



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZE PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Promoting the effective management of Salonga National Park through creation of community forests and improving the well-being of local communities		
Country(ies):	Democratic Republic of Congo	GEF Project ID: ¹	9802
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01572
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, with support from Rainforest Alliance and Action d'Aide Sanitaire et de Développement aux plus Démunis (AASD)	Resubmission Date:	August 2, 2017
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of parent program:		Agency Fee (\$)	541,001

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-2, Program 3: Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species	GEFTF	571,948	10,527,874
BD-4, Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface	GEFTF	5,122,801	24,000,000
		5,694,749	34,527,874

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Community-based, landscape-scale planning and sustainable production management of multiple value chains supports and enhances biodiversity conservation objectives in the Monkoto Corridor and the Salonga National Park						
Project Components	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: Laying the foundations for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM).	TA/Inv	Outcome 1.1: 225,000 ha of community forests within the Monkoto Corridor formalize land tenure, define rules governing access and use of resources, and create an ecological continuum between the Park's North and South blocks. Communities understand the benefits of forest protection and participate in the protection of	<p>Output 1.1.1: Community Committees in community forests on a total area of 225,000 ha are trained on natural resource management planning and monitoring as well as entrepreneurial management.</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Participatory Rural Appraisals performed in community forests on a total area of 225,000 ha.</p> <p>Output 1.1.3: Simple Management Plans drafted and validated by the community's general assembly and the local forest administration for a total surface area of 225,000 ha, through collaboration between community and government representatives.</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: Two pilots each performed around new rules for sustainable hunting and fishing in collaboration with the communities, local NGOs and government representatives.</p> <p>Output 1.1.5: Community leaders and educators in each</p>	GEFTF	2,483,132	13,805,085

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		species of concern	community forest on a total area of 225,000 ha trained on the delivery of awareness building modules on the importance of wildlife and fish protection, habitat and forest conservation, and the risks of poaching and bushmeat consumption. Output 1.1.6: A network on informants in place in each community forest on a total area of 225,000 ha. Output 1.1.7: A wildlife monitoring network in place for the monitoring of “elephant baths” in the Corridor. Output 1.1.8: Legal and regulatory conditions identified and tools developed to facilitate the implementation of the community forestry model.			
Component 2: Developing sustainable livelihood alternatives that reduce pressures on wildlife and forests in the Monkoto Corridor and Salonga National Park.	TA/ Inv	Outcome 2.1: 2,000 households in the Monkoto Corridor increase their income from food and cash crops, NTFP-based enterprise and other income-generating activities, providing alternatives to the unsustainable trade of bushmeat and fish, thereby protecting wildlife and forests in the Monkoto Corridor and in the Salonga National Park. CSOs and CBOs have stronger institutional and technical capacity to support biodiversity conservation in the long term.	Output 2.1.1: Institutional and technical capacity strengthening program delivered to project partner AASD to improve their ability to support communities in natural resource management and the development of income-generating activities. Output 2.1.2: 1,500 interested farmers in the forest communities supported by the project are trained and supported on sustainable, productivity-enhancing practices around the cultivation of food and cash crops. Output 2.1.3: 300 producers in forest communities, particularly women, receive capacity building and technical support in NTFP-based enterprise for two priority NTFPs identified by each community. Output 2.1.4: Producer groups of varying degrees of formality are facilitated to enable efficient delivery of services by the project and the aggregation of products for sale. Output 2.1.5: Entrepreneurial and technical training, and financing are provided to beneficiaries of 20 micro-projects as income-generating alternatives to commercial hunting and fishing. Output 2.1.6: Forest communities supported by this project have received capacity building and technical support to rehabilitate roads enabling a better transport of goods.	GEFTF	2,940,438	19,973,950
Subtotal					5,423,570	33,779,035
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				GEFTF	271,179	748,839
Total Project Cost					5,694,749	34,527,874

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Multilateral / Bilateral	EU- PARCCS Program	Cash	18,517,574

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Bilateral	KfW- PBF III	Cash	5,785,511
Bilateral	USAID-CAFEC	Cash	5,000,000
NGO	WWF	Cash	2,675,950
NGO	WCS	Cash	350,000
NGO	ZSM	Cash	200,000
Government	MECNDD (DDD and ICCN)	In-kind	1,250,000
CSO	Rainforest Alliance	In-kind	748,839
Total Co-financing			\$ 34,527,874

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	DRC	Biodiversity		5,694,749	541,001	6,235,750
Total GEF Resources					5,694,749	541,001	6,235,750

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: 150,000					PPG Agency Fee: 14,250		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEFTF	DRC	Biodiversity		150,000	14,250	164,250
Total PPG Amount					150,000	14,250	164,250

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes covering 300 million hectares	225,000 hectares

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe:

1.1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** is the second largest country on the African continent, bordered by nine countries. Rich in natural resources and minerals, it has the second largest contiguous block of tropical forest in the world, fertile lands and enormous hydroelectric potential. Some of Africa's most spectacular animals and birds are endemic to the DRC, including the eastern lowland gorilla, bonobo, okapi and Congo peacock. However, because of a long history of conflicts, state mismanagement and corruption, it is one of the poorest countries in the world, with GDP per capita of US\$ 384 in 2015, less than half the peak reached in 1974.⁸

Designed to protect the country's rich biodiversity, the DRC's national network of protected areas covers 10.5% of the territory and includes 7 national parks, two biosphere reserves, and some 45 forest and hunting reserves⁹. With its 33,350 km², the **Salonga National Park** (see Annex 1, picture 1 for location in DRC) is Africa's largest tropical rainforest park, and the second largest area of protected forest in the world. Salonga stands out for the intactness of its forest ecosystem of enormous ecological importance, sheltering the headwaters of seven major rivers. Large blocks of primary forest have been conserved not least because of its remoteness as transport by land has become extremely difficult, and access to the Park is largely restricted to water or air. Lowland forest, swamp and inundated forests are characteristic habitats of the landscape. It is further an Important Bird Area (IBA) according to BirdLife International, and as such, recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area (see also Annex 2).

Gazetted as a National Park in 1970, Salonga was proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 in recognition of its complex, intact and critically important ecosystems, which harbour a wealth of wildlife, including 40% of worldwide bonobo population, and other emblematic species such as forest elephants, Congo peacocks, giant pangolins and bongos. But despite the Park's enormous size and apparent inaccessibility, and the fact that it has been largely untouched by civil wars and security issues, wildlife populations have been hit hard during the past two decades. Several large navigable rivers provide access deep into the Park. On the one hand, the huge demand for food in urban centres as far as Kinshasa has driven the trade of bushmeat and fish in Salonga to critical levels. On the other hand, in recent years elephant poaching has once more become a highly lucrative business, prompted by the skyrocketing ivory prices on international markets. Elephant inventories have shown that the population has decreased from 8,300 in 1989 to 1,200 in 2006 with an elephant population that is now probably less than 500 individuals.¹⁰ Insufficient management capacity, corruption, and the virtual lack of infrastructure have made it extremely difficult for park authorities and their partners to efficiently tackle these challenges. In 1999, the Park was placed on the list of World Heritage Sites in danger.¹¹

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) lists **key threats** to the wider Salonga¹² landscape as follows:¹³

- Unsustainable hunting and fishing for subsistence and commercial bushmeat trade
- Elephant poaching for ivory trade
- Habitat loss and land conversion for shifting agriculture
- Firewood harvesting
- Illegal logging (including its direct and secondary effects)
- Legal and illegal non-forest extractive industries and infrastructure (including associated indirect threats)

Root causes for above-mentioned threats have been identified as:

- Poverty
- Lack of preconditions for CBNRM (absence of an enabling legal and regulatory environment that promotes sharing and rights to management of natural resources and guarantee that potential revenue opportunities from sustainable natural resource management exist)
- Limited market access¹⁴

⁸ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/congo/gdp-per-capita> consulted on 12/14/2016. World Bank data.

⁹ Information received directly from ICCN, exchanges on 2/15/2017

¹⁰ ICCN. Salonga National Park: Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025 (final version for validation)

¹¹ http://www.wwf-congobasin.org/where_we_work/democratic_republic_of_congo/salonga_programme/ Consulted on 1/20/2017

¹² The Salonga National Park is part of the Salonga–Lukenie–Sankuru Landscape, which extends over an area of 104,205 km² and was identified as one of the 12 priority landscapes of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership.

¹³ WWF-USAID CARPE III (2014). Cooperative Agreement for the Salonga Lukenie Sankuru Landscape

¹⁴ WWF (2014). CARPE II and III: WWF Landscape Programs (PPT)

Situated between the Park's northern and southern blocks, the **Monkoto Corridor** (some 9,000 km²) is the proposed intervention area for this project (see Annex 1, picture 2). Between 90,000 and 120,000 people¹⁵ inhabit the corridor, which is of strategic importance to the health of both the Park and the landscape. Through three waves of forced relocations carried out since the 1940s and lastly as part of the creation of the Park, forest inhabitants have been resettled – and confined - into this 45km wide corridor. Since then, a long-lasting conflict over land has taken place, where relocated communities lost access to the Park's resources and their ancestral lands. Communities were resettled on the land of existing villages, bringing additional problems. To date, two distinct groups still reside illegally within the Park.

Most of the Monkoto Corridor population is made up of Bantu populations of Mongo and Mbole origin that migrated from the vicinity of Mbandaka in the late XIX or early XX centuries. Agriculture, hunting, fishing, and the collection of non-timber forest products are the principal subsistence and trade activities for the population. The corridor is naturally delineated, in the Southwest by the Luilaka River, and in the Northeast by the Loile River, both tributaries of the Tshupa River connecting the corridor to Mbandaka, a major urban centre and provincial capital. Settlements in the corridor are located along roads built during the colonial era, which are now largely impassable. Transport between villages in the Monkoto Corridor is reduced to motorbike and bike in most of the corridor's northern parts, and walking trails in the southern part. While the northern part of the corridor is largely populated, the southern part is not. As such, the southern end of the Monkoto Corridor serves as a means for wildlife to travel between the two blocks of the Park.

Inventories performed in the Monkoto Corridor show that elephants and bonobos are completely eradicated in the northern part of the Corridor, due to a very high number of villages and the pressure of hunting, and the abundance of all other species is very low.¹⁶ The southern part of the Corridor, on the other hand, is well preserved because of lower population density and remoteness from villages and urban centres. Research data from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in the Southeast area of the Monkoto Corridor presents very interesting findings on the presence of elephants and bonobos.¹⁷ This almost uninhabited area linking the two blocks of Salonga National Park ensures connectivity and offers a migration area for large mammals. As such, the southern part of the Monkoto Corridor represents the only portion that ensures ecological continuity, reduces the process of habitat fragmentation for large wildlife, and preserves biological diversity by promoting movement of animal populations and genetic exchange between the two blocs. The importance of securing this area as a biological corridor was identified by UNESCO when the Park was established as a World Heritage site.

Poverty amongst the population is very high and increasing. **Agricultural production** is the activity most widely practiced by 95% of households across the landscape. Under customary right, villagers can clear the forest for their agricultural activities everywhere, except for cemeteries and fallow areas belonging to others. The main method for preserving soil fertility is cultivation on fallow land with fallow periods of typically 10 years¹⁸. The main causes reported by the communities for a significant perceived drop in production in the past decades were destruction by wildlife, insects and diseases. Agriculture is practiced on fields with an average area of 0.8 ha with most fields accessible by forest trails, and often located within 1.5 km of households. Annex 1, picture 3 shows that deforestation caused by agricultural conversion is concentrated around villages and roads. In 2003, satellite imagery analysis showed clearing from shifting agriculture on 6% of the Park area.¹⁹ WWF estimates an annual rate of deforestation of 0.01% in the Park area and a significantly higher rate in the Monkoto Corridor of 1.08%²⁰ - an increasing trend as population pressures mount. Movement of wildlife away from agricultural zones into other areas due to habitat fragmentation puts them at risk and is another issue connected to agricultural expansion.

Commercial agriculture played a significant role as a source of income for local populations during the colonial era and thereafter. As recently as 1997, the company ENTRIAC (Enterprises industrielles, agricoles et commerciales) operated palm oil, coffee, cacao and rubber plantations in the area, including rubber and coffee plantations inside the Corridor.²¹ Commercial production of coffee, rubber and palm kernels declined with the disappearance of buyers and the deterioration of roads in the 1980s. Products oriented for export were replaced by products for local and regional markets. Consequently, cassava production increased, while new crops such as beans, rice and groundnuts were introduced in the 1980s.²² Data obtained from National Coffee Office (Office National du Café) specific to the Monkoto territory²³ (see also Annex 3), shows the existence of industrial

¹⁵ WWF-USAID CARPE III (2014). Cooperative Agreement for the Salonga Lukenie Sankuru Landscape

¹⁶ Compiled on the basis of specimens photographed in the Monkoto Corridor, and not as the result of a systematic inventory of the Corridor, which remains to be done.

¹⁷ ICCN. Salonga National Park: Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025 (final version for validation)

¹⁸ IUCN (2010). Landscape-Scale Conservation in the Congo Basin: Lessons Learned from CARPE

¹⁹ ICCN. Salonga National Park: Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025 (final version for validation)

²⁰ FY16 Annual Report to CAFEC

²¹ IUCN (2010). Landscape-Scale Conservation in the Congo Basin: Lessons Learned from CARPE

²² WWF (2006). The Socio-Economic Aspects of Natural Resource Use and Management in the SLS Landscape

²³ The Monkoto territory is an administrative unit. Some 80% of the population of the Monkoto territory live in the Monkoto Corridor.

sized plantations of cocoa, coffee, palm oil and rubber on an area of 1,972 ha. However, these plantations are not producing any output and their trees need rehabilitation. Smallholder production, practiced on a surface area of 417 ha (from available statistics) is dominated by coffee and palm oil with insignificant outputs of cocoa and rubber. Markets for coffee and palm oil are primarily in Monkoto itself, with palm oil equally sold in Mbandaka. Monkoto has one coffee cooperative and two palm oil cooperatives.

The decline of commercial agriculture widely practiced during the colonial era has resulted in the search for activities that generate alternative income. Today, **hunting and fishing** have become virtually the only income-generating activities to replace lost economic opportunities associated with agriculture. The need to generate income, coupled with the demand for bushmeat and fish from urban centres and the mining industry, has triggered the introduction of more destructive practices, including the widespread use of metallic collars and metal cables for traps, and the use of small-mesh nets and poison resulting in indiscriminate overfishing. Uncontrolled commercial hunting and poaching in the Salonga National Park are the most serious threats to many wildlife species. Virtually all species are targeted, especially small primates and duikers. The pressure stemming from subsistence hunting and fishing has also increased. Many traditional and cultural values transmitted by the "elders" of the region are being less and less respected, which may explain the growing lack of respect for the closure of fishing and hunting seasons or animal breeding sites.

The collection of **non-timber forest products** (NTFPs) represents another important subsistence activity practiced by 95% of Monkoto households. The main products are caterpillars, mushrooms, kola nuts and fruits with most NTFPs harvested within one kilometre of the villages. Further, in and around the town of Monkoto, men, women and children are involved in **artisanal work**, which includes the manufacture of household utensils and furniture, canoes, fishing tools (e.g. baskets for fishing) and equipment for the construction of houses. **Timber harvesting** in the corridor is mostly done manually, in an uncontrolled manner and on a very small scale, by individuals and by outside operators coming from Mbandaka. Lastly, **commerce** (imports into and exports out of the landscape) is practiced by 23% of households in the Monkoto area. Main products exported from the landscape are agricultural products, bushmeat and fish. The journey to the markets of larger cities is facilitated by navigable rivers even though the absence of transportation alternatives to support transport of heavy loads to river ports limits the traded volume. In terms of income from the trade of game, fish and NTFPs, households rarely earn more than \$15 per season.²⁴

The **Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)** is the government agency responsible for protected area administration. ICCN manages the protected area network with support from many partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as national and international conservation organizations. For many years, ICCN and its partners' approach to protected area conservation consisted of policing rather than engagement with the communities. This type of management did not produce the expected results and, to the contrary, increased tensions between park managers and local communities because of divergent interests. In reaction to this, the Congolese government has initiated a new **participatory conservation policy** since 2014 where Park management structures associate local communities to the management of the Park and promote development alternatives for those communities. In view of severely threatened conservation values of the Park in the past ten years, and in line with this new participatory conservation policy, partners agreed on the limit of the current model centered around technical assistance to the Park administration, and proposed an innovative management agreement. Since May 2016, and as part of a transition phase, Salonga National Park is now run jointly by ICCN and WWF as part of a co-management agreement validated till 2020.

The financial situation of ICCN is precarious and highly dependent on donors. As a result of institutional weaknesses, lack of adequate funding, and conflict-related threats to the parks in the East of the DRC, many parks in the country are facing on-going crises of biodiversity loss. UNESCO currently lists all five World Heritage Sites as being in peril. In response to this situation, ICCN and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (MECND) are seeking to establish a more sustainable funding strategy, in particular through the creation of a conservation trust fund ("**Okapi Fund**"). The Fund's capital would be invested in international markets to generate a sustainable flow of income for protected areas in the DRC. By 2013, the Government of the DRC had completed most of the steps required for the start-up of the UK-registered trust fund, and the World Bank and KfW had spoken commitments ranging up to 30M USD to help operationalize and capitalize the fund. The fund's set up is however since blocked by a missing decree for the creation of the registered office in the DRC that is needed to operationalize it.²⁵ The Okapi Fund is intended to meet financing needs of the highest priority parks over the next decades, both by directly financing ICCN and by providing incremental funding to other organizations such as national or international NGOs. While the protected areas that should benefit from the fund have not yet been defined, according to ICCN, a substantial support to Salonga is likely considering its importance.²⁶ In addition to revenues from the Okapi Fund, Salonga's

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ World Bank (2013). Project Paper on a Proposed Additional IDA Grant in the Amount of SDR 2.0M (USD 3.0M Equivalent) and a Proposed Grant from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in the Amount of USD 11.64M.

²⁶ Information provided by direct exchange with ICCN, 02/15/2017

long-term financing strategy builds on incomes expected from carbon markets / payments for environmental services and from eco-tourism. The **Salonga Foundation** will capture funding from different sources and help coordinate contributions from the State, various bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations and NGOs, as well as newly, the private sector.

The project will address the following barriers:

Barrier 1: Lack of formalized customary land tenure systems to protect forests and tackle poverty

Even though there is growing consensus underpinned by a body of scientific and economic evidence that formalizing customary land tenure systems is one of the most effective strategies to protect forests and tackle poverty²⁷, there was to date no formal recognition of communities' rights under "modern law" in the DRC. This made forests vulnerable to deforestation and unsustainable use of biodiversity. Also, there were no guarantees that potential revenue opportunities from sustainable natural resource management exist.

The recently completed legal framework for community forestry in the DRC, whose management procedures were laid out in February 2016²⁸, presents an opportunity to formalize customary land tenure and give credibility to the process of land-use planning. The framework allows for forests that are owned by a local community under customary right to be registered as a forest concession (*concessions forestières des communautés locales*), and be formally recognized by national authorities. While community forests (subsequently used as a synonym for forest concessions of local communities) do not transfer land ownership, this new model nevertheless sets precedents in terms of the security of tenure it offers as concessions are held in perpetuity. Also new is that communities can establish and enforce rules concerning access and use of forest areas according to their own customs. Further commendable is the maximum size of 50,000 hectares, ten times the area that has previously been allowed in other countries in the region such as Cameroon.

Barrier 2: Lack of organization, and conflicts over land use amongst communities and with Park authorities

With three of the four principal subsistence activities carried out in the forest, i.e. hunting, fishing, and the collection of non-timber forest products, confining local populations to the corridor means reducing available space to sustain their livelihoods basis. As a consequence, communities find themselves forced into unsustainable levels of hunting and fishing or entering the Park at the risk of being caught by a patrol. The traditionally defined areas belonging to a specific community may also include the previous location of the village where people not only hunt and fish but harvest fruits and other products planted by their ancestors.

Three waves of relocations of communities into the Corridor has further exacerbated the space issue and led to long-lasting and often times unresolved conflicts over land use between communities and with the Park management. The lack of permanent structures for dialogue between the Park management and neighbouring communities does not allow for collaboration and participation of communities in conservation activities. This is made worse by the fact that local communities often do not understand the value of the Park or the various environmental services it provides, even though their lives depend on them. They are also not informed about the legislation governing the Park or about the activities that take place there.

The community forestry framework again represents an opportunity to overcome Barrier 2. In fact the registration of community forests follows a pre-defined process that includes participatory mapping of local communities and the coordination with neighbouring communities in doing so. It further requires the establishment of committees to manage and monitor the implementation of a *Simple Management Plan* that is drafted as part of the attribution process. These elements taken together will contribute to resolving land tenure conflicts and help set up a representation system that is rooted locally and can be consolidated on a larger geographical scale.

Barrier 3: Communities' lack of capacity and market access to successfully engage in sustainable livelihood alternatives

Monkoto communities largely lack the knowledge, access to funding, and access to markets to develop alternative sources of livelihoods. While pilots have been undertaken in the Salonga landscape to generate economically viable alternatives to shifting agriculture, commercial hunting and overfishing, capacity to engage in such activities has not been built at scale (see Baseline section for more on this point).

Regarding access to markets, the collapse of infrastructure and the scarcity of boats linking the Monkoto Corridor with important urban markets such as Mbandaka and Kinshasa means that crops such as coffee, palm oil, maize, rice and cassava can only reach these markets on small dugouts with high transport risks. As a consequence, commerce is largely limited to local markets. As previously identified, the almost non-existent market access is the cause for some of the most important pressures

²⁷ See, for example, WRI (2014). Securing Rights, Combating Climate Change: How Strengthening Community Forest Rights Mitigates Climate Change.

²⁸ Arrêté Ministeriel 025 Portant Dispositions Spécifiques Relatives A La Gestion Et A L'exploitation De La Concession Forestière Des Communautés Locales

on biodiversity, as the decline of agricultural production as a source of income, largely caused by the decay of the transport infrastructure, led to the rising importance of bushmeat and fish trade to fill the gap in communities' income.

The Agricultural and Rural Development Plan of Equateur Province²⁹ (2010) gives insights on barriers to improved market access in and around Salonga. Those include inadequate infrastructure such as roads, warehouses and public markets; almost non-existent processing activities; a dualistic land tenure regime torn between modern and traditional rights; a lack of organization of producers and value chain stakeholders; and the migration of youth to urban areas.

1.2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

Baseline Projects

Salonga National Park has been the focus of a number of donor funded programs over the past 10-15 years, including from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the German Development Bank (KfW), and the European Union (EU). To date, the majority of the funding has been devoted to delivering core conservation activities within the Park's boundaries, i.e. activities around surveillance, anti-poaching, logistics, monitoring and research.

Faced with difficulties in the management of Salonga National Park, in August 2015, ICCN signed a three-year co-management agreement with WWF for the Salonga National Park and its periphery, moving towards a long-term co-management structure with the ultimate goal to remove Salonga from the list of World Heritage Sites in danger. This was the trigger for the KfW, USAID and then the European Union to increase their financial contributions towards improving the management of the Park. Key baseline projects are listed as follows:

- **USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)**, a 25-year-old Congo Basin regional program, has supported conservation activities in the Salonga landscape for many years, led by the WWF and in collaboration with more than fifteen partners including Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and PACT. CARPE was implemented as part of a broad intervention in the Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru landscape. In 2013, USAID funding under CARPE was replaced by the **Central African Forest Ecosystem Conservation (CAFEC)**, which supports the sustainable management of targeted forest landscapes. Within the Salonga landscape, the program includes Salonga National Park, the Natural Resource Management Zones of the Monkoto Corridor, Lotoi-Lokoro and Bolongo, and a forest concession area in Oshwe. Commitments from USAID are implemented since 2014 by a consortium of conservation organizations led by WWF. The funding for activities in Salonga is USD 5.0M (2014-2018) and also includes ZSM and WCS. CAFEC funding will continue through 2018 and contributes to a portion of the project co-finance.
- KfW, under its project **"Strengthening the Salonga National Park as part of a WWF-ICCN co-management"**, is funding the implementation of activities as defined in the Salonga Management Plan. In the time frame 2014-2018, KfW is funding two separate agreements under the Biodiversity and Forests Program (PBF) intending to support ICCN in the good management and integrity of six protected areas. Commitments from KfW in the timeframe 2014-2018 will support Kundelungu National Park, the future Lomami National Park, the Salonga National Park and the Natural Reserve of the Ngiri Triangle with a total envelope of EUR 20M. EUR 5.4M (USD 5.8M) will go to activities in Salonga, under three major objectives: (i) the urgent day-to-day management of the Salonga National Park; (ii) improving the living conditions of the surrounding populations and (iii) preparing long-term management conditions through an appropriate management and funding mechanism.
- **European Union** - With funding from the National Indicative Program DRC, the Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC) intervened in the Salonga National Park between 2010 and 2014. The intervention involved three main sets of activities: 1) Improvement of the technical management of the Park, including construction of the Park's residential basis in Monkoto, the rehabilitation of the tracks and bridges in the Salonga National Park and in the Monkoto Corridor, and strengthening of anti-poaching activities; 2) Improvement of the living conditions of the populations bordering the Park, and specifically the setting up of alternative income-generating micro-projects in Monkoto, and the realization (via WCS) of a socio-economic study on the Yaelima; and 3) Development of conditions for the sustainability of Park activities, which did not result in significant activities. In 2014, RAPAC's intervention priorities were then focused on: 1) Acquisition of an official land title for the installation of the three buildings serving as head of surveillance sectors; 2) Improved HR management; 3) Air logistics; and 4) Self-financing of performance bonuses. In addition, RAPAC was supported through the ECOFAC V program, which was active throughout the subregion with EU funding from the Regional Indicative Program. In the Salonga National Park, the latter funded short-term expert missions.

²⁹ Ministère de l'Agriculture (2010). Plan Directeur de Développement Agricole et Rural de la Province de l'Equateur. Salonga was part of Equateur Province up until 2015, when it became part of Tshuapa Province.

- Significant new funding has then been committed by the European Union under the support program of the 11th European Development Fund as part of the **Salonga Complex Conservation and Rural Agriculture Program (PARCCS in French)**. The funding for activities in Salonga of EUR 17.3M (USD 18.5M) is built around two Components: Component I focuses on Park management and protection activities. This component foresees to improve the Park's management system and develop human and financial resources. It further aims to integrate all the stakeholders at the political, institutional and community levels around the ICCN-WWF collaboration to benefit the good management of the Park and the reduction of external pressures. Component II aims at sustainably promoting and enhancing agricultural and forestry production, and ecosystem services for the benefit of the socio-economic development of populations bordering on the Park through i) community forestry and promotion of NTFP production; ii) productive and sedentary agriculture in the near periphery; iii) environmental education and awareness building to increase communities' involvement in natural resource conservation; and iv) private sector partnerships around commercial agriculture in the outskirts of the wider landscape, building on a "nucleus estate" model. Project activities will be implemented throughout the Salonga landscape and in its outskirts in Oshwe, Lomela, Boende, Dekese and the Monkoto Corridor. Agricultural support activities will be co-implemented by the international NGOs ISCO and OXFAM.

Key conservation organizations active in the Salonga landscape are described as follows:

- **WWF** has been supporting the Salonga National Park since 2004. Its support focuses on anti-poaching activities and law enforcement monitoring; logistics and infrastructure support; strengthening of the park's management capacities (implementation of a PPP); zoning and land use planning; community support for participatory natural resource management; research and development of sustainable financing mechanisms; and coordination of the various conservation partners involved in the Salonga National Park. More recently, WWF has led large-scale efforts to set up Local Development Committees³⁰ in the Corridor and other parts of the landscape, formalizing committees within a total of 137 villages. Those committees were set up to give villages the possibility to seek funds and develop projects to improve livelihoods, which now forms the basis for the delivery of WWF's planned agricultural support activities under PARCCS. WWF has to date also initiated ten model farms in the Monkoto Corridor.
- Isolated efforts have been undertaken in the Salonga landscape to generate economically viable alternatives to shifting agriculture, commercial hunting and overfishing. **PACT**, an American NGO that specializes in community development, intervened in the southern periphery of the Salonga National Park until 2015. It has taken on the bulk of alternative livelihoods activities in the landscape including the promotion of groundnuts, a nitrogen fixing leguminous crop that has high potential to grow in fallow areas, and small animal husbandry and fish ponds as two potential alternatives to commercial hunting and destructive fishing practices. In 2006, with support from the CARPE/ USAID Small Grants Program, seven local associations and NGOs benefited from financial support for projects promoting increased agricultural and domestic animal production. As a part of this support, small grant beneficiaries and other local community-based organizations received training in improved agricultural and animal husbandry techniques. A second series of small grants was then distributed in 2008 with funding from the European Union. The projects of the nine recipients included the rearing of pigs and chicken; increasing the production of beans, groundnuts/peanuts, rice, maize and cowpea, and environmental education in schools. A commodity chain analysis of local products found that products with an interesting profit margin included maize, mushrooms, fumbwa (*Gnetum africanum*), fish, caterpillars and copal. An evaluation of the work conducted by PACT to determine which activities should be continued is being undertaken by WWF, the CARPE consortium lead.
- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**, an American NGO with an office in Kinshasa, has been present in the Salonga National Park since 2003, when it conducted elephant surveys under the MIKE/CITES program. Since then, WCS has been involved in the following areas: socio-economic studies; bonobo inventories 2005-2010; biological inventories 2008-2010; assessment of carbon stocks; and support for the fight against poaching (fuel financing and patrols). WCS' upcoming priorities for the Park are: 1) support for park management (participatory boundary demarcation, fight against poaching, community education and awareness); 2) research and monitoring (biological inventories, ecological

³⁰ A Local Development Committee is a group of people who voluntarily unite and elect their leaders / representatives to defend their interests. It is a participatory and integrated means and process through which grassroots communities can manage their natural resources rationally and sustainably to meet their short-term, medium-term and long-term needs. This process, now recognized by the Ministry of Rural Development, allows the modernization of the organizational structure of local governance over a particular land area, allowing representative and effective participation of people in land use planning. It also incorporates the law-based approach, particularly under the Agriculture Act and the Forestry Code. The recognition of the CLD is made by drawing up internal documents and statutes which are legalized by the administration of the territory. This recognition gives the CLDs a legitimate right to function and even to acquire legal personality. Communities are organized in LDCs and agricultural cooperatives for agricultural activities or local management committees for community forests.

monitoring, carbon stock assessment, socio-economic studies); and 3) capacity building (eco-guard trainings in the fight against poaching).

- **The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM)**, an American NGO with an office in Mbandaka, has been carrying out research on bonobos in the Salonga National Park since 1997. In 2000, it created Etate's Patrol and Research Site. Current activities at the Salonga National Park focus on: 1) ecological research including censuses of abundance and distribution of animals and human activities and bonobos studies; 2) support for the Park including support for the two patrol stations Etate and Lotuto, collaboration with the FARDC (military), and fight against poaching; 3) community support including education assistance and conservation awareness program in primary schools and adult schools in Etate.
- The **Max Planck Institute (MPI)**, a German research institute has been operating in the Salonga landscape since 2001 and manages a project in the south-eastern part of the landscape, consisting of research / conservation of the bonobo, and research around medicinal plants. At the same time, MPI implements conservation activities in its study area, including an assessment of forest cover and land use in the Salonga National Park (2002), establishment of a stone-cutting NGO in the villages bordering the Salonga National Park (2004), the construction of a primary school in Lompolé (2009), environmental education in secondary schools, and support for the implementation of anti-poaching patrols. It is expected that MPI will actively participate in the Salonga National Park bio-monitoring activities under the current KfW project.

Baseline Scenario

Until recently, coordination of the Salonga National Park's technical and financial partnerships was minimal, with each project doing its own work planning and implementation - the size of the Salonga National Park and communication difficulties favouring behaviour of isolation. In response to a common desire to strengthen the collaboration between different partners, two important tools have been developed to guide the work of Salonga conservation partners. The **Salonga Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025** (further called the Salonga Management Plan), which is in its last steps of validation, is the guiding document that defines and prioritizes needed interventions in the Park and its buffer zone. The Plan's stated vision is "to improve the management of the Salonga National Park under a Public Private Partnership in order to improve the conservation status of the Salonga National Park, promote the massive participation of local communities in the management of natural resources and the protection of the Park, and stabilize the financing strategy of Salonga National Park management through the Salonga Foundation". The current co-management agreement between ICCN and WWF has been formalized as part of a transition phase, with the objective that an autonomous structure, in the form of a shared management and governance system amongst key stakeholders (the Public-Private Partnership or PPP), will take over the management of the Park in 2020. In 2016, the **Salonga Business Plan 2016-2025**³¹ was drafted to complement the Management Plan, and defines the needs (financial, material, human) for implementation of the Plan and establishes a budget and an action strategy. As such, it is the key financial planning document that serves to coordinate contributions from financial partners. Because it is still in its first version, the tentative budget 2016-2025 does not provide a conclusive indication on financing needs. A recent analysis from WWF as part of a presentation of the co-management agreement however estimates the needed budget under the investment plan at USD 10M/year, compared with USD 6.4M which are available from current and planned investments.³² As such, additional funding is needed to fill gaps in the implementation of the Salonga Management Plan.

The Salonga Management Plan has nine implementation priorities (Programs). The proposed project will contribute to the implementation of Programs #2, #3, #5 and #6 of the Plan. These are presented below in decreasing order of importance:

- **Program #6 on Governance, Participation, Access and Benefit-Sharing** aims at reconciling the objectives of biodiversity conservation with those of the development of local communities through a participatory approach. It involves communities in the conservation of natural resources through the promotion of conservation and development activities as well as income-generating activities. Subprogram 6.1 aims at strengthening the involvement of local communities in the management and conservation of Salonga National Park, favouring an integrated development and a greater compliance with rules around natural resource management. It foresees the set-up of local and territory-wide community conservation committees, and the participatory definition and implementation of land-use plans. Subprogram 6.2 aims at promoting income-generating activities for 10,000 households within and around Salonga National Park.
- **Program #3 on the Consolidation of Salonga National Park** is designed to address habitat fragmentation and the isolation of certain animal populations, which reduces genetic variability, by applying a ecological continuum management

³¹ ERAIFT (2016). Parc national de la Salonga. Plan d'affaires decennal 2016-2025

³² Bas Verhage & Bruno Perodeau (WWF). Case Study: Salonga National Park - A World Natural Heritage Under Co-Management. Presentation held at ACF Navaisha, Kenya, 22/10/2016.

strategy to the ecological corridor in order to facilitate the movements of large wildlife, especially elephants. The management objective of this program is to put in place a mechanism for sustainable management of the ecological continuum to guarantee the ecological processes between the Parks' two blocks.

- **Program #5 on the Management and Integrity of Salonga National Park**, under subprogram 5.1 on the Implementation of a Surveillance Plan, foresees involving local populations in anti-poaching efforts to increase the efficiency and scale of surveillance efforts. The monitoring of hunting activities and the commercialization of bushmeat at community level will be an important source of information for the organization of intelligence patrols in collaboration with certain State services. For that, a network of informants will be set up within the communities. The project will also contribute to reducing the isolation of the landscape and to improving transport routes, as per subprogram 5.7 on the rehabilitation of roads and river transport infrastructure.
- **Program #2 on the Development and Promotion of Scientific Research and Bio-monitoring**, under subprogram 2.1 foresees to monitor the rate at which large mammals frequent specific habitats such as elephant baths "Botoka ndjoku" and savannah areas "esobe". This presents a great opportunity for collaboration with local communities inside and outside the Park boundaries, to help both improve the design of conservation activities and to deter poachers from entering those areas.

Further coordination is foreseen with subprograms of the Salonga Management Plan on the drafting of an awareness and environmental education plan (#1.2), the development of a community conservation plan (#1.3), and on the production and dissemination of awareness building tools and the delivery of awareness building trainings (#9.4).

It is in line with implementation priorities defined in the Salonga Management Plan and ICCN's new conservation policy that MECNDD and ICCN are seeking support from this project to develop and implement a participatory conservation model that benefits the local population and overcomes barriers to the successful protection of the Park's resources.

1.3) The proposed GEF alternative scenario, GEF focal area³³ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and Components of the project

The proposed project will address the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy **BD-4 (program 9) on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in production landscapes**, namely in the Monkoto Corridor, and **BD-2 (program 3) on preventing the extinction of known threatened species**, namely endangered emblematic species including the elephant, bonobo and bongo, as well as a number of endemic species. The project will contribute to the Aichi Targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14 and 18 (see details in Annex 5). As stated in section 1.5 on global environmental benefits, this project intends to put one quarter of the Monkoto Corridor (225,000 ha of land) under improved management (CBNRM), a significant part of which will be protected as conservation area, becoming part of the ecological continuum. Co-finance partners will put an additional 300,000 ha under improved management in the form of community forests in the Monkoto Corridor and wider Salonga landscape. This project will further directly contribute to the implementation of four out of nine operational programs foreseen in the Salonga Management Plan, the overall objective of which is to increase the Park's management effectiveness.

Trying to address the disconnect observed to date between conservation objectives and local development priorities, as well as the opportunity provided by improved land tenure, this project will partner with communities and the local administration to achieve a paradigm shift in the approach to conservation in the Salonga landscape. The project **goal** is to protect Salonga National Park's biodiversity by increasing the efficiency of Park management and conservation activities. The specific **objective** is that community-based, landscape-scale planning and sustainable production management of multiple value chains supports and enhances biodiversity conservation objectives in the Monkoto Corridor and the Salonga National Park. This objective will be achieved by pursuing two complementary strategies, corresponding to the two operational outcomes of the project presented in the logical framework below.

The Monkoto Corridor is a natural choice as the project intervention area for its strategic importance to the health of the Salonga National Park, acting as a biological link between the two blocks of the Park. It further includes a large human population that has significant impacts on the ecological health of the Park. For this reason, activities under Component 1 will serve to lay the foundation for community participation in natural resource management and allow communities to gradually take control of forest monitoring, including reporting illegal activities and monitoring wildlife. Activities under Component 2 will respond to the aspirations and priorities of communities for economic development by developing sustainable productive activities that will generate alternative sources of income and reduce the incentives to commercialize bushmeat and fish.

Criteria for the selection of communities to be supported by this project will be detailed and agreed upon during the project preparation phase in collaboration with Salonga conservation partners and taking into account their level of advancement on planned activities. Such prioritization criteria will however likely include the presence of areas of biological importance or

³³ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe with Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

importance for conservation, the presence of poaching and unsustainable agriculture, while at the same time considering opportunities and possible threats to the development of sustainable productive activities. An illustrative example of a micro-zoning plan of the Monkoto Corridor with agricultural, hunting, fishing, conservation zones and Sacred areas is provided in Annex 1, picture 4. The land area covered by individual communities will vary greatly, with large differences between the northern and southern part of the Corridor. For the sake of this project, a local community is defined as “A population traditionally organized on the basis of custom and united by bonds of clan or parental solidarity that underpin its internal cohesion. It is characterized, moreover, by its attachment to a specific territory.”³⁴ Typically, communities in the area are composed of several villages that are grouped in a cluster (*groupement*). The Monkoto *sector*³⁵ alone counts 109 villages and 18 clusters, and the average village size is estimated at 1,000 inhabitants.

Component 1: Laying the foundations for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM)

Outcome 1.1: 225,000 ha of community forests within the Monkoto Corridor formalize land tenure, define rules governing access and use of resources, and create an ecological continuum between the Park's North and South blocks. Communities understand the benefits of forest protection and participate in the protection of species of concern.

The first operational component of the project is focused on the planning basis for natural resource management, its implementation and monitoring. It builds on the DRC's legal framework for community forestry and benefits from baseline activities such as the set up of a local and landscape-wide governance mechanism made up of community-level governance committees. The project will put 225,000 ha under improved management in the form of community forests, with significant parts protected as conservation areas. This figure will be further investigated for feasibility during the project preparation phase, and criteria for “conservation areas” refined.

Building upon what has been achieved to date, and planned investments, activities under Component 1 will focus on:

Output 1.1.1 - Community Committees in community forests on a total area of 225,000 ha are trained on natural resource management planning and monitoring, as well as entrepreneurial management: The project will work to strengthen local and landscape-level governance committees with reference to previous and on-going work led by WWF and other conservation partners, and will seek to establish representative committees at the level of communities and the Monkoto Corridor. Four structures will have been established as part of the legal request for attribution of a *forest concession of local communities*, i.e. a General Assembly of the Community, a Local Management Committee, a Council of Elders, and a Local Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. This project will work on building the capacity of the Local Management Committee to support the day-to-day management of the forest concession, and the Local Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to plan for and monitor natural resource management. It will further strengthen governance and capacity to ensure benefit sharing for income arising from the productive use of the forest concession.

Output 1.1.2 - Participatory Rural Appraisals performed in community forests on a total area of 225,000 ha: A critical first step in developing *Simple Management Plans* (see Output 1.1.3) will be to understand current economic activities, livelihoods and aspirations among local communities, including indigenous groups. Rainforest Alliance's preferred approach is Participatory Rural Appraisal, which is a process of learning with local communities about current resource use and community objectives for land management. Together with the establishment/strengthening of local governance structures, this work is critical because it lays the foundations for working with the community on resource management issues. PRA differs from other approaches like “rapid rural appraisal” or “community surveys” where outsiders seek to gather information from villagers quickly, take it away, and analyse it for project planning. This sort of approach is essentially *extractive*. PRA, on the other hand, is *interactive*, seeking to learn with villagers to facilitate community planning.

Output 1.1.3 - Simple Management Plans drafted and validated by the community's general assembly and the local forest administration for a total surface area of 225,000 ha, through collaboration between community and government representatives: Building on previous and on-going work led by WWF and partners, including the legal attribution of community forests in large parts of the Monkoto Corridor and the participatory mapping of communities, this project will support the drafting of *Simple Management Plans*, which are specifically designed to support the sustainable management of each community's forest concession. The multi-resource Simple Management Plans will include a map of the area showing the zones designated for the various economic activities such as agriculture, hunting and fishing, collection of NTFPs, fuelwood collection, timber harvesting (if applicable), and conservation activities. It is as part of the Simple Management Plan that conservation areas will be defined and their protection formalized, thereby contributing to the creation of an ecological continuum. A specific protocol for the management of the continuum, which will for example restrict productive uses to

³⁴ Ministerial Decree No. 14/018 of 2 August 2014 laying down the procedures for the allocation of Forest concessions to local communities

³⁵ The Monkoto *territory* is made up of three *sectors*: Monkoto, Bianga and Nongo, which altogether form the Monkoto *territory*, an administrative sub-unit of Tshuapa *province*.

activities such as NTFP and fuelwood collection, will be elaborated in collaboration with other Salonga conservation partners and as foreseen in the Salonga Management Plan with the objective to facilitate the movement of large wildlife, especially elephants. Information on environmental conditions in the Monkoto Corridor and high value conservation areas within communities will be sought from conservation partners such as WWF, WCS and other active conservation stakeholders who have been monitoring environmental conditions over many years. Additionally, each Simple Management Plan will include socio-economic data about social organization, socio-cultural and development needs, and a plan for benefit sharing amongst community members. When one of the specific zones is attributed to timber harvesting, the Simple Management Plan will additionally include a forest inventory laying out the location of trees for harvest and trees for protection such as seed trees, fruit trees, caterpillar trees and medicinal trees, as well as the quantity of timber that can be harvested annually for the next 5 years. The project will further support the community in obtaining approval of its Simple Management Plan with the local administrative and technical service in charge of forests. The approval confers the Management Plan an official character making its implementation mandatory for the local community and enforceable against third parties. The Simple Management Plans will be renewed at least every 5 years. Finally, the local Monitoring & Evaluation committees and their counterparts at the landscape level will have the overall responsibility to monitor productive activities and the respect of land uses, conservation areas and their attributed rules as defined in the management plans. Biological and ecological monitoring performed by conservation partners will support monitoring activities led by the communities (see Outputs 1.1.6 and 1.1.7) and help this project track long-term trends.

Output 1.1.4 - Two pilots each performed around new rules for sustainable hunting and fishing in collaboration with the communities, local NGOs and government representatives: Apart from supporting the communities in the drafting of Simple Management Plans, an important contribution of this project will be to engage with the communities to jointly define and monitor the terms of sustainable hunting and fishing, and rules regarding conservation in areas defined as such. The objective of the Salonga Management Plan is not only to eliminate the commercial nature of hunting and fishing but also to reduce its use by local communities, allowing mammal and fish populations to recover while meeting the needs of households. Hunting and fishing to date built upon traditional and cultural values transmitted by the "elders" of the region. Those customs need to be formalized, documented and expanded to allow for better control and management. New elements such as the definition of hunting-free zones, the introduction of a quota system and the monitoring of catches could further help protect mammal populations. In terms of sustainable fishing, measures to improve fishing techniques can include a minimum mesh size of fishing nets, the respect of spawning areas as protected areas, and forbidding the use of poison. This project will support the process of defining those terms, and monitoring and controlling hunting and fishing activities as one of the fundamental solutions of participatory management.

Output 1.1.5 - Community leaders and educators in each community forest on a total area of 225,000 ha trained on the delivery of awareness building modules on the importance of wildlife and fish protection, habitat and forest conservation, and the risks of poaching and bushmeat consumption: Natural resource management planning will start with increasing awareness on the importance of wildlife and fish protection, forest conservation, and the risks of poaching and bushmeat consumption. Awareness raising will be conducted through a combination of activities that have successfully been delivered in other regions by the Rainforest Alliance³⁶ or other partners. The approach includes: conducting focus groups with community leaders to review previously prepared educational materials and refine the approach; hosting community workshops and training educators and community leaders to use educational materials; distributing visual aids (posters); and developing educational radio programs. Awareness raising activities around bushmeat consumption will particularly target schools to ensure a long-term shift in attitudes. These activities will be conducted jointly with other conservation partners and build upon Community Committees to promote active involvement and appropriation of these interventions. Awareness building activities should further target local authorities in charge of the public service, especially on applicable laws and regulations.

Output 1.1.6 - A network of informants in place in each community forest on a total area of 225,000 ha: Once the community forests are operational, illegal activities within forests, and especially poaching, will be monitored by the communities themselves. Community intelligence networks are part of the on-going development of a surveillance strategy for the Salonga National Park. Such networks have been tested in a pilot project implemented by AASD in 2015. The training of 12 persons has led to concrete results with five poachers arrested, and the confiscation of 10 to 15 packages of elephant meat, two weapons with ammunition, and traps (cables). This project will support the reactivation and enlargement of a network of informants organized through the pre-established Community Committees. The presence of foreign persons likely to be poachers and their activities are reported to ICCN officials and political-administrative authorities of the Monkoto *territory*. To increase the frequency of denunciations, persons that provide the information are rewarded financially through a compensation system, their anonymity being guaranteed. A rigorous system will be set up to avoid any leak of information.

³⁶ Ex. Arcus project "Integrating Sustainable Land-Use and Ecosystem Protection with Chimpanzee Conservation in the Taï National Park Region" implemented by Rainforest Alliance and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) in Cote d'Ivoire

Output 1.1.7 - A wildlife monitoring network in place for the monitoring of “elephant baths” in the Corridor: The effective and sustainable management of biological diversity and more generally the natural resources of the Park and its buffer zone requires extensive knowledge of population dynamics of various animal and plant species. Monitoring of elephants and other animals protected by the population is part of the multi-stakeholder program involving ICCN, communities, local NGOs and conservation partners with the aim of protecting wildlife and developing and preparing ecotourism in the future. In fact, elephants are present in the southern part of the Corridor but ICCN does not have the mandate to undertake surveillance activities outside the protected area, which is why it relies on communities and NGOs to support them. No systematic biological monitoring activities have been performed in the Corridor to date. The implementation of this activity will include training of participants, inventory and mapping of elephant baths “*botoka ndjoku*”, the provision of supplies and equipment, data analysis and reporting back to ICCN. The objective of this activity as per the Salonga Management Plan³⁷ is to better understand the rate at which large mammals frequent elephant baths. At the same time, the presence of the monitoring teams is a good deterrent to poachers that illegally set up their camps around the baths. More information on those habitats can be found in Annex 4.

Output 1.1.8 - Legal and regulatory conditions identified and tools developed to facilitate the implementation of the community forestry model: The project will seek to inform national-scale policy development through assessment of policy and implementation gaps with respect to the legal Arrêté 25 setting out the management procedures for community forests, and in particular the lack of tools such as a guides for participatory mapping and the development of Simple Management Plans, templates for timber harvesting contracts and the annual harvesting permit. Rainforest Alliance’s participation in the newly formed national working group on community forestry will enable the sharing of best practices, especially in value-added processing, creation of enterprises and market access from other parts of the world.

Component 2: Developing sustainable productive uses and livelihood alternatives that reduce pressures on wildlife and forests in the Monkoto Corridor and the Salonga National Park

Outcome 2.1: 2,000 households in the Monkoto Corridor increase their income from food and cash crops, NTFP-based enterprise and other income-generating activities, providing alternatives to the unsustainable trade of bushmeat and fish, thereby protecting wildlife and forests in the Monkoto Corridor and in the Salonga National Park. CSOs and CBOs have stronger institutional and technical capacity to support biodiversity conservation in the long term.

The project strategy under Component 2 is to develop productive systems that satisfy food security and households’ cash needs, providing alternatives to destructive hunting and fishing practices. The development of productive uses and livelihood alternatives will pursue a variety of opportunities. The project will undertake participatory evaluation of diverse productive activities that are compatible with conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and that provide local inhabitants with viable alternatives to destructive hunting and fishing practices. It will then work with local communities to develop enterprise capacity and organization for selected activities that have the most potential. A socio-economic study conducted by WWF in 2006 shows that interest in improving and expanding agriculture as a source of income is prevalent among the population of the Salonga landscape, and agriculture is viewed as a more desirable activity in terms of revenue generation than hunting and fishing.³⁸ The creation of improved tenure security through activities under Component 1 will strengthen the motivation to invest in “sedentary” agriculture, moving away from shifting cultivation for food crops and further enabling the planting of cash crops. At the same time, as transport routes out of the landscape improve, there will also be significant potential to strengthen NTFP trade and increase the value that communities derive from NTFPs, e.g. from additional processing steps, aggregation of produce, and access to market price information. Several detailed analyses of value chains of products with higher profit margins originating from the Monkoto Corridor have already been performed by Salonga conservation partners. These analyses will be consulted during project preparation phase and as part of participatory planning activities at project start to refine the selection of products for pilot commercialization. The incremental value of the project will be to develop basic enterprise structures and business plans with the interested participants and then support the process of organizing the key pillars of enterprise: production, market development and management capacity. As stated in Annex 6, one of the lessons learned from CARPE is that “tools such as commodity chain and cost-benefit analyses and the development of business plans can be important tools for assisting communities to identify sustainable income-generating activities”. The project will apply those tools in the participatory phase of selecting the target products.

The GEF-funded interventions will benefit from baseline activities such as the planned support by Salonga conservation partners to rehabilitate road and river infrastructure facilitating transport of goods out of the landscape, as well as investments in

³⁷ ICCN. Salonga National Park: Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025 (final version for validation); Program 2: Development and promotion of scientific research and biomonitoring; Outcome 1: Conservation target status is known and monitored; Indicator 2 "Large mammal populations in specific habitats "botoka ndjoku" and "esobe" known)

³⁸ WWF (2006). The Socio-Economic Aspects of Natural Resource Use and Management in the SLS Landscape

sedentarized agriculture with improved fallows, and diversified NTFP collection in the Monkoto Corridor. Building upon what has been achieved to date, and planned investments, activities under Component 2 are laid out as follows:

Output 2.1.1: Institutional and technical capacity strengthening program delivered to project partner AASD to improve their ability to support communities in natural resource management and the development of income-generating activities: AASD, which will be supporting beneficiaries in the implementation of activities under Components 1 and 2, will be the target of capacity building with two main focuses: 1) institutional capacity building (including areas such as strategic management, governance, financial sustainability, administrative and financial management, HR management, and quality products and services), and 2) technical capacity building, which will be integrated into the project design / start-up process, work planning, implementation, technical reporting, and monitoring activities. Upon start-up of the project, the project will evaluate a baseline of technical capacities to assess the NGO's capacity to undertake activities and identify specific needs for strengthening.

Output 2.1.2: 1,500 interested farmers in the forest communities supported by the project are trained and supported on sustainable, productivity-enhancing practices around the cultivation of food crops: The project will support farmers in all participating communities in the improvement of food crop production practices that will result in improved land management, increased fallow yields, greater domestication of crops, and reduced deforestation and forest degradation. This will involve introducing cultural practices compatible with natural resource conservation that can lead to an increase in productivity and household income. These production systems will focus on reducing the rotation cycle commonly used in a shifting cultivation system, as well as the gradual elimination of fire as a means of land clearing. The recent introduction by WWF of the *Mucuna* plant as a ground cover cultivated on fallow land in Salonga has proven to deliver benefits on multiple levels including the organic fertilization of soils, nitrogen fixation, weed control, soil conservation and the reduction of plant diseases. *Mucuna* also allows farmers to apply *zero tillage* methods that maintain productivity at a high level, and it has demonstrated improvements in soil fertility with clear benefits for the rehabilitation of degraded lands. Successful pilots with *Mucuna* have had a strong multiplier effect -- as farmers improve their living conditions, demand for support has tripled, with farmers approaching other farmers seeking to replicate their activities. Equally importantly, the secure and consistent incomes enjoyed by farmers planting *Mucuna* has reduced their participation in hunting. Designed through participatory learning cycles with the local population, so that their needs and priorities are understood, the resulting production systems will require little external input. The training will be based on a Farmer Field School model, a participatory learning model bringing together a group of farmers under an experienced agronomist facilitator to share production challenges and opportunities, and test and learn best management practices, including those from their own experience. The Farmer Field School learning curriculum typically lasts one year and follows the production and harvest cycle of a crop to address each individual stage. In addition, the project will facilitate the implementation of agroforestry systems primarily focused on the production of cash crops suitable for smallholder production, such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, fruit, leguminous plants and timber trees to ensure a more diverse income base. The project will provide training in sustainable production methods, as well as critical inputs (seedlings, tools). Training will be based on best practices as defined in the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) Standard³⁹ as a way to ensure that the production is sustainable and to enhance its marketability. In some cases, crop and agroforestry producers may have an opportunity to sell their products to high value international markets that recognize and reward sustainability credentials, including Rainforest Alliance certification. The identification of international market opportunities will be done through consultation with potentially interested companies, including Rainforest Alliance collaborators such as Barry Callebaut, Olam International and Nestlé. Rainforest Alliance's "market transformation" specialists will proactively identify private sector partnerships with responsible buyers in smaller companies focused on specialist markets to commercialize "cocoa/coffee from the Congo forests" as a high-value market opportunity that underscores the promotion of its conservation value. Some companies, including Theo's Chocolate in USA, already commercialize high quality chocolate from cocoa sourced from the Eastern DRC.⁴⁰

Output 2.1.3: 300 producers in forest communities, particularly women, receive capacity building and technical support in NTFP-based enterprise for two priority NTFPs identified by each community: Currently, NTFPs are mostly used for consumption and play an important role in meeting subsistence needs, considering that they represent an important source of nutrients and protein, and are used for medicinal and cosmetic purposes. NTFPs have the potential to become a more significant source of income for groups of producers, and especially women, who are traditionally most involved in their production and have shown a great interest in expanding their collection and trade. The market demand for caterpillars, mushrooms, honey, fumbwa and other products like kola nuts represent an opportunity for communities to both increase and systematize collection. The commercial development of NTFPs requires larger quantities, consistent quality and organized collection, processing and

³⁹ The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) is a coalition of non-profit conservation organizations in America, Africa, Europe and Asia promoting the environmental and social sustainability of agricultural activities through the development of standards for best practices, training and certification for rural farmers around the world (<http://sanstandards.org>). Compliance with the SAN standard is a requirement for obtaining the Rainforest Alliance Certification. <http://www.san.ag>.

⁴⁰ <https://www.theochocolate.com/node/17337>

marketing, to move the products to local markets. Producer groups will enable efficient delivery of training, and achieve scale in production and marketing activities. The methodology for identifying the products to pilot for commercial development will be to bring together the present economic actors, map their present practices, discuss the opportunities and barriers to increasing supply and demand and formalizing the information into a simple enterprise viability analysis to take back to the community and discuss. The seasonality of NTFPs and the demographics of collecting them are important factors in building a potential enterprise development portfolio that offers maximum activity throughout the year and inclusiveness of all groups. Opportunities for introducing value-added processing to some NTFPs will be evaluated, especially for fruits and nuts, to reduce time to extract the nut/seed, extract them in higher quality, and add additional processing steps that were previously not available to the community due to lack of knowledge, equipment and market access, such as the extraction of butter and oils from nuts and seeds, in a controlled transformation process meeting required quality standards.

Output 2.1.4: Producer groups of varying degrees of formality are facilitated to enable efficient delivery of services by the project and the aggregation of products for sale: Efforts to increase income generation from agriculture will be more successful if economies of scale are achieved to collect, process, store, transport and sell agricultural products. For this reason, the project will facilitate the establishment of women's groups, village collection centers and producer groups (e.g. cooperatives) to aggregate supplies from their members and thereby reduce existing storage, transport and marketing challenges. These groups also will provide a structure for the efficient delivery of training to a wider audience. In the case that an international supply chain opportunity is identified for certified coffee or cocoa, the group structure would manage the certification process and the commercialization of the certified product.

Output 2.1.5: Entrepreneurial and technical training and financing are provided to beneficiaries of 20 micro-projects as income-generating alternatives to commercial hunting and fishing: While agriculture and NTFP-based activities will be supported in all communities targeted by the project, other alternative livelihoods activities such as livestock rearing, fish farming and timber harvesting will be promoted in a subset of communities in the project area. Project beneficiaries can be villages, producer groups, women's associations, families or individual entrepreneurs, who will receive support in the identification of high value products, the drafting of business plans, and developing enterprise capacity such as administrative and financial management, quality control and marketing. With regard to livestock rearing and fish farming, the project will build on successful pilot initiatives undertaken previously in the region. At present, 37% of fish for household consumption in Monkoto is purchased, and fish farming can represent a viable alternative to the consumption of fish from rivers and further contribute to avoiding the displacement of the population for 2–3 months to fishing camps far away from the village. As significant resources are required to purchase livestock and develop fish ponds, the project will initially provide grant funding to purchase locally appropriate livestock, young fish and construct ponds for a small number of farmers, and implement a distribution model of their offspring to other members of the community. In parallel, efforts will be undertaken to identify and stimulate savings in small groups in the intervention area to ensure that livestock rearing schemes can continue after the end of the project. With regard to hunting, currently 18% of bushmeat for household consumption in Monkoto is purchased, and like fishing, hunting is a time consuming effort with more than 30% of hunting households setting up to 100 traps.⁴¹ As such, project activities to promote livestock breeding can provide a source of protein as well as an additional source of income for households. Finally, with regard to timber harvesting, under the DRC's new community forestry framework, once a community is registered, it can apply for authorization to harvest timber upon approval of the Simple Management Plan and obtain an annual permit. Timber harvesting can then be carried out by the community itself, or by outsourcing to an artisanal operator in possession of a permit. Taking into account that the local administration's capacity to guide, support and supervise this process will be very weak at start, any activity around the set-up of timber harvesting will need to be considered a pilot, and closely supported to ensure its sustainability. The project would engage with interested communities to obtain the harvesting permit, set up governance systems for benefit sharing, build capacity for the management of a production cycle and finance, identify buyers, negotiate contracts, and manage outsourced operations. A mechanism to access capital-intensive processing equipment would be elaborated. Further productive activities requiring an initial investment such as artisanal work can be promoted.

Output 2.1.6: Forest communities supported by this project have received capacity building and technical support to rehabilitate roads enabling transport of goods: There is a critical need to improve transportation routes to markets so that alternative livelihood activities will produce increased revenue for local communities (rather than creating surplus production with no market). The Salonga Management Plan calls for the reopening of 460 km of roads and tracks to improve the mobility of local communities, conservation stakeholders, and especially the transport of goods. Two projects by international donors (KfW-PBF and PARCCS) have already made commitments to undertake road/river access rehabilitation work as well as maintenance of runways and other transport infrastructure. The DRC government, working with AASD, has initiated the

⁴¹ WWF (2006). The Socio-Economic Aspects of Natural Resource Use and Management in the SLS Landscape

rehabilitation of the Monkoto – Boende road.⁴² Communities supported by this project will receive support, in the form of capacity building and equipment, to undertake small-scale rehabilitation within their community boundaries, if not already supported by larger scale rehabilitation work. In many cases, small fixes will allow a bike or a motorcycle to reach the nearest major river, such as the Luilaka river, which borders the entire western boundary of the Corridor, and from which transport over longer distances is taken care of by traders. The Salonga Management Plan defines a process that can be followed, which has been initiated under past Salonga development projects in 2010 and 2011, that involves clearing of roads from plant overgrowth, teaching communities techniques of road rehabilitation and maintenance in a “learning by doing” format, and the construction and repair of bridges.

1.4) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

In the absence of the proposed GEF intervention, the lack of community-based management planning and participation in conservation activities will result in **significant biodiversity losses**. With little disposable income, fish and game meat will remain the main sources of income for the majority of the landscape’s households and market demand will continue to motivate local hunters and fishermen to intensify these activities and give priority to trade over consumption. Because of pressure from a growing population, the forests in the Monkoto Corridor and Salonga National Park will be increasingly deforested and degraded by agriculture and uncontrolled fuelwood collection. While poaching is largely driven by the demand from ivory markets, the lack of reaction by the local population to visible illegal activities will not enable the new park co-management to effectively eradicate such trade. The premise of this project – based on demonstrated results in other countries in the tropics – is that this scenario can be avoided by seizing on the positive policy environment for improved tenure and community-based land use planning, while introducing a truly participatory approach to natural resource management and micro-enterprise development.

The **alternative approach** proposed would generate significant global benefits in biodiversity-important forest in the Salonga landscape, creating enabling conditions and demonstrating ways to reap economic and environmental benefits from the production of sustainable forest and agricultural products. The central, and long-term strategy is to initiate a paradigmatic shift in the planning basis, resource management and economic logic of conservation – from one that is focused on strict protection with minimal investment in local economic development “alternatives,” to one that focuses on community-based land use planning and productive management of forest landscapes, maximizing community ownership and benefits.

GEF support to this paradigm shift is **incremental and fundamental** to biodiversity conservation because community-based forest landscape planning and management has been proven in many contexts to: (i) reduce the likelihood of land conversion as it increases the economic viability of the forests through improved yield, diversified income, and access to premium markets; (ii) promote better governance through increased coordination and collective management, reducing the propensity to permit outside resource extraction and land conversion (legal and illegal); (iii) create increased transparency in forest management, reducing uncontrolled logging, wildlife and non-timber forest product extraction, and; (iv) enforce specific interventions fundamental to biodiversity conservation, including the creation of conservation areas following traditional cultural values, specific actions to protect species of concern, and harvesting practices that mimic natural forest stand dynamics.

Critically, the GEF investment includes **strong partnerships** with local communities, government authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector, ensuring that the local capacities and funding needed to replicate best practices on a large scale will be developed during the course of the project. The long-term result of the GEF investment will be conservation of forests and their fauna and flora in the Salonga landscape that are critical for biodiversity through community-based forest landscape management enabled by territorial planning and market-based instruments. While a more comprehensive and confirmed incremental cost analysis will be done during project preparation phase, Table G below gives an idea of the current baseline and the incrementality of the GEF investment.

Contribution to Salonga Management Plan	Baseline activities	Incremental GEF investment	GEB to be generated
Component 1: Laying the foundations for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM)			
6.1 Committees favouring dialogue in place <u>Result 1:</u> Committees favouring dialogue allow to improve the interface SNP/communities	Socio-economic survey conducted in 2006 in the Monkoto Corridor; Mapping of village clusters ("groupements") throughout the	In communities targeted by the project: Capacity building support for Community Committees in their ability	Wildlife and forests in the Corridor and in the Park protected from threats of

⁴² The three sections Monkoto-Bokela, Monkoto-Mondjoku and Monkoto-Boende correspond to the northern end of the Corridor, including the road to Boende, the provincial capital that lies North-East of the landscape.

Contribution to Salonga Management Plan	Baseline activities	Incremental GEF investment	GEB to be generated
<p><u>Indicator 1</u>: The number of Community Committees in place and operational</p> <p><u>Indicator 2</u>: The number of landscape level Community Committees in place in x sectors</p> <p><u>Indicator 3</u>: The number of resolved conflicts</p> <p><u>Indicator 4</u>: The number of management plans that are implemented and monitored</p> <p>3.1 Community-based management system in place</p> <p><u>Result 1</u>: A community-based management system is in place</p> <p><u>Indicator 2</u>: Resources of the ecological continuum are used in line with the micro-zoning plan</p> <p><u>Indicator 3</u>: The protocol for the management of the ecological continuum is developed</p>	<p>Corridor on-going and micro-zoning planned;</p> <p>137 Local Development Committees (LDCs) set up throughout the landscape;</p> <p>Awareness building activities conducted as part of the set up of LDCs, and isolated literacy programs implemented;</p> <p>The registration of community forests is planned under PARCCS, and so are biological and wildlife inventories in the ecological continuum area.</p>	<p>to manage conservation activities, support the development of productive activities and coordinate NRM across the landscape;</p> <p>Awareness building activities;</p> <p>Participatory drafting of Simple Management Plans;</p> <p>Participatory definition of rules of hunting, fishing and conservation areas;</p> <p>Deliver policy support to the DRC's community forestry framework.</p>	<p>unsustainable hunting and fishing, agricultural expansion, and uncontrolled collection of fuelwood and NTFPs through a better definition of land and resource uses and a better respect of the Park limits by local populations;</p> <p>An area of ecological continuum is formalized, and its rules of access and use defined.</p>
<p>5.1 Surveillance plan implemented</p> <p><u>Result 1</u>: A surveillance plan is implemented</p> <p><u>Indicator 1</u>: Percent of patrols organized on the basis of intelligence (investigation and monitoring of poachers by the communities) as compared to total</p>	<p>A pilot on community involvement in anti-poaching activities in the Corridor conducted by AASD in 2015;</p> <p>On-going development of a monitoring strategy for the Park, which includes community intelligence networks. However, no on-the-ground activities planned with communities.</p>	<p>Develop and roll out a system to involve communities in anti-poaching activities in relevant forest communities supported by this project.</p>	<p>Reduced rates of elephant poaching as well as illegal hunting of species such as bonobos and forest antelopes; increased confiscations and arrests; and improved BD monitoring by involving the local population in anti-poaching and biological monitoring activities.</p>
<p>2.1 Development and promotion of scientific research and bio-monitoring</p> <p><u>Result 1</u>: Target conservation status is known and monitored</p> <p><u>Indicator 2</u>: The rate at which large mammals frequent the specific habitats "Botoka ndjoku" and "esobe" is known</p>	<p>No monitoring of elephant baths to date in the Corridor.</p>	<p>Develop and roll out a system to involve communities in wildlife monitoring activities in relevant forest communities supported by this project.</p>	
Component 2: Developing sustainable livelihood alternatives that reduce pressures on wildlife and forests in the Monkoto Corridor and the Salonga National Park			
<p>6.2 Local populations benefit from natural resource management of SNP</p> <p><u>Result 2</u>: Local populations benefit from natural resource management of SNP</p> <p><u>Indicator 1</u>: 10,000 households around and within SNP benefit from micro-projects</p>	<p>Pilots performed under CARPE by PACT to improve fallows and to create alternative-income generating activities including livestock breeding and fishponds;</p> <p>To date, 10 pilot farms set up in the Monkoto Corridor by WWF as a model to sedentarize agriculture, promote improved fallows and</p>	<p>In all communities supported by this project, implement activities around agricultural intensification and diversification, and NTFP micro-enterprise;</p> <p>Have 2,000 households benefit from alternative</p>	<p>Wildlife and forests in the Corridor and in the Park protected from threats of unsustainable hunting and fishing, and agricultural expansion by</p>

Contribution to Salonga Management Plan	Baseline activities	Incremental GEF investment	GEB to be generated
	distribute improved seeds; Under PARCCS, WWF plans to promote income-generating sustainable agriculture activities such as beekeeping, agroforestry, livestock and fish farming in the Corridor where Local Development Committees have been set up.	economic activities; Support implementation of 20 micro-projects around livelihood alternatives; Activities under C2 will be coordinated with other Salonga projects, especially PARCCS, at project start.	providing alternatives to the trade and consumption of bushmeat and fish, and shifting cultivation, and improving transport routes to markets.
5.7 Reopening of roads and runways <u>Result 7</u> : The reopening of roads and runways favours the reduced isolation of the landscape <u>Indicator 1</u> : The length of rehabilitated roads and tracks <u>Indicator 2</u> : 40 “forest-type” bridges built and operational <u>Indicator 3</u> : Maintenance performed on 100% of rehabilitated roads	To date, the 25 km long section of the road connecting Monkoto and Bokela has been rehabilitated under the coordination of AASD; Communities are further planned to be involved in the rehabilitation of the Monkoto – Boende and Monkoto-Mondjoku roads and the rehabilitation of runways in various parts of the landscape.	Involvement of communities in the rehabilitation of roads in communities supported by this project.	

Co-finance commitments

Table C above on co-financing shows the commitments to activities in the Salonga landscape. Since all activities planned by co-funders (European Union, KfW and USAID) and the proposed GEF project – whether inside the Park and/or throughout the Salonga landscape - contribute to the implementation of the Salonga Management Plan, they are included as eligible co-finance to this project. The projected co-finance amount, including in-kind contributions, is USD 34.5 million.

The GEF investment will complement the funds committed by conservation partners, especially under PARCCS, and enable a concerted effort, at scale, to overcome barriers to the successful implementation of a community-based approach to conservation. While planned investments that come as co-finance to this project are considerable, the contribution of the proposed GEF project (USD 5.7M) will help to fill key gaps such as the development of community forestry beyond the initial registration of communities, requiring the communities to plan land uses and their rules of access, and implement and monitor those plans. Land use planning and the strengthening of a community-based governance system in the Monkoto Corridor under Component 1 will build upon activities planned for implementation by WWF under PARCCS, which includes the set up of Community Committees throughout the Corridor and the registration of select communities as community forests. The GEF contribution will enable to transition from communities with legally recognized rights to communities that use the newly developed governance structures and tools to manage their natural resources and participate in the productive use and conservation of the wider landscape. It will further enable conducting specific actions led by communities to protect elephants and large wildlife, which are not funded by other conservation partners. Under component 2, the GEF contribution will help intensifying the productive activities, especially for agriculture and NTFPs, to benefit communities and provide further viable alternatives to excessive hunting and fishing, and agricultural expansion. Coordination will take place at project start with Salonga conservation partners, and especially the PARCCS project, to either strengthen on-going activities or expand the implementation of sustainable, productive activities in additional locations. Considering the size of the Corridor with its 900,000 ha, a single project alone cannot provide the needed depth and multi-year support necessary to achieve transformative and wide-scale change. Support under Components 1 and 2 will prepare communities in taking on a stronger role in a shared management and governance system for Park management planned as of 2020.

1.5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The pristine, hardly explored forest of Salonga National Park still includes the full floral and faunal assemblage of a lowland rainforest and bears untold importance for fisheries, water quality, and carbon stocks. The plant and animal life in Salonga National Park constitute an example of biological evolution and the adaptation of life forms in a complex equatorial rainforest environment. The large size of the Park ensures the continued possibility for evolution of both species and biotic communities within the relatively undisturbed forest. Salonga National Park is the most important site in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo for the endemic bonobo. Although reliable survey data is fragmentary, it is likely that Salonga National Park contains roughly half of the entire global population of bonobos throughout its range. Forest elephant distribution is patchy and densities are very low as a result of sustained heavy poaching over many years. However the vast size of Salonga National Park means that it remains a very important stronghold for forest elephants in the Congo basin because, if effective and sustained protection can be re-established, the potential for a large population increase is high. Elephants are also vitally important for maintaining characteristics, regenerative capacity, and long-term viability of the forest and probably help to maintain the vegetation understory characteristics important for bonobo nesting.⁴³

The project will make a significant contribution to formalizing and supporting community forests on an estimated surface area of one quarter of the Monkoto Corridor. As such, it will make a direct contribution to global environmental benefits by putting 225,000 ha of globally significant diversity under improved management, contributing to lessening pressures on the Park and improving the ecological link between its two blocks. Because communities will be encouraged to implement their own vision of forest ownership, the project however refrains from prescribing what portion of the managed land will be protected for conservation and become part of the ecological continuum.

Global environmental benefits arising from this project are summarized by Component as follows:

Global Environmental Benefits
<p>Contribution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of Africa’s largest tropical rainforest park, and the 2nd largest area of protected forest in the world • Protection of 40% of the global population of bonobo (<i>Pan paniscus</i>) • Protection of an Important Bird Area (IBA), as such recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area (see Annex 2) • Protection of important wildlife populations (forest elephants, bonobos, bongos, endangered endemic species) • Conservation of watershed areas for seven major rivers
<p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225,000 ha under improved management as community forests (~25% of the Monkoto Corridor), protecting wildlife and forests in the Corridor and in the Park from threats of unsustainable hunting and fishing, agricultural expansion, and uncontrolled collection of fuelwood and NTFPs through a better definition of land uses, a better respect of the Park limits and the development of livelihood alternatives • A significant part of the area under improved management protected as conservation area, securing the ecological continuity between the two blocks of the Park, reducing the process of habitat fragmentation for large wildlife, preserving biological diversity and promoting genetic exchange by enabling the migration of fauna (specific targets to be defined during the project preparation phase) • Reduced rates of elephant poaching as well as illegal hunting of species such as bonobos and forest antelopes, increasing confiscations and arrests, and improving monitoring of large mammal populations by involving the local population in anti-poaching and biological monitoring activities (specific targets to be defined during the project preparation phase)

1.6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: As stated under section 4) on the GEF alternative, this project proposes a paradigmatic shift in the planning basis, resource use and economic logic of conservation applied in the Salonga landscape - from one that is focused on strict protection with minimal investment in local economic development “alternatives” to one that focuses on community-based territorial planning and productive management of forests and agricultural landscapes, maximizing community ownership and benefits. While a conservation model that seizes the positive policy environment offered by the recent legal framework on community forestry is new to the DRC, such community-based natural resource management models have been proven in other parts of the world. Over many years in other parts of the world, the proposed community-centered conservation model has been implemented at scale and has demonstrated results that have been evaluated independently and well documented. In Latin America, communities legitimately manage 216 million hectares, or one third of all forests – compared with just over 400,000 hectares in the Congo Basin.⁴⁴ There are numerous studies that show a direct correlation between areas that are under the control of local communities and biodiversity levels, with far lower rates of forest clearance. Forests under communal tenure regimes in Guatemala, for instance, supported by the Rainforest Alliance and partners over more than 15 years, constitute the last remaining natural forest reserves thanks to local initiatives for conservation, especially in the form of communal forests.⁴⁵

⁴³ UNESCO World Heritage Outlook 2014: <http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/10906> (consulted on May 25, 2017)

⁴⁴ Alcorn, 2014. Cited in Rainforest Foundation UK (2014). Rethinking Community Based Forest Management in the Congo Basin

⁴⁵ Elias, S. (2014) Community Forestry in Guatemala. Challenges and issues for collective land management. Paper presented at the FERN organized workshop on Community Forests, April 3-4, 2014.

IUCN's 2010 comprehensive report on **lessons learned** from CARPE⁴⁶ (2006-2011) includes case studies specific to Salonga that are important elements to take into account in the design of this project. Those lessons learned provide insights into factors contributing to successful CBNRM land-use planning and management efforts, as well as the development of alternative livelihoods activities, as detailed in Annex 6.

Sustainability: The participatory model put forward by this project promotes sustainability as local community members and civil society will be empowered and their capacity will be built to implement and monitor conservation efforts. The increased participation of communities, local authorities and conservation partners in Park management will be further formalized as part of the Salonga foundation and other landscape-wide coordination committees. Building permanent capacities among Civil Society Organizations such as NGOs or civil institutions should be an important sustainability strategy of all technical assistance projects. Their support over the long term is critical to the project's success, especially in such a remote environment as Salonga where project monitoring and access to technical expertise from outside the landscape is costly. Local CSOs, well embedded within the population, best understand local needs and customs, and can anticipate cultural and other barriers to the successful implementation of activities early on. In this sense, activities under Component 2 will start with institutional and technical capacity building of the project implementation partner AASD (Health and Development Assistance to the Most Deprived), a Monkoto-based NGO with experience in rural and social development going back to 1994. It is expected that AASD will support large parts of implementation under Components 1 and 2. While it is believed that there are no other local NGOs present in Monkoto that support rural development work, an assessment during project preparation will further inform the project on the potential existence of such. Another important focus of Component 2 is the organization and capacity building of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), which includes the Community Committees, including the ones in charge of managing the day-to-day business of the forest concessions, producer groups (such as women's groups, associations and cooperatives) that will aggregate produce to achieve economies of scale in accessing markets, and micro-enterprises that will benefit from the development of alternative livelihoods projects. Another key pillar of this project's sustainability strategy is the creation under Component 2 of viable production-to-market chains, which, if set up successfully, will enable the delivery of economic benefits to communities in the long run.

Scaling Up: The potential to scale up the project interventions is considerable given the size of the Salonga landscape and the fact that several national parks in the DRC are facing similar issues around land-use conflicts. In conversations held as part of consultation meetings for the design of this project⁴⁷, ICCN expressed interest in receiving help from the international community to identify new conservation models that support their participatory conservation policy. ICCN encourages this project to implement the proposed community-cantered conservation model in the Monkoto corridor at first, and if successful, to the extend the same model in all of the Park's buffer zone, in view of protecting the Park's valuable resources. Outside Salonga, ICCN is facing similar conflicts with populations in parks such as the Okapi Reserve and the Kundelungu and Upemba National Parks and is looking for innovative solutions to long-lasting land use conflicts.

2. **Stakeholders.** Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes /no) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes /no)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The local Monkoto based NGO AASD has promoted this project and facilitated its preparation, and will, as such, be involved in all stages of project design. As a local resource that is well connected to the communities, their traditional authorities as well as the administration, it will be able to facilitate consultations during project preparation phase with all target groups.

Especially in a context like Salonga where the international conservation community has been active for some 15 years and many documented and undocumented lessons have been learned from efforts undertaken to date, consultation is an essential part of project design. Apart from key project stakeholders such as MECNDD, ICCN, Rainforest Alliance and AASD, consultation meetings have been held for the drafting of the PIF with WWF's and WCS's national offices in the DRC, the two organizations that have been active in the landscape longest and with the largest programs, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture. Joint planning for design will be continued and enhanced during project preparation phase, and coordination performed at project start. This project will adhere to the overall Salonga strategy, ensuring that project activities are in harmony with the wider vision, while challenging existing models where opportunities for improvement are identified.

AASD, who has implemented several projects in support of indigenous groups to date, distinguishes two types of indigenous groups as the Batwa pygmies and the Bengale pygmies, the latter ones often times being subject of forced labour by the Bantu population. Pygmy populations are vulnerable because they are subject to discrimination, are mostly illiterate, do not own land,

⁴⁶ Yanggen, D., Angu, K. and Tchamou, N. (Eds) (2010). Landscape-Scale Conservation in the Congo Basin: Lessons Learned from the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

⁴⁷ Two conversations held in January 2017 with ICCN's Director.

and are hunter-gatherers in a space constrained environment. The Bianga *sector*, which is located North-West of the Monkoto Corridor but still belongs to the Monkoto *territory* counts 15 villages that are exclusively inhabited by pygmies. Because the project's focus will be on the Monkoto Corridor, it is however unlikely that there will be a strong participation by pygmy villages. For Bengale pygmies that are "attached" to the Bantu communities, they will need to be engaged separately as part of the Participatory Rural Appraisal under Component 1, as, in extreme cases, they may be actively threatened for attempting participation in discussions on community rights or putting forward their own concerns.

Project implementation partners and other key stakeholders are further summarized as follows:

Stakeholders	Role in the Project
MECNDD (Ministry of Environment Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development)	The Ministry ensures the oversight and mentorship of ICCN as one of its institutions. The role of the Ministry or of experts in its Sustainable Development Division, which is home to the national GEF focal point and executing agency to this project, is to ensure that the project is implemented taking into account the contractual arrangements and the expected results in the implementation of the project.
ICCN (Congolese Institute of Nature Conservation)	ICCN has the mandate of overall coordination of all conservation activities and stakeholders in the Salonga National Park and in the Park's Corridor. ICCN will ensure that the activities are aligned with the Land Use and Management of the Salonga National Park. ICCN will accompany project implementation partners in the implementation of the activities and will guide the whole process in order to meet the project requirements. ICCN chairs the Steering Committee of the Salonga National Park. The co-management agreement signed between ICCN and WWF allows other partners to work in the Park and its Corridor, while ensuring that the results will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.
Rainforest Alliance	Rainforest Alliance will support MECNDD in project management, planning, monitoring and reporting. It will implement some activities directly and for the large part, oversee implementation partners. It will ensure coordination with stakeholders and other initiatives in the landscape and on a national level. Rainforest Alliance will be suggested as a new member in the Park's Steering Committee.
AASD – Association Action Health and Development	AASD is the project's main field implementation partner and as such, will have a key role in implementing activities under Components 1 and 2. It will facilitate consultations with local stakeholders during project preparation and provide on-going support to engagement with local communities, administrative units and traditional authorities. AASD is a member of the Park's Steering Committee.
WWF	WWF is co-management partner to ICCN in the management of the Park. WWF has been consulted by UN Environment and project executing partners from the initial project idea, where WWF provided background information and guidance on key issues to be addressed by the GEF project that would fill gaps not covered by current interventions. It coordinates activities in the Park by reporting to the ICCN through the Steering Committee. WWF's role in this project will also be to ensure that the activities carried out by the project through its partners (Rainforest Alliance, AASD and other stakeholders) are in line with the Land Use and Management Plan of Salonga National Park. WWF through meetings of the Site Coordination Committee (CoCoSi) will ensure that the activities of this project are included in the Annual Work Plan. WWF and other conservation partners have responsibility for implementation of the activities and an evaluation will be carried out by ICCN to ensure that it is effective at the Steering Committee meeting. In between, a quarterly follow-up will also be provided by the Management Unit led by WWF and ICCN.
Local Administration (local, territorial, provincial)	The local administration will be involved in formalizing project outputs, such as recognizing village boundaries, creating Local Development Committees, attributing community forests and recognizing its sub-committees. Its Monkoto-based representatives are also expected to support the dissemination and implementation of best agricultural and forest management practices. It is the administration's responsibility to monitor the respect of the rules of attribution of forest communities and their concessions, as well as issue permits needed for their operation.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes /no). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

Traditional power in Monkoto, as elsewhere in the landscape, is transmitted through the paternal line. Once married, most women settle in their husband's village and use their husband's land. As such, women can access resources but rarely control them. Traditionally, men are more involved in income-generating activities, while women place a greater emphasis on meeting the immediate needs of their families. Having to feed and care for the family, and being highly dependent on natural resources to do so, women are more vulnerable to declining agricultural productivity, as well as the decreasing availability of NTFPs,

bushmeat and fish. 20% of women have not received any education (no primary school). The rate of illiteracy is as high as 55% of women aged 15 to 24. For men, the numbers are somewhat lower with 6% and 33% respectively⁴⁸

Lessons learned under CARPE emphasize that if women are to be important vehicles of change in communities, targeted strategies will need to be developed to ensure their participation in natural resource management planning and management processes. Unfortunately, until now the participation of women in such activities has been very limited. To increase the involvement of women, it will be necessary to develop an approach that takes into consideration time constraints and socio-cultural impediments to their full participation. For example, only a few women have been nominated as representatives to the thematic groups, and men defend their absence by stating that they are unable to travel away from their family and responsibilities to participate in meetings and workshops. As with socio-economic study focus groups, it may be necessary to consider organizing separate, village-based meetings for women to obtain their input and to collaboratively work together to develop a strategy for their long-term inclusion in development and natural resource management activities.⁴⁹

This project believes that greater gender equity will result in benefits for all. The balanced allocation of resources, involvement and decision-making will result in greater incomes and overall well-being for all members of the household – women, men, girls and boys – and better conservation results. Achieving gender equity requires an integrated approach geared towards changing behaviour and practice at multiple levels. In response to this, the project will incorporate the following project Components:

i) Analysis of livelihoods, gender and vulnerable groups as part of the Participative Rural Analysis foreseen in Component 2, which will inform the project design, will engage with women on current economic activities, needs and aspirations, and collect gender specific data. Because gender relations, aspirations, and opportunities can vary greatly, the analysis will begin with a closer look at the social constructs that define the roles, burdens, access to and control of resources for men and women locally. It is expected that this project will largely be able to benefit from studies performed by Salonga conservation partners to inform gender strategies.

ii) Gender-balanced management: Behaviour change and gender-balanced management within CBOs is key to opening spaces that empower women. In the case of producer organizations, women and men will be trained and assisted for those activities that they have a role or interest in. Women will be adequately represented as group administrators and trainers. Trainers will be taught how to be aware of, responsive to and advocate for gender issues in their training context and community, and equipped to counter negative gender stereotypes.

iii) Technical and financial capacity building: Targeted, gender-balanced capacity building and technical assistance packages will be refined based on the results of the Participatory Rural Assessment. In addition to the core training activities, specialized technical assistance may be provided in support of other crops or activities, especially those that are of primary importance to the livelihoods of women and their families. This can include direct support to women’s organizations. Women in particular have shown significant interest in tools that help build their entrepreneurial skills.

iv) Gender-disaggregated performance indicators: Monitoring and evaluation will include gender-specific indicators (e.g. management positions held by women in CBOs) and indicators of the presumed result of greater gender equity (e.g. increased family income, improved household wellbeing, more efficient businesses, and improved natural resource management). Results will be disaggregated so as to demonstrate distribution of results across the different genders, socio-economic and ethnical groups.

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

Key risks identified by this project are summarized as follows:

Risks	Level (Low, Moderate, High)	Mitigation measures (how the risks will be minimized or eliminated with the planned activities of the project)
Component 1 - Lack of government-approved community forest management tools and weak capacity	High	The project will work to adapt and apply tools and approaches from more advanced contexts where community forestry has already taken hold, while actively participating in national forums to help guide the crafting of new

⁴⁸ WWF CAFEC (2015). Rapport technique « Etude du Genre dans la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles et Changement Climatique dans les Paysages de Lac Tumba et Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru»

⁴⁹ IUCN (2010). Landscape-Scale Conservation in the Congo Basin: Lessons Learned from CARPE

amongst decentralized authorities hinders technical support, approval processes, and oversight of production forestry.		community forestry guidelines and implementation tools. Considering that decentralized authorities have very weak capacities in terms of staff numbers and technical skills, implementation partners to this project will largely provide the support that would otherwise be expected from decentralized authorities. At the same time, the project will offer to build capacity: Local authorities will be invited to participate in activities related to the drafting of Simple Management Plans.
Component 1 – Strong population growth leads to immigration into the landscape and threatens the community and landscape-level natural resource management system put in place.	Moderate	Establish enforceable guidelines regarding the access to and use of natural resources at the level of the Corridor, in a coordinated action across communities. Strengthen the capacities of communities and the Monkoto board, which includes community representatives, territorial authorities and Park management in the effective enforcement of management plans and rules of access. Put in place a community conflict resolution structure. Refrain from prescribing what portion of the managed land within the Corridor will be protected for conservation and become part of an ecological continuum, and set realistic targets together with the communities, which take into account the ability of the forest to support the resident population and its customary uses.
Component 2 - Dependency on the national and provincial authorities, as well as other conservation stakeholders, to rehabilitate transport routes to facilitate commerce and connect the corridor to major markets.	Moderate	Prioritize the development of livelihood alternatives in communities that are close to waterways and where traders will take care of transport over longer distances. Create an attractive market offer to incentivize traders to purchase produce from within the corridor. Foresee some project funding to perform basic rehabilitation and maintenance work.
Component 2 - Facilitating rural development and commerce through improved transportation infrastructure opens up the Park and its surroundings to more pressure (increased hunting and fishing, logging, etc.)	Moderate	Landscape-scale planning and increased tenure security and benefit flows from productive management of forests, and adjacent agricultural zones, will incentivize the maintenance of natural forest even as incomes and access improve across the Corridor. Establishment of Community Committees will play a key role in safeguarding the integrity of the Park.
Project management - The difficult access to the Monkoto Corridor and mobility within it makes the monitoring of project activities and outcomes expensive and time-consuming.	High	The project foresees local staff based in Monkoto. For the implementation of field activities, it prioritizes subgrants to local organizations over consultant assignments, and sets a strong emphasis on capacity transfer, as in Component 2. Activities requiring experts as well as monitoring missions will need to be carefully planned to reduce air travel costs by establishing a temporary basis in the villages within the Corridor. The project will seek strong collaboration and sharing on logistics with other conservation partners active in the corridor, with a logistics coordination unit that is being set up in Salonga. Annual budgets will include significant resources to adequately fund for monitoring of results.
Project management - Political instability and unsafe conditions hampering the work of project personnel, project partners and travel for monitoring of activities.	Moderate	In its staffing strategy, the project will take into account that staff based in Salonga are less likely to be affected by instability than in Kinshasa. The great former Equateur region, which comprises Salonga, is comparatively safer than other regions in the DRC. International NGOs have been operating in the landscape for the past 10-15 years without interruptions. For national coordination meetings, the project foresees the possibility to host coordination meetings outside of the DRC, e.g. in neighbouring Brazzaville or in Cameroon (home to Rainforest Alliance's regional Congo Basin office) if the situation in the country does not allow the project to host such meetings.

5. **Coordination.** Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives

Coordination is essential to ensure that all stakeholders work on the same agenda, that consultations take place and that duplication of effort is avoided. Within Salonga, coordination will take place twice annually with all projects that contribute to the overall objective of the conservation of the Salonga National Park and its wider landscape, and with the Park's management unit (WWF/ICCN) on a more regular basis.

With the transition to a new park co-management structure, a **Steering Committee** has been set up that groups all key stakeholders in the management of Salonga National Park. The Steering Committee will have decision making power over annual work planning and budgets proposed by the Park Management Unit. The Committee will include: 3 members from ICCN; 3 members from WWF; 1 representative of each donor i.e. KfW, EU and USAID; 1 representative of each contract partner of ICCN, currently Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), Max Planck

Institute (MPI), AASD and GFA Consulting Group. Rainforest Alliance will seek to become member of the Park's steering committee, as per the terms of reference of the Steering Committee. The Committee, which met for the first time on 23 January 2017, will meet twice a year in regular sessions, with one of them taking place in Monkoto followed by a field visit. Conservation stakeholders operating in the wider Salonga landscape are further represented in the **Site Coordination Committee (CoCoSi)** that has been set up for overall coordination of activities in the Park. CoCoSi is a semi-annual forum for all Salonga stakeholders including local government administrators and village chiefs, representatives of civil society, and ICCN staff at the regional and national level.

An important coordination body for initiatives around community forestry is the **National Roundtable on Community Forestry**, which has met for the third time in February 2017.⁵⁰ One of the priority tasks of the roundtable is the drafting of a National Community Forest Strategy, which should aim to provide a framework for the future actions of the different stakeholders involved in community forest development. This project will become an active contributor to the Roundtable.

With the recently completed legal framework on community forestry in the DRC, this project will seek advice from projects that will be taking first steps in implementing the new framework. One of those projects is the GEF-funded **“Community-based Miombo Forest Management in South East Katanga”**, whose objective is to promote the sustainable management and restoration of Miombo forest ecosystems, and to improve the sustainability of livelihoods of local communities through the marketing of woodfuels and non-timber forest products harvested from sustainably managed forests. Under its Component 1, the project foresees the structuring of 50 communities for sustainable forest management, including participatory zoning of village lands, and the development and implementation of simple forest management plans. It further foresees to develop and implement capacity development plans for community managers, government services and NGOs, building on training modules from the FORCOM project (“Projet de Développement et de Mise en Oeuvre de la Foresterie Communautaire”). The FORCOM project, funded by Belgium and implemented by FAO, made early attempts at implementing community forestry in four pilot sites. Exchange on successes and challenges encountered in the implementation of the community forestry framework will be highly relevant to this project.

In addition to the Miombo Forest Management project described above, two other on-going GEF projects aim at strengthening the national parks systems, and specifically ICCN. The **“Democratic Republic of Congo Conservation Trust Fund”**, a 5-year project which was approved for implementation in 2013, is focused on establishing a Conservation Trust Fund, the Okapi Fund, which is further described in section 1.1 of this PIF and which capital would be invested in international markets to generate a sustainable flow of income for protected areas in the DRC, foreseeably including Salonga National Park. **“The Support to ICCN's Program for the Rehabilitation of the National Parks Network”** project, which is to be closed in 2018, aims to enhance ICCN's overall capacity and profile, contribute to a strong coordination among partners, to safeguard and rehabilitate two priority national parks and their buffer zones (Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega), and to expand the existing protected areas network.

6. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

This project is consistent with the DRC's national and provincial strategies on environment, forest, biodiversity, climate and agriculture, with key ones described as follows:

In its second generation, the **National Program for the Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity (PNEFEB-2)** reflects the major strategic orientations and measures envisioned by the DRC to protect the environment and sustainably manage renewable natural resources. With its CBNRM approach and emphasis on productive use of land and forests, this project will contribute to two strategic pillars being “the need for co-management of biological diversity with the objective of strengthening the participation of local actors”; and “the sustainable use of biological diversity with the objective of increasing revenues derived from it”.

Conserving the vast expanse of forest in and around the Salonga National Park including its biological, environmental and cultural value is the target of this project. As such, it will contribute to the **National REDD+ Strategy** to “conserve forest carbon stocks through the protection of forests with high biodiversity value, provision of environmental or cultural services”. On a small scale, it will also contribute to “meet the needs for timber products on the national, regional and international markets through sustainable forest management”, and “increase forest carbon stocks in and outside forests”.

⁵⁰ <http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/drc-national-roundtable-sets-the-stage-for-a-new-era-of-community-forestry> (consulted on 6/21/2017)

The **National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Areas** pursues the overall objective of ensuring the *in* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the national protected area network. Its specific objective to “encourage involvement of local communities and other stakeholders” build the foundation of this project.

With regards to the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016-2020)**, community forests that may be registered as indigenous and community conserved areas would contribute to the goal to have, by 2020, “at least 17% of the national territory conserved through a network of protected areas representative of the ecological regions of the country”.

Also relevant to this project is the **Master Plan for Agricultural Development of the Province of Equateur (2010)** that emphasizes the need by the national and provincial government to invest in connecting the Monkoto production landscape to external markets through the rehabilitation of related infrastructures (in particular transport by road, rail and waterways). The document also identifies improved land tenure and access to credit, which are closely interlinked with the capacity to invest and increase productivity, as strategic priorities.

Finally, the **National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA 2014-2020)**, which is the national planning framework to fund the development of the agricultural sector, encourages the creation of producer groups as foreseen by this project under Component 3. In fact, producer groups can fill the gap created by the lack of large-scale modern agriculture in the DRC by receiving technical support on the implementation of best agricultural practices. The PNIA also lays out the second pillar of the **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DSCR-2)** on “diversifying the economy, accelerating growth and promoting employment”. Last, the PNIA is aligned with the implementation of the **Sectorial Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (SSADR)** adopted in April 2010.

From all of above, this project is aligned with and will contribute to achieving national and provincial priorities of the DRC.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

This project is learning through direct interaction with the conservation and rural development community including WWF, AASD, PACT, GIZ and AWF, and in particular from CARPE’s well documented lessons learned as summarized in Annex 6. While learning from others will inform project design and implementation, knowledge dissemination is an equally important part of this project’s knowledge management strategy. Considering that this project plans to implement a conservation model that is new to the DRC, and taking into account the potential to scale this model to other protected areas, evaluating, documenting and sharing results and lessons learned is an important contribution of this project.

In order to generate needed data on project outputs and results, the project will include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Component. The design of the M&E plan will be informed by various output and outcome assessments performed as part of planning under Components 1 and 2, and a refined project theory of change. The project’s M&E plan will define tools and processes to ensure, first and foremost, that reliable evidence-based information is produced by the project team to frequently and systematically track progress against desired output and outcome targets, evaluate status before, during and after project interventions, and in turn apply these results to facilitate management decisions and continuous improvement throughout the life of the project. Producing information on project successes and challenges will constitute a key element of the project’s shareable “knowledge base”.

Best practices and other relevant project experiences will be shared with all interested parties through, for example, the systematic inclusion of governmental representatives in field activities, organization of exchange visits between communities, trainings by lead farmers, capacity building activities for Community Committees, and the presentation of project results within Salonga’s two main coordination committees, the Steering Committee and CoCoSi. The project will facilitate knowledge sharing and learning within the DRC to strengthen CBNRM approaches. Lessons learned will be assessed and shared in mid-term and end-of-project reports, with final recommendations summarized for dissemination amongst a wider audience.

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT⁵¹ 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 [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

⁵¹ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Jose Ilanga Lofonga	Director of Sustainable Development GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development	12/28/2016

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁵² and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

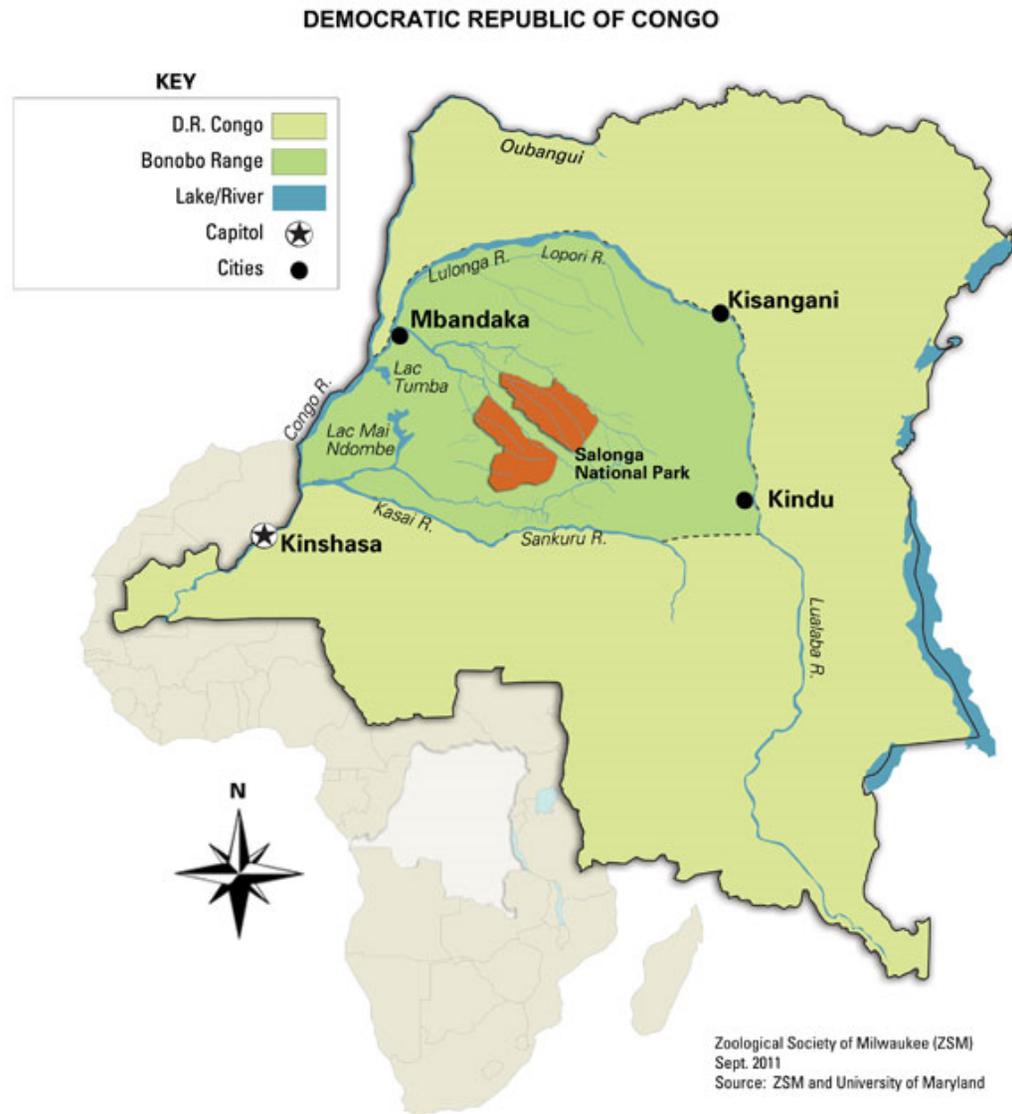
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Kelly West, Senior Programme Manager & Global Environment Facility Coordinator Corporate Services Division UN Environment		August 2, 2017	Adamou Bouhari, UN Environment Task Manager	+254719867657	adamou.bouhari@unep.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

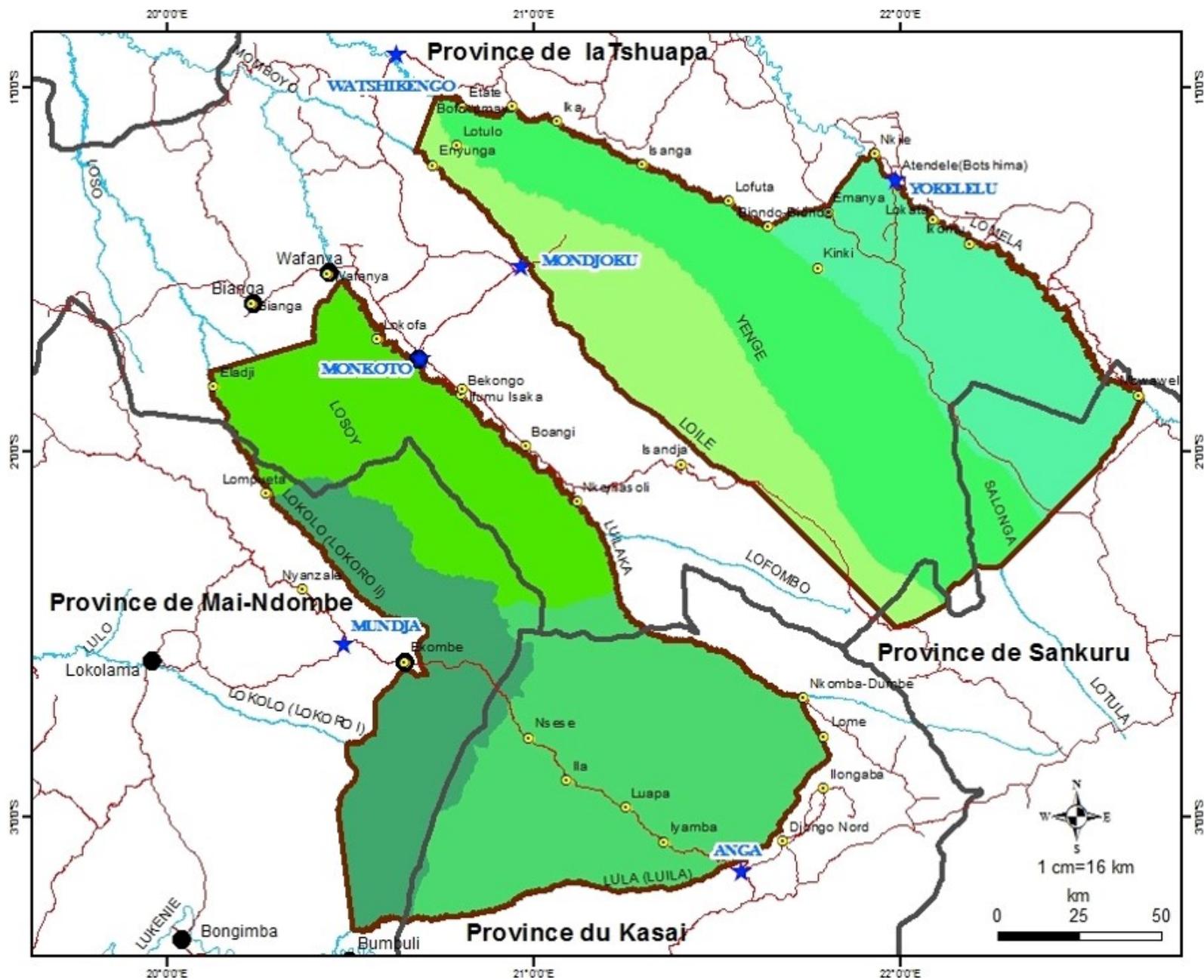
For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

⁵² GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

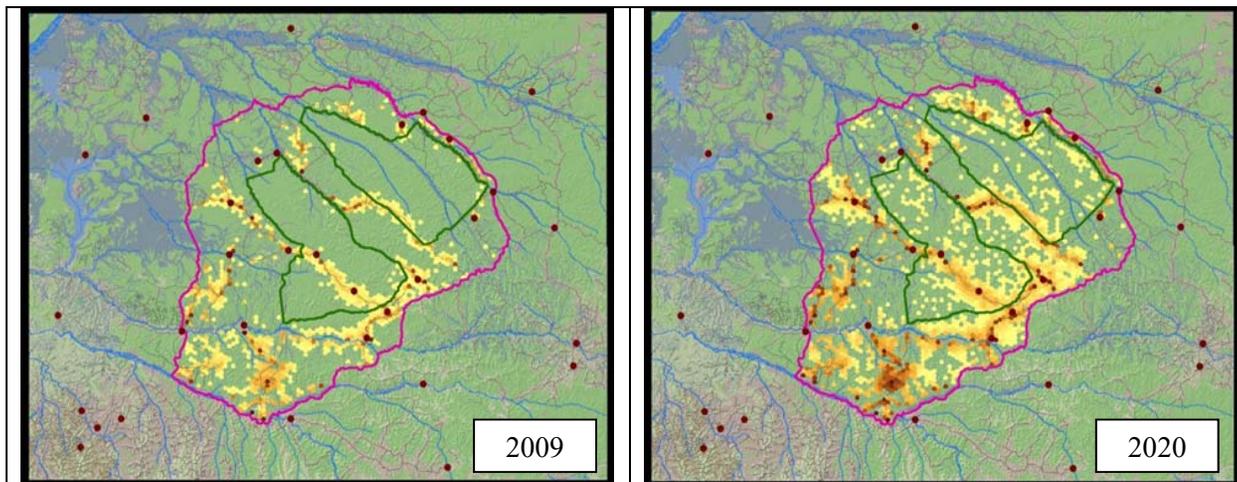
Annex 1
Pictures



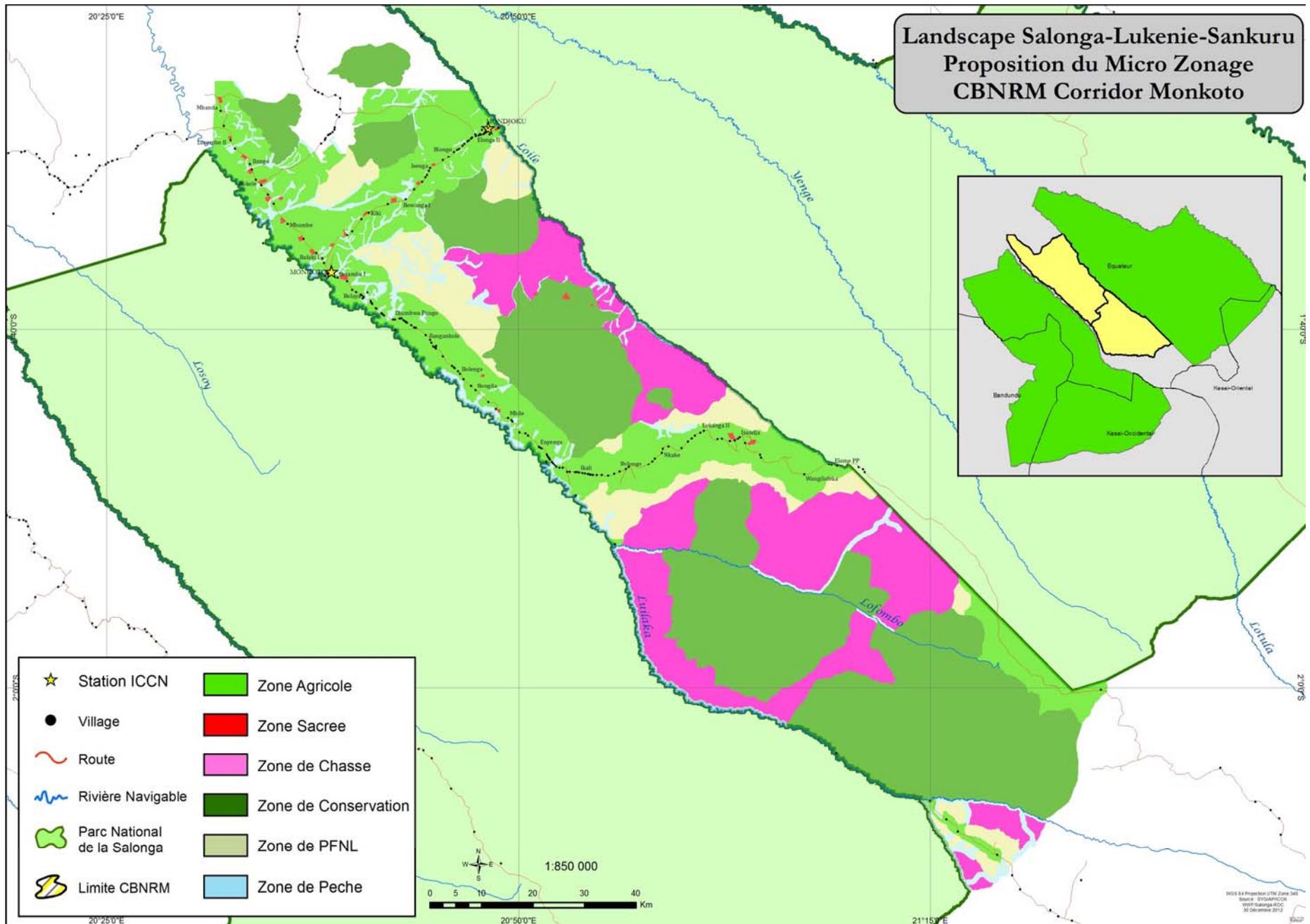
Picture 1. Location of Salonga National Park in the DRC, and key urban centers. Source: ZSM 2011, from ZSM and University of Maryland



Picture 2. Overview of Salonga National Park, the administrative split of surveillance stations, and the Monkoto Corridor (located between the Park's North and South blocks). Source: WWF PPT, 14th CoCoSi session, Mbandaka, 16-17 July 2017



Picture 3. Simulation of land degradation by agriculture 2009/2020. Source: WWF-DRC cited in Salonga National Park's Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025



Picture 4. Example of a micro zoning proposal in the Monkoto Corridor. Source : WWF-DRC, cited from Salonga National Park Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025

Annex 2

Key Biodiversity Area: Salonga National Park

Country/territory: Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

IBA Criteria met: A1 (Globally threatened species), A3 (Biome-restricted species) (2001)

Area: 3,656,000 ha

Key biodiversity

The text refers to Box and Table 3 for key species. There are few data, but the Congo Peafowl (*Afropavo congensis*) is known to occur.

Non-bird biodiversity: No systematic survey has been undertaken. The Bonobo (*Pan paniscus* EN) is known to occur. Other mammals of global conservation concern include the black crested mangabey (*Lophocebus aterrimus* LR/nt, probably endemic to the left bank of the Congo river), the African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana* EN), the Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii* LR/nt) and the water chevrotain or fanged deer (*Hyemoschus aquaticus* DD).

Pressure/threats to key biodiversity

Salonga was established as a National Park in 1970 and declared a World Heritage Site in 1984. It is managed by ICCN and is one of the sites included in the regional 'Conservation et Utilisation Rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique Centrale' (ECOFAC) project, financed by the European Union. Despite relatively low population pressures and difficulties of access, heavy poaching takes place. Elephants fall victim to organized groups of heavily armed poachers coming from distant locations, especially Mbandaka. There are territorial claims from local people. In the south, forest exploitation reaches the Park borders and may in future threaten its integrity. Periodic grassland fires in the south also threaten the forest and there is a minor threat from firewood-collection.

Source

BirdLife International (2017) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Salonga National Park. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 20/01/2017.

Annex 3

Agricultural output statistics for the Monkoto Territory

Crop	Cultivation type	Cultivated area (ha)	# of producers	Prod. quantity	Age of plantations (yrs)	Primary market	Market outside Salonga	Buyer	Price/kg	Existence of coops
Cocoa	Industrial	237	1	0	42	0	0	0	0	0
	Small producers	5	43	0 (not sold)	25	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee	Industrial	756	6	0	44	Monkoto	0	0	0	0
	Small producers	213	96	6,720 kg/yr	±20	Monkoto	0	Population	1\$/kg	1
Palm oil	Industrial	879	3	0	±44	0	0	0	0	0
	Small producers	194	98	800 L / year / producer	±15	Monkoto	Mbandaka	Population	0,5\$/kg	2
Rubber	Industrial	100	1	0	±45	0	0	0	0	0
	Small producers	5	55	Weak production	±45	Monkoto	0	1 (Yousouf)	0,1\$/kg	0
Total	Industrial	1,972	11							0
	Small producers	417	292							3

Data received directly from ONC (Jan 2017)

Annex 4

Description of "botoka ndjoku" (elephant baths) as habitats of particular conservation value

The Salonga Management Plan lists "botoka ndjoku", or elephant baths, as zones of high conservation value because of their crucial importance for safeguarding certain specific values of the Park:

Botoka njoku are open marshy areas, generally along watercourses, which vegetation consists mainly of grasses and sedges. These areas are very popular with large wildlife, including elephants. Monitoring of these clearings is important from the ecological point of view, but also from the point of view of surveillance and monitoring (the frequency of visits by animals can give an idea of the relative abundance of species or the level of predation due to poaching) and ethological studies. They are also potential sites of interest for forest tourism due to the open field of vision and the possibility of installing observation towers. If a number of Botoka njoku are known, a complete inventory remains to be done.



Picture 5 : Botoka njoku (« elephant baths ») Source: MIKE/WCS in Fact Sheet PNS N°1, mars 2005, SYGIAP ICCN , cited in Salonga National Park's Land Use and Management Plan 2016-2025

Annex 5

Contribution to Aichi targets

The proposed project will contribute to a number of Aichi targets, as follows:

Strategic goal	Indicators	Baseline	Project Target
Goal A: Address the underlying causes of Biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society			
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.	<i>Trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity and ecosystem services (C)</i> <i>Trends in public engagement with biodiversity (C)</i>	Limited knowledge of socio-economic and environmental values within the Monkoto Corridor ecosystems.	By the end of the second year of the project, environmental awareness workshops have been performed with all participating communities. By the end of the first year of the project, biological and socio-economic baseline indicators and monitoring methods are developed and applied within all participating communities.
Target 2 - By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	<i>Trends in integration of Biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies (C)</i>	No community development plans that reflect ecosystem services / biodiversity priorities	By the third year of the project, Simple Management Plans and programmes have been drafted to reflect ecosystem services / biodiversity priorities.
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.	<i>Trends in identification, assessment and establishment and strengthening of incentives that reward positive contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem services and penalize adverse impacts (C)</i>	Incentives for conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes are not effective in the project area	By the end of the project, 1,500 farmers have increased revenue from sustainable, intensified land use practices.
Strategic Goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on Biodiversity and promote sustainable use			
Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced	<i>Trends in condition and vulnerability of ecosystems (C)</i> <i>Trends in the proportion of natural habitats converted (C)</i>	Forest conversion for agriculture leads to deforestation; Uncontrolled fuelwood collection leads to forest degradation	Land use plans integrate conservation of high biodiversity forests and forests serving as an ecological corridor.
Target 7 - By 2020 areas under	<i>Trends in proportion</i>	0 ha of land in the	By the end of the project, 1,500

Strategic goal	Indicators	Baseline	Project Target
agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	<i>of area of agriculture under sustainable practices</i> <i>Trends in proportion of area of forest production under sustainable practices</i>	project area under sustainable land or forest management.	ha of land under sustainable management and 40,000 ha of land under sustainable forest management.
Strategic Goal C. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity			
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.	Trends in abundance of selected species	Monkoto 2017 biodiversity inventory figures	By the third year of the project, integration of threatened species in community development plans. By the next biodiversity inventory, abundance of species stabilized.
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.	<i>Trends in benefits that humans derive from selected ecosystem services (A)</i> <i>Trends in delivery of multiple ecosystem services (B)</i> <i>Trends in health and wellbeing of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services (B)</i> <i>Trends in the condition of selected ecosystem services (C)</i>	No community development plans that reflect ecosystem services / biodiversity priorities	By the third year of the project, Simple Management Plans and programmes have been drafted to reflect ecosystem services / biodiversity priorities.
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 land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (B)	Land tenure and access rights are not formalized under “modern right”.	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 in high biodiversity forests, are documented and integrated in one land use and management plan.

Annex 6

CARPE's Lessons learned from the CBNRM land-use planning process, development of alternative livelihoods and financial support to CSOs and CBOs in the Monkoto Corridor

IUCN's 2010 comprehensive report on lessons learned from CARPE (2006-2011) includes case studies specific to Salonga with key lessons learned listed as follows:

- Asking communities to self-regulate unsustainable practices such as commercial hunting without providing economically viable alternatives, is short-sighted and, in the long term, will jeopardize the durability of CBNRM land-use planning and management efforts. Feedback from communities in the Monkoto Corridor has shown that the communities and individuals most reluctant to participate in different land-use planning activities are often the most outspoken about insufficient attention to community development.
- It is critical to start investing from the beginning in building community capacity to develop and implement sustainable income-generating activities through support to associations, village groups and NGOs. Without this capacity, the long-term impact of investments in community activities will be limited. Tools such as commodity chain and cost-benefit analyses and the development of business plans can be important tools for assisting communities to identify sustainable income-generating activities. However, the full value of these tools will only be realized if and when linkages between producer groups and commercial entities are established, which is particularly challenging in such a remote location. Greater emphasis should be placed on establishing links with organizations working in rural development, agriculture and small business as well as other sectors such as education and health.
- **Project response:** *The need to provide “economic viable alternatives” and to “start investing from the beginning in building community capacity to develop and implement sustainable income-generating activities through support to associations, village groups and NGOs” is the focus of Component 2 through the productive management of forest landscapes and the development of livelihood alternatives including support to 20 micro-projects.*
- The process of land-use planning in CBNRM zones is only as valuable as the ability to secure community contractual or concessionary rights. The rural systems of land use, resource use and governance contradict the status of the State as the legal title holder of all the country's land and resources. Communities refer to land and resources as “theirs” and traditional authorities continue in practice to wield considerable control over the distribution of agricultural lands and to a lesser extent the use of fishing and hunting areas. (...)
- **Project response:** *With the newly completed community forestry framework, the project will ensure the ability to secure tenure rights, as per Component 1.*
- It is important to build the capacity of local communities to participate in national dialogues. Communities are eager to participate in the development of laws and other initiatives impacting their future, and their voice is critical to these discussions. However, given communities' lack of familiarity with national laws and policies, in order for them to participate as equal partners, they must first be provided with the knowledge and tools to participate. National-level decision making on processes such as land-use planning should not move at a pace that excludes the time necessary to build their capacity and create a forum for their viewpoints to be heard.
- **Project response:** *No direct engagement is foreseen by the project to facilitate the participation of local communities in national dialogues. However, the project's long term aim is to improve the participation of communities in decisions about the management of the Park, and as such, the set up of dialogue structures and capacity building of community representatives represents an important step towards enabling local community participation in national dialogue.*
- If women are to be important vehicles of change in communities, targeted strategies will need to be developed to ensure their participation in CBNRM planning and management processes. Unfortunately, until now the participation of women in CBNRM activities has been very limited. To increase the involvement of women it will be necessary to develop an approach that takes into consideration time constraints and socio-cultural impediments to their full participation. For example, only a few have been nominated as representatives to the thematic groups and men defend their absence by stating that they are unable to travel away from their family and responsibilities to participate in meetings and workshops. As with socio-economic study focus groups, it may be necessary to consider organizing separate, village-based meetings for women to ensure that they are fully informed of the activities to date, to obtain their input, and to collaboratively work together to develop a strategy for their long-term inclusion in the development and management of the Monkoto CBNRM zone. An adaptive methodology is equally important when working with groups such as the Batwa.

- **Project response:** *Lessons learned concerning the lack of participation of women in village committees, meetings and workshops are taken into account in this project's approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in section 3.*

Isolated efforts have been undertaken in the Salonga landscape to generate economically viable alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture, commercial hunting and overfishing. PACT, an NGO with competencies in community development, has taken on the bulk of alternative livelihoods activities in the landscape under CARPE. A summary of lessons learned identified by PACT in Salonga will further help guide the work on the promotion of alternative sources of income under this project:

- Support to livelihoods is a necessary precondition to conservation. Communities are very difficult to engage in the development of a management plan for improved natural resource management if material improvement in their wellbeing is not included up front. Simply put, communities are more concerned about their daily survival than conservation. There is therefore a need to find alternative activities that harmonize the two.
- **Project response:** *Component 2 focuses on the productive management of forest landscapes and the development of livelihood alternatives including support to 20 micro-projects.*
- In addition, there is a critical need to improve transportation routes to markets. Otherwise alternative livelihood activities will lead to surplus production beyond subsistence needs and no increased revenue for local communities.
- **Project response:** *As noted under Output 2.1.6, two projects by international donors have already made commitments to undertaking rehabilitation work, and the DRC government has started a project to rehabilitate the road connecting Monkoto to Boende. Most importantly, the strengthening of trade of agricultural products and NTFPs will be prioritized in locations that are well connected to major urban centres by road and waterways.*
- Further, there is a need to reinforce the capacities of local communities to attain economies of scale for the production and commercialization of products from alternative livelihood activities.
- **Project response:** *This point, addressed by the support to producer groups as per Output 2.1.4 is another critical aspect to a successful market access strategy with the project promoting economies of scale to collect, process, store, sell and transport the produce.*
- There is also a need to reinforce the capacities to enable them to engage in natural resource management planning decisions.
- **Project response:** *This will be addressed as part of Component 1 with activities on building capacities of Community Committees.*
- The linkage to markets, however, is not without risks since improved market access can easily lead to increased commercial hunting of fauna or forest clearing for agriculture. This is a key reason why the livelihood activities were firmly embedded in an overall land-use planning process. All the CARPE case studies found that land-use planning such as the establishment of core protected areas or agricultural micro-zones was a necessary component of ensuring coherence between livelihood and conservation objectives.
- **Project response:** *While rural development is encouraged by this project as the basis for a community-centered conservation model, land-use plans, rules for sustainable hunting and fishing, and community monitoring activities under Component 1 will be elaborated in order to avoid and manage possible negative impacts.*
- During the course of implementing Small Grants with support from CARPE and EU, it became apparent that the 16 beneficiary CBOs lacked functional capacity. The CBOs lacked information on the differences between NGOs and associations and did not have the understanding or institutional capacity to design and implement economically and socially viable activities. This capacity is not only important from a livelihood perspective, but is critical if local civil society is to take a greater role in environmental protection; advocating for community rights and concerns; and monitoring the implementation of CBNRM activities. To address this deficiency, the SLS Landscape Consortium has sought the assistance of INADES, a national and regional NGO, to organize a series of capacity-building workshops aimed at organization and functioning of a CBO, establishment of legal status and internal regulations, self-promotion, and business plan development.
- **Project response:** *Various forms of CBOs that will be supported by this project in the strengthening of their organizational and technical capacities include Community Committees (Output 1.1.1), the local NGO AASD (Output 2.1.1), and producer groups (Output 2.1.4).*