. 40cm cCL (curved carapace length) after a first growing phase in the open ocean. Few adult green turtle are also observed, representing 2% of the total. Nevertheless, the number of juvenile observed is highly relevant when compared to the size and trends of the nesting population known in the Atlantic Ocean. The most important nesting sites for green turtles in the Eastern-Central Atlantic are Ascension Island with 3 to 5,000 nesting females (Godley et al., 2001), and the Poilao island in the Bijagos Archipelago (Gunea Bissau) where 7,000 nests have been recorded within a year (Catry et al., 2002). In Central Africa, the most important nesting sites for green turtles, the Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea) currently hosts no more than 800 nests per year and this number is decreasing fast (Tomas et al., 1999 ; Rader et al., 2006 ; Tomas et al., 2010). The Principe Island (Sao Tome and Principe) also host less than 1,000 nests per year and the trend is decreasing (Godgenger et al., 2008 ; Loureiro et al., 2011).

For Hawksbill, the observation of tens of juveniles in the area of the project is of high importance since the known nesting population of hawksbill in the Eastern Atlantic is less than one hundred individuals (about 350 nests per year) (Mortimer et Donnelly, 2007). In Central Africa, the most important nesting sites for Hawksbill is Sao Tome and Principe and the Bioko island in Equatorial Guinea (Abreu-Grobois and Le Roux, 2008; Fretey, 2001; Mortimer and Donnelly, 2008). The Bioko island hosts less than 10 nesting females, every year, since 1997, (for a total of 35 nest per season) (Tomás et al., 2010). Less than 50 nesting females are recorded in Principe in the Sao Tome and Principe (around 175 nests per season, Loureiro comm. pers.).

The Network of Protected Areas of Congo covered a surface area of around 2,680,842 ha. From 1990, this surface increased to 4,353,500 ha (13.09%) of the national territory, but only 1,200km² are devoted to marine environment protection and this correspond to the marine part of Conkouati Protected Area. The proposed MPA which will approximately cover 200 km² which will include a marine part of 150km² and terrestrial part of 50 km². It hosts a major feeding ground for sea turtle. It will complete the MPA network of Congo since the Marine/Coastal part of the Conkouati National Park is already protecting an important sea turtle nesting beach. The two areas, Loango Bay and Conkouati will provide a more complete scheme to protect sea turtles at different life history stages (Juveniles and Adults). The MPA (0.06%of national territory) will increase the national PA network from 13.09% to 13, 15% of the national territory.

The socioeconomic potentials offer by the marine turtles and their habitat offer a great opportunity for revenue generation through promotion of tourism potentials of the area but also the opportunity to develop a private sector-public and local community's partnership which will contribute to the national and local economic development and stabilization of local economy therefore generating social benefits. The environmental education, awareness raising activities, the establishment of the turtle observatory will

build the capacity both at national and local level and will provide opportunities for partnership development with the sub-region, the African continent and the entire world.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The innovativeness of this project reside in the fact that even though the country is having a network of 17 PA, this Protected Area is the first Marine Protected Area of the country and therefore will help the Congo to bridge the gap and learn for the subsequent creation of more MPA. Furthermore, the diverse biotic and abiotic conditions in the area combined the treats and physiological preferences of the marine turtle, offer to the marine turtle an ideal nesting and feeding environment which understanding will contribute significantly in the understanding of the life cycle and behavior of these endangered species. Very few sites where found in Africa and in the world where marine turtles use for feeding and nesting and having this as a protected areas add to the representation and diversity of PA system.

The project is building on the experience of Renatura and WCS in working with local communities to enhance conservation through active participation and benefit sharing. The model will be strengthened and scale up which will ensure project sustainability. The awareness and environment education adopted in this project have been proven successful in this area to raise the profile of conservation objective and will ensure project sustainability. The development of ecotourism potential of some historical site in the project area will be another element of sustainability as it will raise the profile of the MPA and create condition for more resources mobilization and partnership development including with UNESCO and private sector.

The project is anticipating the creation of marine turtle observatory will adequate capacity development for data collection and species monitoring. This will be a pilot model note only for the country but also in the region where Abidjan Convention in relation with partners including IUCN and the national Government Parties to the convention are struggling to extend the MPA network and support development of expertise and knowledge sharing in the region.

A.2. Stakeholders (0.5+)

The project will build on current dynamic developed in the region by the Government and Renatura to ensure stakeholders participation and development of approaches which will strengthen collaboration and intersectoral dialogue including with shipping industry. The key stakeholders are presented below; however, during the PPG stage a most comprehensive public participation plan will be developed.

Stakeholders	Mandate	Potential role in the project
Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development	In charge of development and implementation of national policies on forestry and wildlife sub-sectors	Coordinate the project and stakeholders involvement Ensure consistency with the national priority and strategy on Protected Areas creation Will be member of the project steering committee
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	In charge of development and implementation of national policies in environment management and Tourism sub-sectors	Facilitate the Tourism related activities of the project and provide guidance on pollution management and promotion of the ecotourism within the project framework Will be the co-chair of the project steering committee
Ministry of Marine Marchande	In charge of development and implementation of national policies on marine environment and fishing	Facilitate collaboration with traditional and industrial fishermen. Facilitate the mainstreaming of Marine Environment Biodiversity conservation in the sector Will be member of the project steering

		committee
Agence Congolaise de Faune et des Aires Protégées (ACFAP)	Mandated to manage created PA	Facilitate coordination with created PA. Will be member of the project steering committee
RAPAC (Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa)	Link countries PA and develop expertise in the region to manage PA.	Partnership development with regional networks and provision of expertise necessary to the process
Local Fishermen	Key local stakeholders which support implementation of strategies and approaches	Benefit from capacity building, awareness and livelihood option. Facilitate the project activities on the ground Will be represented in the project steering committee
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Will be represented in the Project steering Committee. Will provide advice and guidance on the involvement and partnership with local and industrial fishing communities
Ministry of Petroleum Products	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Petroleum Products	Will be part of steering committee and will guide and advice on issues related to mining activities in the area.
Ministry of Industrial Development	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Industrial Development	Will guide and advice on issues related to industrial development in the area.
Ministry of Scientific research	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Scientific research	Will be part of the Steering committee and will advice and guide on reseach activities in line with national plicies and programmes.
Ministry of Higher Education	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Higher Education	Will contribute and advice on environment education.
Ministry of Primary education	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Primary education	Will contribute and advice on environment education
Ministry of Profes-sional Education	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area Professional Education	Will contribute and advice on environment education
Ministry of Women Empowerment	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area	Will contribute and advice on gender consideration in the project

Ministry of Youths	In charge of national policies, strategies and Programme development and implementation in area gender	Will contribute and advice on youth involvement and education
Industrial boat owners	Beneficiaries of marine resources for commercial purposes	Will benefit from awareness raising and capacity building Potential partners in establishing the financial mechanism. Will be represented in the project steering committee
RASTOMA (Central Africa Network for Marine Turtles Conservation Professionals)	This organization coordinates the work of many organizations along the Central African territories	Facilitate coordination with other initiative in the region. May be source of expertise to support the process and sharing of knowledge and lessons learn.
Rénatura,	NGO working on Marine turtles since 2001.	Will be an active partner in implementation of the activities on the ground. Will also receive capacity building activities to strengthen their role in marine turtle monitoring. The NGO will also support the tourism promotion activities learning from its current experience on income generating with the local communities through tourism. Will be member of the project steering committee
WCS	NGO working in CDNP.	Will facilitate collaboration in the area of marine PA management. They will also support the research activities related to turtle monitoring and the establishment of the observatory. Will be member of the project steering committee
IUCN	International NGO working in the area of PA creation and management. It is supporting the regional process in line with the Abidjan Convention implementation	Partner that can provide technical expertise and linkage with other regional and international networks (e.g RAPAC, ROTOMAC, Abidjan Convention partners, etc.) working on protected areas particularly in West and Central Africa..
International Cooperation (Multilateral and Bilateral (eg. France in line with its National Strategy on Protected Marine Areas)	Cooperation institutions which provide technical and financial support to partner countries. France has developed a National Strategies on MPA. UNESCO has since been engaged to nominate the Loango Bay as a Cultural World Heritage	May be financial partners in support of the project objectives.

A.3. Risks

Risk Statement	Risk type	Risk Level	Mitigation measures
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<p>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</p>	<p>Environmental</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The project will advocate for the implementation of Loango declaration on fighting coastal erosion.</p> <p>The planned involvement of Private sector and development of financial mechanism will be 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.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Political</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The MPA will be a participative process which will start with broader stakeholders' consultation which will agree on the Protection extent and location.</p> <p>The awareness raising and environmental education will increase the awareness the recognizance of the need to create the MPA</p> <p>Involvement of all the political and opinion leader to ensure strong and long term commitment for the creation of the MPA</p>
<p>Abandon 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.</p>	<p>Socioeconomic</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>High level of pollution which may lead to the turtles extinction</p>	<p>Environmental</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The partnership with private sector will ensure awareness and environment stewardship</p>

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.

A.4. Coordination (0.5+)

The project will be coordinated at national level by the Ministry of Forest Economy which is mandated for the creation of Protected Areas. Due to its experience and current works in the project area, Renatura will be a strategic partner and will work closely with the ministry to implement activities. The Renatura and other partners including WCS can be assigned specific activities. The project will coordinate and collaborate with the following initiatives:

- UNEP/GEF Creation of Conkouati Dimonika PA Complex and Development of Community Private Sector Participation Model to Enhance PA Management Effectiveness CDC&CPSPM
- FAO/GEF Integrated Management of Mangrove and associated wetlands and coastal Forest ecosystems of Congo. The coordination with this project will particular focus on how to build synergy and complementarity of the coastal zone observatory and Marine Turtle Observatory anticipated in this project.
- WCS/Government of Congo Conkouati Douli National Park Programme
- Renatura Programmes in Loango Bay
- Regional Programme for the Conservation of Coastal zones of West Africa – PRCM
- Central Africa Protected Areas Network (RAPAC) and Regional Network of West Africa Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO)
- Coalition for the Coastal and Marine Conservation 3CO-MAC (IUCN, WWF and WCS)

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1.National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc: (1)

The project is linked and will contribute to the implementation of various regulatory and legislative national frameworks related to biodiversity and environment protection. These include:

- Order No 6075 of 9 April 2011 related to the animal species strictly or partially protected. This Order classified the turtle's species as integrally protected animal species in Congo.
- Law n°34/61 of 20th June 1961 related to Forestry Regime
- Law n°48/83 of 21th April 1983 related to the condition of utilization and conservation of wild-life
- Law on Petroleum Development
- Law n°003/91 of 23 April 1991 on environment protection particularly its Art 1
- Law n°16/2000 of 20 November 2000 related to forestry code
- Law n°002/2000 of 1st February 2000 related to marine fishing regulation
- Law n°37-2008 of 28 November 2008 on Wildlife and Protected areas
- Law 34/2012 creating the Agence Congolaise de Faune et des Aires Protegees (ACFAP)

- Decree n°6075, of April 9, 2011 details the list of animals fully or partially protected by this law. All the sea turtles species are now fully protected in Congo.
- Law No 21/85 of 19 July 1985 related to the ratification of Abidjan Convention which deals with protection and valorization of marine environment and coastal zones of West and Central Africa countries. **Article 11 of Abidjan Convention:** This planned the establishment of specialized Protected Areas, in order to support conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services of marine and coastal environments. This denomination is equivalent to what is now called the Marine Protected Areas.
- Abidjan Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (1999).

The Congo has signed other international conventions dealing with sea turtle protection: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-Bonn convention) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Contribution to Aichi Targets and Appropriate Indicators

This project is designed to contribute to several targets set out in CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 (the 'Aichi Targets'). It will most notably contribute to Targets 11, 12, and many other targets, as follows:

Aichi Target 11 (By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through 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 landscapes and seascapes). The full project is in line with objective and therefor will be a great contribution to the target.

Aichi Target 12 (By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained). The protection and conservation of 5 marine turtles species all in threatened status according to IUCN classification, is in the centre of the project, therefore the project will significantly contribute to this target.

Aichi Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably. The project component 2 planned various awareness raising and capacity building on importance of the marine turtles and the need for their conservation. Also, measures are planned to be taken including creation of observatory on marine turtles and incentives for local communities (component 3) for the conservation of this biodiversity

Aichi Target 3; (By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions). The project will developed positive incentives development of ecotourism potential to local communities, introducing sustainable fishing activities which will generate revenues and capacity development through training and enhanced knowledge on marine turtles, thereby contributing to this target.

Aichi Target 4: (By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits). The development of the Management Plan for the MPA (Component 1) will give particular attention to sustainable

production including reducing pollution, promoting sustainable fishing and regulate fishing in sensible areas for turtle's conservation.

Aichi Target 5 (*By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved....*). The creation of the MPA (component 1) will not only reduce the lost of habitat but will also extend the network of the PA which will contribute to habitat expansion.

Aichi Target 6 (*By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits*). The creation of the MPA and the planned advocacy and awareness raising activities will help to contribute to this objective.

Aichi Target 7: (*By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity*). The creation of the MPA will ensure sustainable management of fishing activities in coastal area of Congo known to be habit to marine turtles.

Aichi 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,*). The project will contribute in supporting revenue generation and through ecotourism and sustainable fishing.

Aichi 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*). The project will conduct first assessment of the ecological and biological situation of the marine turtles, an observatory will be collected, and targets researches will be conducted, capacity building activities and the awareness raising will help contribute to this target.

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities: (0.5)

The project will support the Government of Congo to establish and effectively managed the Loango Bay Marine Protected area. The support to the creation process, the establishment of the marine turtle's observatory and providing incentive through awareness raising and supporting alternative livelihood, the project will contribute to the GEF 5 objective of BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems **Outcome 1.1:** Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas (Output 1. Loango Bay Marine Protected areas . Output 2. New protected areas (Loango Bay MPA) of 5 threatened species of marine turtles.

B.3. The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project: (0.5)

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).

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [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 project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yy yy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan VanDyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi		May 12, 2014	Adamou Bouhari, Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation	+2542076 23860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org