

## PROJECT BRIEF

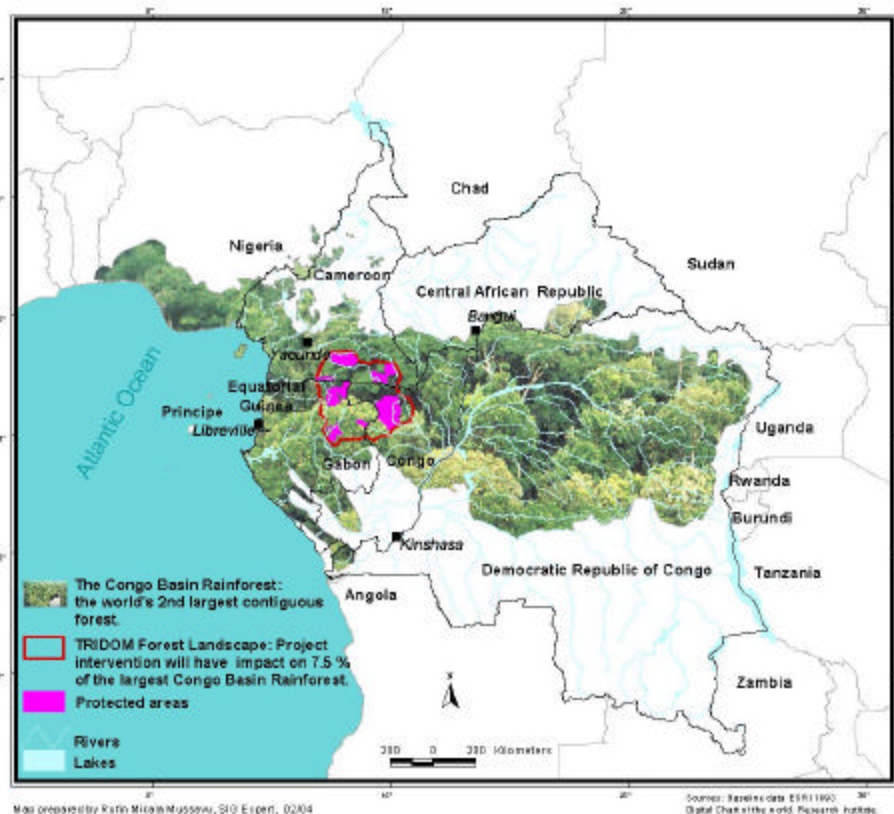
### 1. IDENTIFIERS

<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	<b>1583</b>
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>Conservation of Transboundary Biodiversity in the Minkébé-Odzala-Dja Inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon</b>
<b>DURATION</b>	Seven years
<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>	UNDP - United Nations Development Program
<b>EXECUTING AGENCY</b>	UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>REQUESTING COUNTRY</b>	Regional (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon)
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	Cameroon ratified the CBD on October 19, 1994, Congo ratified the CBD on August 1, 1996, and Gabon ratified the CBD on March 14, 1997.
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA</b>	Biodiversity
<b>GEF PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK</b>	OP-3 Forest Ecosystems
<b>GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>	<b>BD-1 – Sustainability of Protected Areas systems (with relevance to BD-2)</b>

### 2. SUMMARY

The Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion (WCBMFE) constitutes a large part of the tropical wilderness of Central Africa, the world's second largest expanse of rainforest. Its globally important biodiversity faces, however, increasingly severe threats from commercial logging and mining, large-scale commercial hunting for wild meat and ivory, often using logging concession access roads. The Governments of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo, through the proposed interventions of this project seek to mitigate these threats while at the same time putting in place the long-term resource management and financing systems needed to achieve conservation objectives. The project

would assist the three governments in designing and implementing a coherent land-use plan that designates protected areas, permanent forest and rural development areas, building the capacity to control



resource use, to monitor trends in biodiversity and ecosystem functions, through an effective law enforcement system, collaborative management schemes with the private sector and communities, including, in particular, indigenous people, and implementation of a cost-effective monitoring system. The project also seek to find ways to improve benefits for local communities through revenues generated from alternative livelihoods initiative to ease pressure on natural resource, and setting up a diversified sustainable financing scheme to cover the core management costs in TRIDOM, in particular cost related to law enforcement and protected area management. The current project will demonstrate an integrated approach to land-use planning and management that will be replicable and that will enhance and secure biodiversity conservation, promoting the conservation of the tropical forest values that have global significance. It is anticipated that at project completion, management structures and sustainable funding mechanisms will be in place to sustain project achievements in the long term and by interventions proposed to advance conservation in this globally significant part of the Congo Basin.

### **3. COSTS AND FINANCING (MILLION US\$)**

<b>GEF:</b>	Full Project:	US\$10,117,500
	PDF B:	US\$ 345,838
	<b>Subtotal GEF:</b>	<b>US\$10,463,338</b>

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**Co financing:**

Governments	US\$ 11,180,400
Multilateral & bilateral donors	US\$ 23,177,700
PDF-B Co financing from WWF	US\$ 131,000
PDF-B Co financing from European Union – ECOFAC	US\$ 131,000
<b>Subtotal Co financing:</b>	<b>US\$ 34,620,100</b>

<b>Total Project Costs (w/o PDF B):</b>	<b>US\$ 44,475,600</b>
<b>Total Project Costs (with PDF B):</b>	<b>US\$ 45,083,438</b>

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### **4. ASSOCIATED FINANCING (MILLION US\$) : US\$ 9,266,000**

#### **5. OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ENDORSEMENT**

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<b>Organization:</b> Ministere de L'Economie Forestiere, Charge de la peche et des ressources halieutiques, Republique du Congo.	<b>Date:</b> Date of signing: February 27, 04.
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### **6. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTACT:**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CI	Conservation International
COMIFAC	Conférence des Ministres en Charge des Forêts
ECOFAC	Ecosystèmes Forestiers d’Afrique Centrale
EU	European Union
FESP	Forest and Environment Sectorial Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
MEFE	Ministry of Forest Economy and Environment (Congo)
MEFEPCEPN	Ministry of Economic Forestry, Waters, Fisheries, responsible for the Environment and for the Protection of Nature (Gabon)
MINEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests (Cameroon)
TRIDOM	Tri-national Dja-Odzala- Minkebe
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Program Services
WCBMFE	Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion

## **1. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP**

1. The proposed project clearly falls within priorities at the regional level as it builds on the unprecedented political commitment expressed in the Yaoundé Declaration on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests signed by the Heads of State of Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in March 1999, recently joined by the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Declaration committed the six governments to a broad range of measures, the first of which is accelerating the process of setting up trans-boundary conservation complexes and strengthening the management of existing protected areas. The Yaoundé Declaration was recognized by the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution No. A/RES/54/214 as a mechanism to achieve sustainable forest management and conservation in Central Africa. The UN Resolution commends the Yaoundé Declaration as the framework for implementation of forest activities both by the countries of the sub-region and also by the international community.

2. In order to ensure effective implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration, the signatory States established an institutional mechanism, COMIFAC (Conférence des Ministres en Charge des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale), with an operational Executive Secretariat located in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and defined implementation strategies in the "Plan de Convergence" and a three-year priority action plan. The latter focuses on twelve priorities trans-border conservation areas, including the project area, i.e. the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) which covers 147,000 km<sup>2</sup> of forest, or 7.5% of the total for Central Africa.

3. The proposed project also supports priorities demonstrated at the national level. In recent years the three Governments have shown significant commitment towards creation of new protected areas in TRIDOM. In May 2001, the Congo extended Odzala-Kokoua National Park to 13,500 km<sup>2</sup>, thereby quadrupling its surface area. In August 2002, Gabon's President Omar Bongo Ondimba created a new national protected area system made up of 13 national parks, covering a total area of 30,000km<sup>2</sup> or 11% of the country. Three of these thirteen new parks are located in the TRIDOM area: Minkebe (7,567 km<sup>2</sup>), Mwangne (1,165 km<sup>2</sup>) and Ivindo (3,000 km<sup>2</sup>). Finally, in Cameroon the gazettment of Nki (2,383 km<sup>2</sup>), and Boumba-Bek (3,093 km<sup>2</sup>) National Parks is near completion (decree at the level of the Prime Minister). In Cameroon, the Government has also put on hold 8,300 km<sup>2</sup> of proposed logging concessions in the Ngoïla-Mintom Forest (between Dja Faunal Reserve and Nki National Park) so as to win time to assess conservation options for that forest – including the creation of a conservation concession. This was done in a context of very high demand for new logging concessions in Cameroon.

## **2. PROGRAMME AND POLICY CONFORMITY**

4. The proposed intervention aims at mitigating threats to the TRIDOM while at the same time putting in place the long-term resource management and financing systems needed to achieve conservation objectives. This will include assisting the three governments in designing and implementing a coherent land-use plan that designates protected areas, permanent forest and rural development areas, building the capacity to control resource use, to monitor trends in biodiversity and ecosystem functions, through an effective law enforcement system, collaborative management schemes with the private sector and communities, including in particular indigenous people, and implementation of a cost-effective monitoring system. It also include finding ways to improve benefits for local communities through revenues generated from alternative livelihoods initiative to ease pressure on natural resource, and setting up a diversified sustainable financing scheme to cover the core management costs in TRIDOM, in particular cost related to law enforcement and protected area management. The project thus comprises and expands conservation and sustainable use programs in the interzone specifically planned to promote the integrity of the protected areas within TRIDOM through the maintenance of biological linkages or ecological connectivity. As such the main focus of the project falls within Strategic Priority 1. Even though the project intervenes essentially in the interzone between existing protected areas, the proposed interventions

are clearly undertaken with the aim of consolidating and strengthening the overall system of protected areas. However, the project also provides a model for maintaining biodiversity and ecological processes in a predominantly production landscape, and as such it is also relevant to Strategic Priority 2. The two clearly go together, because overall success will not be achieved if we only intervene in the protected areas, nor if we only intervene in the interzone.

5. As the project focuses on conservation of forest ecosystem of global significance, it falls under Operational Program #3. It fully complies with the sets of guidelines provided by the Convention of Biological Diversity and will contribute directly to Article 8 on in-situ conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources in forest ecosystems. It will adopt an ecosystem approach aiming at promoting a matrix of land uses, which, when integrated across the area, both conserves globally significant biodiversity through sustainable use and safeguards it through set-asides in production forest and consolidation of existing protected areas, and address Article 8 (i) and Article 10 (b). It will enhance sustainable land use in areas adjacent to core zones, building on participatory approaches closely involving local communities including indigenous groups, thus addressing Article 8 (j). It will include significant components for raising public awareness on biodiversity conservation as well as training institutions and technical staff, thus complying with Articles 13(a) and 12(a) respectively. The project's objectives are consistent with the Yaoundé Declaration commitment, and its resulting "Plan de Convergence", which has been recognized by the UN as the framework for implementation of forest activities both by the countries of the sub-region and also by the international community.

6. The project will work extensively in logging concessions as they host critical habitat for endangered globally significant biodiversity and are excellent buffer zones for the protected areas. The project will support the development and adoption of strict regulations on hunting in logging concessions and will support mobile teams, based outside of concessions and with law enforcement authority that carry out surveillance and control (of hunting) operations in logging concessions. It is expected that these operations from teams external to the logging companies will gradually build the capacity of logging companies to apply adequate internal control systems on hunting. No GEF funds will go towards directly supporting logging companies or any of their operations or staff.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY**

7. The project supports the first three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (in situ conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable and fair sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources). It is consistent with the GEF operational strategy and eligible for GEF funding under the forest ecosystem operational program, and strategic priority 1 on protected areas. The project would strengthen conservation of a very large trans-border ecosystem (147,000 km<sup>2</sup>), located in a priority region for biodiversity conservation. If successful, this trans-border area will be the most important conservation complex in the Congo Basin, vital for the protection of large-scale ecological processes like speciation. Because of its size, the area will also be characterized by improved robustness and its biological richness will be more resistant to shocks (climate change, poaching, wars, epidemics). GEF funding will focus on the inter-zone between the existing conservation sites (Minkebe, Ivindo, Dja, Nki, Odzala). This thinly populated inter-zone has high biodiversity, un-logged primary forest and large mammal concentrations. It provides for critical ecological connectivity that is so important for long-term conservation. It will also lead to scale economies by developing vital anti-poaching activities in critical gaps in the current system.

8. The project is a high priority for the Governments of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo. Trans-border conservation in the Minkebe-Dja-Odzala forests is one of the priorities in the follow-up of the Yaoundé Summit. The national GEF endorsement letters are attached to this proposal as Annex D.

9. *Cameroon* signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on June 14, 1992 and ratified it on October 19, 1994. Its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was concluded in 1998. *Congo*

signed the CBD on June 11, 1992 and ratified it on August 1, 1996. A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan have been formulated. *Gabon* signed the CBD on June 12, 1992 and ratified it on March 14, 1997.

#### 4. PROJECT CONTEXT

##### 4.1 Global Significance of Biodiversity

10. The Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion (WCBMFE) constitutes a large part of the tropical wilderness of Central Africa, the world’s second largest expanse of rainforest. The global biodiversity importance of the region has been confirmed by several independent analyses. For example, WWF has identified the area as a “Global 200” priority ecoregion for conservation (Olson and Dinerstein 1998), Conservation International has identified the area as a “high biodiversity tropical wilderness area” (Mittermeier et al. 2002), and BirdLife International has identified part of the region as an Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield et al. 1998). The biological importance of the project area is illustrated in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of species and level of endemism**

Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Ecoregion	No. of Species												Ecoregion rank without compensating for area. (Out of 32 ecoregions within Tropical Broadleaf Moist Forest).
		Mammal Richness	Mammal	Amphibian Richness	Amphibian Endemics	Bird Richness	Bird Endemics	Reptile Richness	Reptile Endemics	Plant Richness	Plant Endemics	Invertebrate Richness	Invertebrate Endemics	
354264	Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion	191	15	75	5	520	7	121	17	High	High	Very High	Med	<b>4</b>
Sources of data:	Plant and Invertebrates from Cape Town workshop (Aug. 1998). Only 4 categories of richness or endemism													
	Mammal, Amphibians, Birds and Reptile data are from a combination of published range maps, experts knowledge and data from the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen													

11. The primary biodiversity values of the area are its intact assemblages of large forest mammals, such as forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), bongo (*Tragelaphus euryceros*), sitatunga (*T. spekei*), forest buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), giant forest hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and in the northwest, mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*). Furthermore, the large mammals, and especially elephants, are still able to range widely along age-old migration routes that often cross national boundaries. Relict populations of lions *Panthera leo* and a population of spotted hyena, *Crocuta crocuta* also occur in Congo’s Odzala region, confirming former linkages with savannas to the south. The recent discovery from the Ivindo rivers in Gabon of a species flock in the Mormyrid electric fish genus *Brienomyrus* represents an example of explosive speciation, a phenomenon previously known only from the African great lakes. Notable bird species include *Picathartes oreas*, the grey-necked rockfowl, *Bradypterus grandis*, the Dja river warbler and the economically important *Psittacus erythracus*, the African grey parrot.

12. This forested ecoregion also provides food, materials and shelter for over 20 million people and plays an important role as a sink and potential source for global emissions of carbon dioxide. It has been estimated that selective sustainable (cyclical) logging in Central Africa leads to the release of 30 tons of carbon/ha from the primary forest (Lescuyer, 2000). Thus primary forest conservation but also reduced



impact logging lead to less carbon emissions compared to a base line of increased forest perturbation due to logging.

13. Located at the heart of the Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion, the project area covers the trans-boundary forests extending from the Dja basin in Cameroon, to the basins of the Ivindo and Djoua rivers in Gabon and the basin of the Mambili river in Congo (see map in Annex E). This zone is known as the Dja-Minkebe-Odzala (TRIDOM) forest landscape. TRIDOM has been identified as one of the priority conservation zones within the Congo Basin as a whole (Kamdem Toham *et al.*, 2001,2003). It includes 35,968 km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas in the Dja, Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks and Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary of Cameroon, the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Congo-Brazzaville and the Minkebe, Mwagne and Ivindo National Parks of Gabon.

14. The area is principally forest; it is the remotest region of all three countries and represents the last forest frontier as far as logging is concerned. The forest comprises a variety of different forest types and other ecosystems of considerable complexity. There are area of dense evergreen moist forest, extensive area of open canopy semi-deciduous forest and elements of Atlantic coastal forests in the western part of the project area. Extensive swamps of *Raphia* and *Uapaca* are found, together with and forests characterized by dense Marantaceae undergrowth. There are also savannas especially in the Odzala part of the area. Of ecological importance throughout most of the area are sites known as “*bais*” according to Ba’aka pygmy typology. These are clearings, usually swampy and some of them containing minerals, covered with herbaceous vegetation and very attractive to forest elephant, gorilla, giant forest hog, pythons and bongo, and where they may be easily observed. Another important feature of the landscape is isolated forest inselbergs, granite outcrops that extend above the forest canopy and shelter distinct vegetation including endemic begonias, cactiform *Euphorbiaceae*, and *Podocarpus*.

## 4.2 Socio-economic Context

15. At the national levels. The major economic, social and demographic characteristics of the three countries are very different, and are shown in Table 2. *Cameroon* is the largest country, with the highest population and highest population density and the highest total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It has a relatively diversified economy and an important and diverse agricultural sector. The forestry sector is economically important; there is a relatively extensive road network and a relatively high rural population. *Congo* is the next largest country, but has a much lower total population, population density, and GDP. The Congolese agricultural sector is not well developed, and the economy is dominated by petroleum. *Gabon* is the smallest country, with the lowest total population, and population density. Its total GDP is relatively high, and is principally derived from petroleum; the agricultural sector is not important. Forestry is increasingly important. Gabon is a predominantly urban country with a very weak agricultural sector.

**Table 2: Basic socio-economic data**

Characteristic	Cameroon	Congo	Gabon
Size of territory	475,000km <sup>2</sup>	342,000km <sup>2</sup>	267,667km <sup>2</sup>
Population	16.18 millions	2.96 million	1.2 million
Population density	34.0 per km <sup>2</sup>	8.6 per km <sup>2</sup>	4.6 per km <sup>2</sup>
Total GDP	\$8.9 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$4.9 billion
GDP per capita, Atlas method	\$590	\$590	\$3,190
% GDP from agric	44.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Forest tax income	\$53.7 million	\$3.23 million	\$28.2 million
Highways	34,300 km	12,800 km	7,670 km
Airports	49	33	59
Urban population	49%	63%	81%

<sup>1</sup> Basic Data are from the CIA World Data Book/University of Michigan, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank

<sup>3</sup> Data from A. Karsenty (2000) 'Étude sur la fiscalité forestière en Afrique Centrale en vue de favoriser un développement forestier durable dans la sous-région. WWF-CARPO, Libreville, Gabon, 78pp + annexes.'

16. Macroeconomic factors have played an important role in determining the current status of the rural sector and the forest ecosystem in the three countries. *Cameroon*, with relatively limited petroleum deposits has maintained a diversified economy with almost 50% of GDP coming from agriculture. Clearing of forest for cash crop and subsistence activities has been, and continues to be an important cause of forest degradation. In *Gabon* petroleum wealth, high per capita GDP (\$3,190) and a low human population density has caused the phenomenon known to economists as the "Dutch Disease". Agricultural production has suffered and Gabon, once virtually self-sufficient in food now imports most of its requirements. Cocoa and coffee that were widely cultivated cash crops from 1950 until 1982 have been largely abandoned; fifty percent of the rural villages that existed at the time of independence disappeared between the censuses of 1960 and 1993 and others have shrunk in size. Because of low population density and the weak agricultural production, Gabon has not suffered from forest clearing and degradation as a consequence of shifting agriculture to the same extent as Cameroon. Like Gabon, *Congo's* economy is dominated by petroleum and there is an equally weak agricultural sector. Economic development in Congo has been impeded by civil war. The north of the country has been affected by increased logging activity. Logging companies tend to have extremely large logging concessions in comparison with those in Cameroon and Gabon.

17. Politically, the heavy reliance on the petroleum sector for national income particularly by Congo and Gabon (especially in view of the dwindling resources in the case of the latter country) has occasioned the perceived need towards economic diversification. In both cases this has focused attention on the logging and mining sectors as an alternative source of income.

18. In the project area. The density of public roads in the area is low (Table 3).

**Table 3: Major roads**

Country	Road	Comment
Cameroon	Yokadouma -Mouloundou-Ouessou	Major timber export road
	Abong Mbang – Lomié – Ngoïla	Major timber export and bush meat transport road
	Sangmelima-Djourn-Mintom-Lélé	Major bush meat and ivory transport
Gabon	Minvoul-Oyem-Mitzic-Larara	Defines limit of western Minkebe Forest / Major timber transport road
	Mekambo-Makokou-Ovan-Larara	Timber transport rapidly increasing
	Transgabonais railroad	Major bushmeat transport
Republic of Congo	Ouessou- Sembe-Souanké	Major bushmeat and ivory transport
	Sembe – Tala Tala – Mouloundou	?
	Ekata-Mbomo -Etoumbi	Bushmeat and ivory traffic
	Souanké-Lélé	Overgrown. Supposed to be reopened soon. Ivory transport along track.
	Souanké-Ngoïla (Cameroon)	Foot track. No plans yet to make a road of it.

19. The human population density of TRIDOM is low (see Map in Annex E.2), generally below one person per square km. There are relatively few major towns or administrative centers in the area (Table 4).

**Table 4: Major towns or administrative centres**

Country	Town	# inhabitants
Cameroon	Yokadouma	15,000
	Lomié	4,000
	Djoum	3,000
Gabon	Makokou	12,000
	Oyem	23,000
Republic of Congo	Ouessou	30,000
	Sembe	3,000
	Mbomo	5,000

20. Ethnically, the population of TRIDOM comprises Bantu ethnical groups as well as pygmies. Baka and Bakola pygmies were formerly hunter-gatherers but are now becoming increasingly settled, both through their own choice and because of Government policies. They have a complex, largely inter-dependent, social relationship with the Bantu. The Baka are located in extreme northern Gabon, in the Cameroonain part of TRIDOM and northwestern Congo. The Bakola are located in north-eastern Gabon and adjacent areas of Congo. Baka and Bakola pygmies are heavily involved in bush meat hunting, ivory hunting and plantation work for Bantu patrons.

21. Bantu farmers practice slash and burn subsistence agriculture; forest is felled and burned providing nutrients for the crops. Gradually the soil fertility is depleted and weeding problems increase making labor on the plot less productive. Finally the land is abandoned and left fallow, and a new area is cleared. This system is still efficient as population densities are low and fallow cycles are long enough to allow the forest to recover. In addition, people maintain several small plots of cocoa grown under shade. Cocoa production is very much linked to world market prices. In Gabon, cocoa has been largely abandoned but it remains an important part of rural economies in Congo and Cameroon. Ngoïla, Mintom, Souanké, and Sembe are all traditionally important cocoa growing areas.

22. Land tenure systems remain a source of tension, with both State ownership and traditional land rights operating in the same area. As a result, there are essentially two parallel systems. There is the formal system, regulated by statute, in which land is owned and title is obtained; this is characteristic of urban areas. There is also a traditional system of land allocation where land-use is regulated according to clan ownership. Rural communities, living on land that they regard as ancestrally theirs are allowed, “usufruct” rights while the state claims ownership of basic resources such as minerals, timber and wildlife.

23. The timber industry is an important source of national revenue in all three countries. The forests in the Dja-Minkebe-Odzala inter-zone have until very recently escaped logging because of the relatively low commercial value of the most common timber species and the scarcity of high value species like the African mahoganies (*Entandophragma spp.*), the presence of numerous swamps and the bad road connections. However, we observe today, that all unprotected forests in the area are solicited for logging and the following three years will decide the fate of this last large block of unlogged forest in the Western Congo Basin, located in the interzone. Important commercial timber species in this landscape include *Scyphocephalium ochocoa* (ossoko), *Pycnanthus angolensis* (ilomba), *Cylicodiscus gabonensis* (Okan), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (obeche), *Celtis spp.*(ohia), *Terminalia superba* (limba), *Pentaclethera eetveldeana* (engona) and *Baillonella toxisperma* (moabi).

24. The project area is often perceived as important in terms of its mineral potential. The principal minerals are iron ore (Bélinga in Gabon), gold (some importance in Gabon and Congo and to a much lesser extent in Cameroon), diamonds (prospection ongoing in Gabon). The Government of Gabon has great economic hopes for the eventual exploitation of the iron ore reserves of the Monts Bélinga and there have even been plans to extend the national railroad “Le Transgabonais” as far as Bélinga to facilitate

transportation of this resource to the coast. However, with current iron ore prices, this project does not seem economically feasible.

25. Another important resource, in particular for the rural communities, is wildlife. In most of Central Africa, the rural revenue produced by the illegal trade in bush meat is probably equivalent (or even superior) to that produced by the logging industry. Bush meat has an important place in the rural economies for the following reasons: (i) it provides a varied source of high quality protein, (ii) it is cheap, (iii) bush meat hunting is a low risk economic activity that asks almost no capital investment and produces very quick financial return – thus it plays a role in mitigation of under-employment. Therefore sustainable village hunting has an important role in alleviating poverty among the most economically vulnerable people of society.

26. Hopes are high also in the region for developing an ecotourism industry, based mainly on the emerging protected area system. Given the impressive forests with very large trees and the spectacular mammals, there is definitely a potential for this industry, though it might take quite some years to show. Obstacles are numerous including expensive flights to reach the country and complicated visa procedures, as well as very low standards in tourist services, accommodation and visitor assistance.

### 4.3 Policy and Legislative Context

27. As indicated above, at the regional level, the project will build on the commitments expressed in the Yaoundé Declaration signed by the Heads of State of Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in March 1999, recently joined by the Democratic Republic of Congo. In order to ensure effective implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration, the signatory states established an institutional mechanism, COMIFAC (Conférence des Ministres en Charge des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale), and defined implementation strategies in the “Plan de Convergence” and a three-year priority action plan. The latter focuses on twelve priority trans-border areas, including the TRIDOM.

28. TRIDOM has also been selected as one of the eleven priority areas that form the basis of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). Launched by the United States, South Africa and 27 public and private partners at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002, this Partnership aims at promoting economic development, poverty alleviation, improved governance, and natural resources conservation in the Congo Basin. This will be achieved through support for a network of national parks and protected areas, well-managed forestry concessions, and assistance to communities who depend on forest and wildlife resources.

29. In recent years important policy and legislation changes have also taken place that the national level. In *Cameroon*, the forestry sector has undergone profound institutional and legal reform. The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry was created in 1992, a new forestry policy was published in 1995, a new forestry code was adopted in 1994<sup>1</sup>, an environmental code in 1996, and a Forest and Environment Sector Program was developed between 2001-2003. This Program aims to develop a coherent national approach to the sector, supported by stable and long-term donor funding. All international aid agencies and bilateral partners of Cameroon show high interest in the Program and have validated its strategic orientations in January 2003. In *Congo*, a new Forestry Law dates from 2000<sup>2</sup> and a separate law regulates wildlife<sup>3</sup>. *Gabon* passed a new forest code in December 2001<sup>4</sup>, which introduced the concept of sustainable forest

<sup>1</sup> Loi N° 94 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des Forêts, de la Faune et de la Pêche. There are separate Decrees of Application for Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries. The Decree of Application for the Forestry Sector is Decree N° 95/531/PM of 23 August, 1995 fixant les modalités d’application du régime des forêts. The Decree of Application for Wildlife is Decree N° 95/466/PM of 20 July, 1995 fixant les modalités du régime de la faune.

<sup>2</sup> Loi N° 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2002 portant Code Forestier.

<sup>3</sup> Loi N° 48/83 du 21 avril 1983 définissant les conditions de la conservation et de l’exploitation de la faune sauvage.

<sup>4</sup> Loi N° 16/2001 du 31 décembre 2001 portant Code Forestier en République gabonaise. The Decrees of Application are still awaited.

management and made management plans compulsory for all major logging concessions or forest management units. These forest management plans must address social and environmental issues such as hunting and the creation of conservation units. In August 2002<sup>5</sup>, Gabon's President Omar Bongo Ondimba created a new protected area system made up of 13 national parks, covering a total area of 30,000km<sup>2</sup> or 11% of the country. In May 2001, Congo extended Odzala-Kokoua National Park to 13,500 km<sup>2</sup>, thereby multiplying by four its surface area. Finally, gazettment of Nki (2,383 km<sup>2</sup>), and Boumba-Bek (3,093 km<sup>2</sup>) National Parks in Cameroon is near completion (decree at the level of the primature).

30. The legislation in all three countries is largely consistent in terms of ownership of forests and of forest resources. Forest and its resources belong to the State although customary rights may be exercised over them. In terms of land-use planning, forests are divided into permanent and non-permanent domains. In the permanent domain are the state forests, essentially the private property of the State (Forêts Domaniales). These include national parks, wildlife reserves, hunting zones, game ranches, zoological gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, buffer zones, strict nature reserves, production forests, protection forests, recreational forests, teaching and research forests, floral sanctuaries, botanical gardens, reforestation areas. The legal regimes operating in the different countries are committed to long-term sustainable use of the forest resource and to biodiversity protection; all require management plans for logging concessions and other management units. Outside of the permanent forest estate are the non-permanent forests (or in Gabon rural forests – “domaine forestier rural”), which are not legally required to remain forest in the long term. In Cameroon the non-permanent forests include all community forests and forests belonging to private persons. We conclude that the forest legislation provides an adequate basis for habitat maintenance over large areas as it allows for the creation of a large permanent forest domain, made up of forest management units and protected areas. Given that the state recognizes traditional use rights, it is also encouraged to define collaborative management regimes and benefit sharing regimes with communities.

31. The project area includes the following protected areas, all of which have never been logged (Table 5).

**Table 5: Protected areas in the project area**

Country	Protected Area	Size	Comment
Cameroon	Dja Wildlife Reserve	5,260 km <sup>2</sup>	
	Nki National Park	2,383 km <sup>2</sup>	In final phase of gazettment
	Boumba-Bek National Park	3,093 km <sup>2</sup>	In final phase of gazettment
Gabon	Minkebe National Park	7,567 km <sup>2</sup>	
	Mwagne National Park	1,165 km <sup>2</sup>	
	Ivindo National Park	3,000 km <sup>2</sup>	
Republic of Congo	Odzala-Koukoua National Park	13,500 km <sup>2</sup>	
<i>Total under strict protected area</i>		<i>35,968 km<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>24% of the landscape</i>

32. Between 1989 and 1990, IUCN commissioned a series of national studies of priorities for forest conservation in Central Africa, including in the three countries concerned. This work, updated by Doumenge and colleagues in 2000, provides the basis of the Regional Strategic Plan for the environment and biodiversity resources of the Congo Basin (SAP) developed by CEFDHAC, the Conférence des Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses d’Afrique Centrale and funded by GEF. Currently unprotected sites that may be important for the current project include Mount Nabemba-Garabinzam in northwest Congo that was classed as a critical site by Hecketsweiler (1990). Similarly, Wilks (1990) identified 3,150km<sup>2</sup> of forest of Djoua-Ouest in northeast Gabon as important. In addition to the sites identified in the IUCN studies, other important sites include Djoua-Est in Gabon, adjacent to Congo’s Odzala-Kokoua National Park and covering some 800km<sup>2</sup> between the Zadié, Moule and Yenzé Rivers, east of 14°E. The forest of Ngoïla-Mintom in Cameroon, covering some 8,300km<sup>2</sup>, designated for logging by the Government of

<sup>5</sup> Décrets N°607-619/PR/MEFEPEPN du 30 août 2002.

Cameroon in its Land-Use Plan has been identified by De Wachter (1997) as an important, still intact, site for the maintenance of biological connectivity between Minkébé National Park in Gabon, Dja Reserve and Nki National Park in Cameroon.

**Table 6: Unprotected forests without forest concessions in the project area**

Country	Unprotected forest zone without logging concessions	Size	Comment
Cameroon	Ngoïla-Mintom Forest	8,300 km <sup>2</sup>	Attribution to logging companies put on hold by Cameroon Government pending investigation for creating a conservation concession in this forest. Ngoïla Mintom is proposed as a cross border conservation corridor between Dja, Nki and Minkebe Protected areas.
Gabon	Ayina Forest	2,500 km <sup>2</sup>	Not yet allocated because of poor timber quality in this swampy, inaccessible forest. Part of proposed transborder corridor with Ngoïla-Mintom and a new proposed protected area in Cameroon (Mengame East).
	Djoua – Zadié Forest	2,000 km <sup>2</sup>	Swampy parts are not allocated to logging because they are not exploitable. Proposed conservation corridor with Odzala National Park and Djoua-Ivindo conservation forest in Congo.
Congo	Souanké ‘panhandle forest’	10,000 km <sup>2</sup>	Not yet allocated to logging. It is proposed to locate a crossborder conservation corridor here to link Minkebe National Park with Djoua and Odzala National Park.

#### 4.4 Institutional Context

33. In *Cameroon*, the forest domain is administered by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF), including the Direction des Forêts (DF) and the Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DFAP). At the level of a province, the responsibility lies with the Provincial Delegation of MINEF, which ensures daily supervision of Park conservators, and District-Level Delegates. The main District-level delegations are found in Yokadouma, Abong Mbang, and Sangmelima and specific wildlife department services (conservators) exist for the Dja and Lobeke Protected Areas. Soon conservators are to be appointed for the Nki and Boumba-Bek National Parks. In *Congo*, the forest domain is administered by the Direction des Forêts (DF) of the Ministry of Forest Economy and Environment. Wildlife and Protected Areas are administered by a Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DFAP). The Provincial Delegation of the Ministry is found in Ouesso while Souanké and Sembe have District-level delegations. Odzala-Kokoua National Park is managed by the Wildlife Department with a conservator in Mbomo. In *Gabon*, most of the forest domain is administered by the Ministry of Economic Forestry, Waters, Fisheries, responsible for the Environment and for the Protection of Nature (MEFEPCEPN). The Ministry is represented in the field by Provincial Inspections that oversee the District level representations. These services intervene in forest and wildlife management. The Wildlife Department (Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse) has brigades linked to protected areas. In the project zone, wildlife brigades exist in Oyem and Makokou. Recently 13 national parks were created and the National Council for National Parks has been created to manage these parks. With reference to the project zone, three conservators have been nominated: one for Minkebe-West, one for Minkebe-East, one for Ivindo National Park and one for M'wagne National Park.

34. A number of important stakeholders have been identified in the project area, as outlined in Table 7 below. Note that most of these stakeholders have complementary powers, skills, strengths and weaknesses

and only through a combined effort can conservation and sustainable resource management be a successful option for the future.

**Table 7: Stakeholder mapping**

Stakeholder	Interest in or relationship to project	Resources available	Potential role or involvement
Governments of Gabon, Congo, Cameroon.	TRIDOM forms a part of the follow up to the 1999 Yaoundé Forest Summit (Presidential Summit). This large conservation zone benefits from a green image from the three governments.	Government can raise taxes to pay for natural resource management.	Directly involved through Ministry of Water and Forest. Broad-scale Government support will be sought (such as involvement of different ministries).
Ministry of Forest and Protected Areas (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon)	Primary beneficiary, co-implementing the project. Responsible and primary decision maker for land-use and forest management. Strong will to engage in trans-border conservation after the Yaoundé Summit. Increased capacity building.	Human resources at national and local level. Some logistical resources. Law enforcement and state authority	Project will be implemented in close collaboration with the different services of the Ministry of Forest and Protected Areas. Policy development. Crucial partner for field implementation (development of rules, law enforcement).
International community.	Conservation of a large and intact tropical rainforest ecosystem (biodiversity, evolutionary processes). Carbon sequestration benefits. Ecotourism.	Financial resources and influence on Government policy.	Lobbying of national governments. Provision of essential financial resources. Communication of local efforts to international audience. International press.
COMIFAC	TRIDOM is identified as a priority transborder conservation zone in the Plan de Convergence.	Political power, convening power, and lobbying in Forest Ministries.	Catalyzing coordination in the development of TRIDOM as a recognized trans-border area.
Local Authorities	Project will be implemented in their zone of authority; much collaboration with their services is essential.	Authority and power in intervention zone.	Partner at the local scale.
Mining Ministry	Some mining potential in the project zone.	Expertise on planning and data on mineral resources in the project zone.	Will be consulted and take part in the land-use planning process.
Local populations (Bantu)	Directly concerned by land-use decision-making and development of natural resource governance systems.	Expertise, local knowledge and know how. Pool of recruits.	Will be consulted on a regular basis and involved in land-use planning. Project will provide job-opportunities.
Local populations (Baka pygmy)	Use part of the forest in the project zone for subsistence and elephant hunting. Participate in development of rules regarding use and access to resources.	Expertise on the forest.	Will be consulted and involved in the land-use planning process. WWF is involved in the empowerment process of marginalized Baka pygmies.
Elites (people from project zone resident in nation's capital)	Have vested interests in their region of origin (including political).	Power-base related to the project zone, based in capital. Influence on local resident population.	Will be consulted and involved in the land-use planning process.

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Interest in or relationship to project</b>	<b>Resources available</b>	<b>Potential role or involvement</b>
Logging companies operating (or willing to operate) in the project zone.	Logging companies are more and more interested in a green image and under pressure to work towards “good forest management”.	Financial resources, logistics, expertise on their area of intervention, influence in land-use planning process.	Logging companies have important resources and presence on the field. All of them are to be partners in a landscape wide strategy to avoid the use of logging infrastructure for hunting/poaching.
European Union (EU)	Important donor in TRIDOM (Dja and Odzala-Kokoua, Minkebe, CIFOR research station)	Financial resources and lobbying power.	WWF will administer EU resources in Minkebe. WWF works with EU on natural resource policy.
USAID/CARPE	Engaged in supporting TRIDOM management	Financial support and technical assistance. Lobbying capacity.	WWF and WCS are executants for USAID/CARPE in close cooperation with government authorities. US government agencies and NGO’s based in the US are motivated to provide technical guidance.
UNDP & GEF	Engaged in the process to provide increased GEF support for TRIDOM.	Financial resources and lobbying capacity.	Work with WWF, ECOFAC and WCS on supporting policy development.
ECOFAC	Providing support to Dja and Odzala-Kokoua. Long-standing partner of WWF and WCS.	Human and financial resources are available. Specific expertise and contacts available.	ECOFAC, WWF and WCS assist the Government in making TRIDOM an operational conservation area based on effective protected area management and well-managed logging concessions.
WWF	WWF is the NGO providing support to Minkébé, Nki and Boumba-Bek National Parks. WWF also plans to launch activities in the north-western periphery of Odzala (Souanké-Garabinzam)	Technical and financial support. Longtime experience in the area.	Support to the implementation of the project.
WCS	WCS is the NGO providing support to Ivindo National Park and is also starting activities in the north-eastern periphery of Odzala	Technical and financial support. Longtime experience in the area.	Support to the implementation of the project.

35. International conservation organizations operating in the TRIDOM are presented in the Table below.



**Table 8: International organizations currently involved in the project area**

<b>Organization or project</b>	<b>Intervention zone</b>	<b>Comment</b>
ECOFAC	Dja Reserve	This EU regional program has been working on management of the Dja Reserve since 1992 (law enforcement, research, infrastructures, community development). The EU is currently preparing ECOFAC IV, which should start at the beginning of 2005.
ECOFAC	Odzala-Kokoua National Park	This EU regional project has been working on the management of Odzala-Kokoua National Park since 1992 (law enforcement, research, infrastructures, community development, monitoring). The EU is currently preparing ECOFAC IV that should start at the beginning of 2005.
WCS	Ivindo National Park	Since 2002, WCS has started working on the management of Ivindo National Park. It started with wildlife monitoring in clearings and is now expanding into park management and building of infrastructure for the park.
WCS	Odzala Northern and Eastern periphery	During 2004, WCS will start working on the northern and eastern periphery of Odzala-Kokoua National Park (monitoring, law enforcement).
WWF	Minkebe – Mwagne	Since 1997, WWF is assisting the Gabonese Government with the management of Minkebe Reserve and its periphery focusing on building capacity for law enforcement, controlling hunting in logging concessions, developing collaborative management with pygmy communities and gold-miners and developing a master plan for the Minkebe Forest Block.
WWF	Boumba-Bek & Nki National Parks	Since 1996, WWF is organizing surveys and monitoring in Boumba-Bek and is active on building a landscape vision with all actors in Southeast Cameroon. It is currently expanding its efforts towards increased management of these parks (law enforcement capacity, infrastructure, monitoring).
WWF	Odzala-Kokoua northwestern periphery	In 2004, WWF will fund surveys in the northwestern periphery of Odzala-Kokoua to assess the potential for the creation of a new park.
JGI	Mengame	Jane Goodall Institute works in the Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary and focuses on community-based conservation.
Conservation International	Ivindo	CI (through GCF) has provided funding to WCS for short-term operation in Ivindo National Park and to set up a long-term financing mechanism for the Park.
Conservation International	Odzala-Kokoua	CI is providing funding to ECOFAC for operational costs of Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

36. Proposed intervention by the above mentioned conservation partners currently is (see above), and will be in the short term, heavily concentrated on the Minkebe Forest Block (WWF), the Ivindo National Park (WCS), Odzala-Kokoua National Park (ECOFAC, WCS and WWF), Dja Reserve (ECOFAC) and Nki

and Boumba-Bek protected areas (WWF). Given limited financial resources, the interventions of those NGOs will remain weak in the interzone, where there is a funding gap to increase operational capacity.

## 5. BASELINE COURSE OF ACTION

### 5.1 Threats overview

37. As further detailed below (see also Annex F), three types of threats seriously threaten globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem processes in TRIDOM: (i) poaching and excessive hunting; (ii) logging; and (iii) new settlements in essential areas for maintaining ecological connectivity. Less imminent threats include deforestation or forest degradation, cash crop production and small-scale gold mining.

38. *Deforestation or forest degradation* from shifting cultivation is not, in the near future, a significant threat to the health of the forest ecosystem; human population density is low in most of TRIDOM, and the cultivation system is essentially of a recurrent nature (only 5% of clearings are on old growth forest). Shifting cultivation is concentrated in a strip that is 5-km wide along public roads. Forecasts<sup>6</sup> of spatial impact of shifting cultivation around 17 villages near the northern Dja Reserve show that, for the next 25 years, the existing patchwork of old growth forest, fallow and swampy lands in a 5-km wide strip will be maintained, even with a significant increase in commercial food crop production. In fact the vegetation patchwork resulting from shifting cultivation increases wildlife productivity and thus contributes to maintaining some of the hunting activity close to villages where it is less damaging for biodiversity<sup>7</sup>. A potential danger could result from people moving into the forest along logging roads to clear fields. In general, such migration in land-abundant TRIDOM is more motivated by hunting opportunities than by the need to find land for agriculture. Adequate land-use planning can minimize this danger (no agriculture is allowed in recognized national forest).

39. Equally, *cash crop production* (cocoa, coffee, rubber, oil palms) is currently not a significant threat. Coffee and cocoa plantations cover only limited areas and do not impact forests located far from public roads. Cocoa is grown under shade and is a model for agroforestry systems. No large oil palm plantations are being implemented in TRIDOM. In general, oil palms are merged in the shifting cultivation mosaic, close to villages and in the cocoa plantations. One important rubber plantation exists in Northern Gabon (Mitzic), close to TRIDOM, but the area under rubber is not expanding. Once again, adequate land-use planning can avoid potential future pressures to clear large forest areas for cash crops.

40. *Small-scale gold mining* occurs in small spots in the forests and has little direct impact as sites tend to be very small and no mercury is used. The most significant impact is that it brings people and food supplies to remote places in the forest. It is accompanied by some subsistence bush meat hunting and, very often, gold mining camps are used as a base for elephant poaching. Law enforcement capacity is needed to monitor behavior in the camps and conclude agreements with gold mining communities. The bottom line is that traditional gold mining can coexist with biodiversity conservation if the camps and access ways are not used for commercial hunting or elephant hunting. Another danger is that gold mining camps are transformed into legal villages. This has happened with the Megobe camp on the Congo-Gabon border in a critical biodiversity conservation area. This case is discussed under the “new settlement” heading below.

41. Industrial mining (see Map in Annex E.4) is currently almost non-existent but should start in the future in selected places. A major iron deposit exists in the Belinga mountains (as well as other smaller

<sup>6</sup> De Wachter, P. (1997), *Economie et impact spatial de l'agriculture itinérante Badjoué (Sud-Cameroun)*, *Civilisations*, vol. XLIV-n°1-2, p. 62-93, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

<sup>7</sup> Intact wildlife populations are only found at considerable distance from villages. Close to villages only an impoverished fauna survives, which can support relatively heavy hunting pressure and contributes to village livelihoods. Conservation of complete fauna assemblages takes place in the core of the forest, where hunting pressure is low or non-existent and needs to be maintained as such.

iron deposits elsewhere) but they are currently not economically exploitable. In the Cameroon segment, an international company is planning to mine cobalt in a specially designated mining area located east of Lomié. Effort should be deployed to limit the environmental impact of this operation. In Gabon, there are rumors that De Beers has found a promising diamond deposit in TRIDOM. It is hoped that mining by De Beers will have little direct impact (much less than logging) and that the company will apply strict environmental safeguards.

42. Ebola has severely impacted great ape populations, in particular in the Minkebe Forest Block where a decline of 95% in ape populations has been observed. An outbreak seems to be still active in the Gabon-Congo trans-border forest (Lossi, Mwagne, Upper-Djoua). More than 100 people died during this last outbreak (ongoing since 2001). Monitoring the impact of Ebola and building awareness among local communities, hunters, and bush meat traders are all part of the work of the field teams in this project.

## **5.2 Description of the most significant threats and their underlying root causes**

43. *Commercial hunting / poaching.* Commercial village-based bush meat hunting, where hunters depart from a village on foot, impacts a large area in TRIDOM. Hunters are using shotguns and iron snare traps, or both. In particular, in Cameroon, where mainly smoked meat is being traded, hunters tend to venture very far in the forest. For example, in the Dja region, commercial hunters' trap lines are sometimes found up to 50 km deep into the forest, although the average is much less (30 km). In Gabon, where only fresh meat is being traded, the typical maximum distance covered by hunters is 15 to 20 km from their village. In sparsely populated northwestern Congo, maximum distances covered are also along the 15 to 20 km range.

44. The economics of bush meat hunting change abruptly when hunters can use the roads and vehicles of the logging concessions. Even transporting bush meat on a wooden pushbike on a logging road allows hunters to go deeper into the forest. Some logging roads extend up to 100 km into the forest. As logging concessions is gradually opening up TRIDOM, the importance of access control in logging concessions cannot be overemphasized. Setting up a system where access on logging roads is adequately controlled and where transport of bush meat, arms and hunters on logging company vehicles is equally controlled is one of the most promising conservation actions in TRIDOM, which will stop the most damaging form of hunting. Successful examples already exist in the region (Bordamur, Gabon and CIB, Congo) and logging companies are willing to collaborate in such a process as unauthorized vehicles on their roads are a source of accidents and theft and as workers' hunting diminishes productivity and discipline.

45. Impact of commercial hunting is unevenly spread among species. Hunters' main quarry consists of duikers and bush pigs. But the impact is much heavier on other species that tend to be victims of opportunistic by-catch. When hunters encounter a gorilla or chimpanzee, they will try to shoot it, as it is a welcome source of extra meat. This opportunistic ape hunting is the major threat for these species and they mostly survive in healthy numbers where no hunting takes place. Leopards have huge territories, thus walking large distances, meaning that they tend to be trapped out once a certain trap density is reached. Giant pangolins equally are a typical opportunistic by-catch. For these reasons, these species tend to be very scarce in regularly hunted areas. On rivers, slender snouted crocodiles and giant soft-shell turtles are a welcome opportunistic by-catch of net fishermen while Congo clawless otters are shot at by the same fishermen.

46. Excessive hunting is driven by high demand for bush meat in villages, towns and large cities. For the needed transport of meat to provincial towns and large cities, it depends on transport links like public roads, railroads or waterways. Interventions tend thus to focus on these transport links and on refining the legal framework (what is allowed in terms of transport, what is not).

47. The most damaging hunting on biodiversity occurs where it touches the last strongholds of intact vertebrate assemblages, forest areas far away from villages. It is thus caused partly by the enormous

improvement of access via logging roads. Once again, interventions will focus on ensuring that logging roads cannot be used for hunting through a combination of adopting strengthened regulations and the necessary enforcement.

48. Hunting is the easiest way of gathering quick income. It requires little investment (some snares, some cartridges, a shotgun can often be borrowed), provides very quick returns (financial income is almost immediate, compare with cocoa where one needs to wait one year) and is an activity with little risk (labor investment provides almost always a financial return, in particular if still game-rich areas are available – compared to cocoa where a farmer can lose much of his crop from disease after a year of work). Therefore, hunting is very attractive to the many underemployed or unemployed men in the rural Congo Basin. In general, providing alternative employment is not in itself a sufficient solution, given the large labor surplus in these countries. Others will replace those hunters who found employment. It is more effective, if economically feasible, to provide alternative use for forest areas, like ecotourism, research camps or - depending on the context - low impact hunting (sports hunting) as this assures increased occupation of space and less opportunities for large scale poaching. Alternative occupation of space is especially useful there where no adequate law enforcement can be ensured.

49. Improper management of village common or state property also causes excessive hunting. Until recently, because of difficult transport, bush meat was only used for subsistence in many villages. Hunting took place on traditional lands belonging to a clan, and meat seemed in ample supply. Villages still have difficulty to understand that wildlife can be hunted out. Also, hunting does not directly lead to permanent settlement, and is thus seen as the activity of a “passerby”, not threatening basic interests of traditional landowners. Equally, in the large forests of Central Africa, most village territories are adjacent to a core forest on which little traditional ownership is established. This forest is thus of quasi-open access if it is economically feasible to hunt there. The cost of getting there diminishes strongly if logging roads can be used, or if hunting is taking place for high value products (ivory, leopard skins), or combined with another high value operation (like gold mining associated with ivory hunting).

50. In Central Africa, the forests belong to the State, though communities are granted usufruct rights. One of the root problems, is that the State does not enforce protection of the wildlife on its property because (i) enforcement cost is perceived as being too high, (ii) Governments are not motivated to allocate resources for wildlife and forest conservation as this affect the interests of people benefiting from poaching (e.g. many elephants are hunted with rifles belonging to powerful people) and allocating funding for conservation brings little benefit to political and other decision makers. Wildlife only brings value to local people once it is hunted. Little economic or cultural values are related to the maintenance of biodiversity. Developing ecotourism or other non- or low-consumptive economic uses of biodiversity and ensuring that some benefits accrue to local people is to be part of a conservation package.

51. Elephant hunting, for meat and ivory, is rampant in TRIDOM and for a large part uncontrolled. Contrary to popular perception, elephants are not difficult to hunt, track or stalk in the forest. Elephants tend to survive in the core of the forests, away from human habitation. Elephants are a keystone species in the forest, and can make up 50% or more of the vertebrate biomass. They disperse large quantities of seeds of diverse species over large distances and maintain certain vegetation types (like bais, or open marantaceae forest). Thus, ecological extinction of elephants has a profound impact on underlying ecological processes. Given that, in production forests, seed-bearing trees from certain species become very rare as mature trees are logged out (e.g., moabi - *Baillonella toxisperma* - is a high value timber species that only starts producing its first fruits after an estimated 100 years, meaning that, in a production forest, few fruit-bearing trees will remain – it is also almost totally dependent on elephant dispersal), it is evident that healthy elephant populations can help disseminate seeds from protected areas to the periphery, thus improving diversified forest regeneration.

52. Elephant poaching is driven by a demand for meat in villages and ivory (in Africa and Asia). As with bush meat, the only way elephants bring value to people is through meat and ivory. Providing economic incentives to local communities linked to a healthy elephant stock (like ecotourism, or sometimes safari hunting or regulated off take), and law enforcement, are once again the ingredients for long-term successful elephant conservation.

53. In large parts of Central Africa, poaching is a de facto authorized activity (even if illegal). Capture rates of wild life law offenders are low. And if they are captured, fines or sanctions tend to be low. Thus, the bottom end is that, in large parts of Central Africa, the little existing enforcement efforts act as a de facto “taxation” on the activity rather than as a real deterrent. To diminish poaching, we need to raise the cost of the activity and diminish the benefits. Once expected costs will outweigh expected benefits, the activity will cease to be economically feasible. We can use a combination of the following methods: (i) increase the capture rate and/or level of applied sanction, (ii) increase the physical cost of getting to hunting grounds and transporting products out (for example, through controlling access in logging concessions or patrolling critical rivers) (access management), (iii) refine and improve regulation so as to minimize unnecessary conflict and so that it becomes easier for potential offenders to operate in a legal way and simultaneously for law enforcement resources to be effectively deployed.

54. *Logging.* At least 80% of the Congo Basin Forest is destined to be logged (see Map in Annex E.3). In TRIDOM, with its many protected areas, 60% might be logged. Logging brings huge change to the forest. Though the volume of timber harvest tends to be relatively low (5-15 m<sup>3</sup>/ha) in the first cycle, it is concentrated on a few species and has very significant impact on the population dynamics and ecological presence of these targeted species. Secondly, and more importantly, though relatively few trees are harvested for sale, they are cut over very large areas and need to be accessed and transported along roads. The dense network of transport and skidding roads brings huge damage to the forest floor and counts for more felled trees than the actual logging itself. Finally, logging roads provide access to poachers, and the impact of logging on wildlife is often extremely damaging. Logging has proceeded at a very quick pace in Central Africa and most of the forests outside of protected areas are already attributed or under active logging. The time of very large pristine forests is largely over in the Western Congo Basin, and, soon, the only relatively intact forests without road access will only be found in protected areas.

55. The spatial progression of logging in TRIDOM has been very quick. Ten years ago, logging had only touched a minor part of TRIDOM. Now, maybe 50% of TRIDOM is already attributed, most of it under active logging. Attribution of logging concessions in Central Africa has been done in a very non-transparent and un-planned way with no input from the different stakeholders. Concessions have been attributed without the needed land-use planning that should underpin the attribution of concessions (except, to a certain extent, in Southeast Cameroon). The attribution of concessions has been linked to benefits for an elite who acted more in its own interest than in the interest of the country. At a political level, logging is favored by Governments, which see the forest sector as a main source of income and employment. Protected areas bring little or no revenue (rather, they increase costs) and relatively little employment (at least in the short-term). Therefore, they do not benefit from a high level of support. The countries of the region are reaching the minimum standard in protected area gazettement (10% of forest estate) and it becomes increasingly difficult to add new primary forest areas to the protected area network. The TRIDOM interzone offers a last chance to do just this, bringing in additional benefits of trans-boundary mergers and status and increasing ecological connectivity. Land-use planning in the interzone is the tool through which these questions can be addressed.

56. Logging takes place in the forest because of the demand of international timber markets. Governments have no financial incentives to set aside primary forests. Citizens all over the world tend to favor old growth forest protection, but because of free-rider behavior, very little funding goes actually to forest protection or to offsetting opportunity costs for not logging. Though the project cannot change this at an

overall scale, it will try to initiate offsetting of some of the opportunity costs for not-logging the Ngoïla-Mintom Forests and maybe other forests of the interzone.

57. *New settlements* (in critical corridor areas). Movement of species and genes over large areas depends on continuous areas of habitat. Permanent settlements (villages) tend to block species flow as hunting originates from these settlements and as, in the long-term, the vegetation around them will become less and less adapted to the rich biodiversity of the forest. In TRIDOM, the danger is that base camps for hunting become recognized as villages thus diminishing the ecological viability of TRIDOM as an interconnected ecosystem. Examples in TRIDOM are the Megobe gold mining camp on the isolated Upper-Ivindo river, which has been recognized as a village by the Congolese Government, and the poaching camp near the SHM concession in Gabon. Other camps that might seek village status exist on the Mintom-Lélé road, in gold mining areas, on the Belinga road, on the Ayina river, etc.

58. Well carried out land-use planning should be able to address this in the medium term. In the short-term, conservation services should closely monitor the situation, as it is very difficult to revoke village status, even if it was granted to cover up what are in essence camps that make a living out of poaching. Building awareness with the administrative authorities might be an efficient way, so that it becomes politically difficult for them to grant village status to camps used as a basis for large-scale elephant poaching and bush meat hunting.

## **6. ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION**

### **6.1 Project Design - Strategic Decisions Taken in Defining the Alternative Scenario**

59. The proposed intervention strategy is based on a few key strategic decisions resulting from the above analysis and that can be presented as follows:

**60. Building a TRIDOM wide conservation system covering 7,5 % of the Congo Basin Forest.** Different field actors are currently expanding their support for the management of the parks in TRIDOM. WWF and WCS are supporting the Minkebe, Ivindo, Boumba Bek and Nki Parks in the fields of law enforcement, monitoring, collaborative management, infrastructure and hunting control in peripheral logging concessions. WCS will also assist in the management of Northern Odzala-Kokoua National Park. ECOFAC is currently planning phase IV of its regional project and will thus bring substantial support to the Dja and Odzala National Parks (community development, monitoring, law enforcement). These actors (WCS, WWF, ECOFAC) are working in close cooperation with Government agencies and, over the years, strong synergies between these agencies have been built. They already have a common platform through coordinated execution of the CARPE-TRIDOM component and the CAWHFI (Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative). Given the vast size of the TRIDOM, these actors do not have enough resources to develop significant actions in the interzone between the existing parks as their current and expected resources are already overstretched to cover their main areas of intervention (essentially the existing parks and some of their peripheries). It is therefore proposed to focus GEF funding on the “voids” in the TRIDOM i.e., essentially, the interzone between the parks, thereby contributing to a consolidated TRIDOM conservation project effectively covering the whole zone.

**61. Reinforcing the conservation capacity in the Dja-Minkebe-Odzala interzone.** The 40,000km<sup>2</sup> forest located between the Dja Reserve and Nki National Park in Cameroon, the Minkebe National Park in Gabon and the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Congo is a very thinly populated area with a lot of good forest and still important wildlife populations, including great apes and elephants. It is a key area if ecological connectivity between the above-mentioned protected areas is to be maintained and TRIDOM to survive as an operational ecological area. As already mentioned, the interzone has been a “conservation void” – meaning there is no capacity in place to check heavy poaching for example. Developing sound natural resource management in the interzone will lead to much improved conservation results, not only of

the interzone forest itself but equally of the existing protected areas and their attached zones as their boundary with the interzone is now weakly or not at all patrolled. For example, poaching originating in South Cameroon, along the Djoum-Mintom-Lélé road affects elephants and wildlife in the Southern Dja Reserve, the Western Ngoïla Mintom Forest and the Northern Minkebe Forest. Northern Minkebe becomes now very accessible with the new logging roads in Cameroon leading up to the border of Minkebe. By building conservation units and / or services in this sector of southern Cameroon, a huge part of TRIDOM receives improved wildlife protection (see map in Annex E). Similar economies of scale can be created in the Ngoïla area (improved protection of Nki), the Souanké-Sembe area (increased protection of Nki and Odzala), and the Makokou-Mekambo area (increased protection of Odzala, Minkébé, Ivindo and Mwagné). These additional conservation units and / or services can also build upon the already extensive field experience and know-how developed in TRIDOM by ECOFAC, WWF and WCS. Thus, as we fill the conservation gap in TRIDOM, tangible conservation results can be reached while benefiting from economies of scale and lower cost per square km.

62. The interzone forests are the last chance in the Western Congo Basin to set aside for conservation supplementary old growth and never logged forest. Almost all other forests – except for protected areas – remaining in that part of the Basin have been attributed to logging companies and most areas are under active logging. Governments have shown interest in this. For example, the Cameroon Government “froze” 8,300 km<sup>2</sup> of proposed logging concessions in the Ngoïla-Mintom area, so as to evaluate conservation possibilities for this forest including conservation concessions or a variant. The Congo Government has not yet allocated the forests west of Souanké.

63. **Land use planning for the interzone.** Currently, the governments of the three countries are reluctant to set aside more land as a protected area. The concepts of biological connectivity, corridors, and landscape also need to be explained. Most attention at start-up should go to assisting the governments in land-use planning in the interzone. In Cameroon, a land use plan already exists but the need exists of refining so as to better reflect the needs of TRIDOM. The zoning process should lead to the definition of a permanent forest domain (production forests and protected areas) and a rural domain (reserved for agriculture and community forestry). Land-use planning leads to a Governmental decree that can then be implemented, in particular through gazettelement of protected areas and forest management units. It is during the negotiations on land-use planning options that the difficult question of additional protected areas should be discussed and settled. Well-designed land-use plans also lead to implementation of improved resource management strategies.

64. **Improving on-the-ground operational capacity.** Another pillar of the intervention strategy is to build on-the-ground operational capacity of the Ministries in charge of forests and protected areas. On the ground capacity will be made up of competent people with authority (Ministry officers), a common vision, alliances with existing services and projects and operational means. In addition, the involvement in the process of Provincial inspections of the Ministry in the three countries should be strengthened. Operational capacity of the Ministry in charge of forests is essential to control poaching and to conduct negotiations and broker processes, including these related to land-use planning and its implementation, as well as collaborative management processes where a group of stakeholders agree on rights and obligations regarding a (set of) resource(s).

65. **Cooperating with logging enterprises.** Logging causes direct damage to the forest environment through tree felling, through the construction of skidding trails and access roads, through hunting of wildlife encouraged by access through the logging roads and often carried out by logging employees as well as by hunters coming with vehicles from other areas. Given that the project area is such an important wildlife area, and given that hunting has no place in the operations of a modern logging company, it will be a priority for the project to eliminate hunting related to logging infrastructure. Therefore the project will lobby for the adoption of regulations that forbid the use of logging infrastructure and equipment for hunting and collaborate in the field with logging companies. These companies are in general willing

collaborators as hunting is a source of trouble for them: bad image and vulnerability to national and international criticism, vehicle bound hunters are a source of road accidents and theft, and employee hunting' uses valuable working time. The Ministry may also give them fines because of "collaboration with poachers". Logging companies are obliged by law to prepare management plans, which have to be accepted by the Ministry in charge of Forests. Therefore the project will work with the logging companies to ensure that these management plans take into account critical corridor areas and buffer zones. Replication will be sought from successful initiatives currently undertaken by WCS (CIB concession in Congo) and WWF (Bordamur concession in Gabon, involvement of logging companies in landscape vision around Lobeke and Boumba Bek in Cameroon).

**66. Developing viable socio-economic incentives.** As already indicated above, ensuring that benefits from ecotourism and other biodiversity enterprises accrue to local populations is an essential complement to conservation measures and law enforcement efforts. Community forests will gradually create empowerment of local people in the protection of their natural resources. Ecotourism developed in collaboration with the private sector and local communities can be a powerful incentive for conservation. It not only provides economic incentives for conservation but also occupies "forest space" with a non-consumptive habitat. Eco-lodge operations located on rivers can help diminish the cost of surveillance on these rivers and will trigger strengthened involvement of local people in forest's conservation. Other potential biodiversity enterprises could include, for example, bio-prospecting initiatives or marketing of medicinal plants, with benefit sharing schemes to local communities. .

**67. Sustainable financing.** Currently, there is heavy reliance on third parties (NGOs and externally funded projects) for the effective management of the existing protected areas. This must change, and the project will provide support to develop effective sustainable financing strategies, based on business plans and combining a variety of potential income resources. One important source of income should be the logging companies through their contribution to surveillance costs.

## **6.2 Goals of the proposed project**

68. The long-term *development objective (goal)* of the project is to conserve globally significant biodiversity in the Congo Basin through integration of conservation objectives into the national and regional sustainable development plans in the TRIDOM. In order to contribute to this long-term goal, the *specific objective*, or project objective, will be to maintain the ecological functions and connectivity of TRIDOM, and ensure long-term conservation of its protected area system through integrated, sustainable and participatory management in the interzone between the protected areas. Through this specific objective, the project will promote a matrix of land uses, which, when integrated across the area, both conserve globally significant biodiversity through sustainable use and safeguards it through set-asides in production forest. The project will make a substantial contribution towards strengthening the system of protected areas both at national and regional levels, by designing and implementing a cost-effective model for the management of a mosaic of different uses which will not only increase the landscape resilience, but clearly consolidate the overall protected area system. Collectively, the activities undertaken will demonstrate cost-effective and replicable ways and means for facilitating the broad-based participation of communities, the private sector and other key actors in the project area, and reconcile protected area management with sustainable use objectives and production systems and ultimately significantly improve prospects for sustainability of the protected area systems at the regional level.

69. The actions proposed to achieve this fall into seven Outputs which will deliver four outcomes each with specific impacts as detailed in the Results Impact Measurement Table, Annex B-2 along with the indicators of performance, targets and verifiers, sampling frequency and reasons for selection.

70. *The first outcome* will be that the land-use and the governance structures of a trans-border complex for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use are designed, endorsed and operational.



The actions to achieve this outcome focus on an effective zoning of the TRIDOM, and will include legal endorsement and implementation of three land use plans at national levels, the adoption and signing of an internationally recognized status for the TRIDOM by the three governments, and the endorsement of the TRIDOM master plan as well as its implementation by all stakeholders in at least 50% of the project area, and including operation rules, management structures and models for collaborative agreements. This Outcome incorporates Outputs 1 and 2 of the proposed project.

71. ***The second outcome*** will be that the capacity to monitor trends in biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions and to minimize pressures on natural resources is strengthened in TRIDOM. Ecological functions taken into account by the project will include clean water, rainfall generation, erosion control, temperature amelioration, healthy rivers and streams, water retention, protection from floods, climate stabilization, nursery habitats, watershed protection, amelioration of regional and global temperature variations and resilience to future climate change. The actions to achieve this outcome focus on setting up a pragmatic and cost-effective system to monitor biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions. Monitoring of the use forest resources will be achieved through the development of databases through surveys. It will provide some information of baseline populations and on the routes and destinations to which forest products are exported. It will also provide information on large-scale migrations and seasonal movements of large mammals such as elephants and hornbills, which are important in the design and maintenance of connectivity between protected areas in productive landscape. Regarding ecological functions, it is proposed that the focus be on actively monitoring effective ecological connectivity as this function is threatened and provides a good indicator of conservation success on the ground. Monitoring of trends is of little use unless there is the capacity to control trends on the ground, and the efforts will also focus on the implementation of effective law enforcement systems in at least 50% of the project area. The project will also promote “best practices” on hunting in logging concessions as well as promote conservation set-asides and other biodiversity conserving actions in forest management plans. This Outcome incorporates Outputs 3, 4 and 5.

72. ***The third outcome*** will be that benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation. The action to achieve this outcome will focus on promoting the development of alternative economic activities including viable ecotourism ventures and community forestry / wildlife management initiatives in targeted sites, as a means to ease pressures on the natural resource base and improve the livelihoods of local communities. This Outcome incorporates Output 6.

73. ***The fourth outcome*** will be that sustainable funding is mobilized for the conservation and sustainable management of the TRIDOM. The actions to achieve this outcome will focus on designing and implementing a multi-level (at regional, national and site-specific level) financial plan endorsed by the three governments and concerned parties. The design of a financial plan will include a study to assess the short, medium and long-term costs of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the TRIDOM, as well as an assessment of the constraints and opportunities of a range of financial mechanisms to implement the plan. It will also include training in financial planning and conservation finance, especially capacity building activities to ensure increased budgetary allocation and implementation of innovative financing mechanisms for forest conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, with the aim that long-term financial resources cover at least 50% of the core management cost in TRIDOM. This Outcome incorporates Output 7.

74. At the end of the project these four outcomes will have collectively provided an adopted land-use plan designating protected areas, permanent forest and rural development areas, that covers at least 80% of the 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> interzone area and provides the framework for maintaining ecological functions and connectivity in TRIDOM. The 35,968 km<sup>2</sup> covered by the existing protected areas in TRIDOM will be under effective management and robust against anthropogenic perturbations. The three Governments will have legally recognized TRIDOM as a trans-border conservation and sustainable natural resource use complex. Populations of elephant and great ape populations will have stabilized or increased in TRIDOM

compared to levels at project start up, indicating reduced pressure on resources. In at least two pilot river sites per country, populations of Nile crocodiles, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo clawless otters will have stabilized or increased. The overall percentage of TRIDOM without bush meat hunting will have stabilized or increased compared to levels at Year 1 through an effective law enforcement system and collaborative management schemes with the private sector and communities. The average distance covered on foot by village hunters will have stabilized or decreased compared to levels at Year 1. A pragmatic legal framework for community hunting will have been adopted for all of TRIDOM and compliance increased by 25%. The number of tourist days in TRIDOM will have increased by at least 15% per year from Year 4 onwards. Income generated from ecotourism development and community-based forest and wildlife management in the areas targeted by the project will have contributed to reduced unsustainable natural resources harvesting. A diversified sustainable financing scheme will be functional and cover at least 50% of the core management costs in TRIDOM, in particular cost related to law enforcement and protected area management.

75. In addition, the resilience of TRIDOM against anthropogenic and natural perturbations in the Western Congo Basin Forest Ecoregion will have increased as a result of a coordinated conservation operations with adjacent conservation priority areas such as the Sangha Tri-National Complex and Lopé-Chaillu Complex. Lessons learned in TRIDOM in coordinated management, control of hunting and law enforcement, land-use planning, partnering with the private sector and catalysing sustainable financing will have been disseminated and used as a model for replication in at least three other conservation areas in the Congo Basin.

### **6.3 Detailed Description of Project Outputs**

76. The proposed Outputs and Activities are detailed in the Logical Framework Matrix in Annex B-1, along with the indicators, targets and assumptions. Outputs and activities are summarized below.

#### **Output 1: TRIDOM zoning is effective through legal endorsement of three national land-use plans and their implementation**

77. It is clear that continuation of the baseline scenario in the project area will result, in the medium to long-term in a series of biological islands in a sea of degraded forest. However, as indicated above, the governments of the three countries are currently reluctant to set aside more land as protected area. It is neither desirable nor politically feasible to halt resource exploitation in the project area, but highly desirable to channel and guide development in such a manner as to maximize biological continuity between the various core elements. To achieve this, the concepts of biological connectivity, corridors, and landscape need to be further explained. Most attention at start-up should therefore go to assisting the governments in land-use planning in the interzone with a view to define a permanent forest domain (production forests and protected areas) and a rural domain (reserved for agriculture and community forestry). It is during the negotiations on land-use planning that the difficult question of additional protected areas should be discussed and settled. Governments have hinted that they might seek some form of compensation for not logging some of these forests and those questions should be addressed during this process.

78. Activities under this output include, during the first two years, an assessment of exiting land use data and integration into central and national GIS database. National multidisciplinary land use planning team will be set up in each country to collect complementary or missing information to design a land use plan. In order to improve the effectiveness of this planning framework, the project will empower the national land use plan teams of the respective Ministries in charge of forests and protected areas / wildlife in the collection, interpretation and use of remote sensing data and field observations to monitor local land use change. This will involve making available GIS facilities and related technical training, working together to update and produce thematic maps and to devise an early warning communication system that can

effectively mobilize local governments and other authorities in cases of infractions to the proposed land use planning. This capacity will be critical to monitoring and evaluating project impacts over time as proposed in outcome 2. One other important guiding principles of the land use exercise will be to promote recognition of traditional user's rights, as provided in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

79. The strategy to promote a mosaic of different uses must inherently involve a wide range of stakeholders. The first two years will therefore involve active negotiations on land-use planning in the interzone. A technical advisor, attached to COMIFAC, will strengthen this negotiation process. Land-use planning will involve intensive consultation of the government authorities in charge of forests and protected areas / wildlife and other relevant matters such as plan, finances, mines, agriculture, etc.), civil society, communities and private sector, to build a common vision for the interzone and reach a consensus on the proposed land use scenarios. The possibility of linking additional conservation areas with a scheme to compensate some of the opportunity costs of not logging an area will be explored. It will include developing relations with partners such as Conservation International that had expressed interest in a compensation scheme for the Ngoïla Mintom Forest. Legal endorsement of the proposed land use scenarios will be sought through discussion of thematic maps and technical documents. Finally, a series of measures such as the gazetting of forest management units, or protected areas will be implemented to operationalize the agreed land use plans and lead to the creation of a trans-border complex of protected areas and sustainable management zones.

**Output 2. A trans-boundary status is adopted for the TRIDOM and operational management systems are effective at the regional, national and local levels**

80. This Output will focus on the provision of strategies, systems and operations needed to obtain the overall conservation objectives of TRIDOM, and the tools by which they can be reviewed and updated periodically. First, it will seek to secure a common vision for the TRIDOM project area and to determine a mechanism for its coordination. Ideally, the outcome should be something like a "Peace Park" or a Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO) or a World Heritage Site. Commitment to an international category would demonstrate political will and significantly improve the chances of successful implementation. This would bring global recognition of the initiative, and would also provide a template of actions and institutional arrangements that would be necessary. Such a categorization would also bring financial and technical assistance to management, as well as development of ecotourism. Such a plan would have to be agreed at an appropriate political and administrative level. The idea of an international status for TRIDOM has been discussed during the PDF B phase, and it will be fine-tuned by holding further consultations with the three governments, including, in particular, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other actors, leading to the signing of tri-national agreement on the proposed TRIDOM status during the first two years of project implementation.

81. Second, to achieve the overall conservation objective of TRIDOM, support will be provided to existing protected areas system to specifically strengthen conservation services at both the project area and national level. The development and / or finalization and endorsement of management plans for those protected area will be catalyzed through a participatory process to provide a consistent and adapted framework to field interventions. The management plans will include the detailed activities permitted in buffer zones, locations of facilities, equipment needs, transportation and conflict resolution mechanisms. A major component would be a law enforcement system coordinated with the overall operational systems defined in the master plan.

82. A third element of this Output will be to promote the design and endorsement, through stakeholder consultations, of a master plan defining operational rules based on the land-use plan, management structures as well as model collaborative management agreements defining the roles and responsibilities of the respective stakeholders for each unit of the interzone. A broad-based participation of all sectors –

governments, civil society, private sector, conservation community, etc. – will be ensured throughout the process.

### **Output 3. A pragmatic and cost-efficient system to monitor biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions is operational**

83. One of the factors driving the baseline scenario is the inability to monitor, evaluate and control events in the project area. This Output not only will seek to design and implement a comprehensive monitoring strategy for TRIDOM, but will also focus on building capacities to monitor, evaluate and control events and trends in the project area. By the end of year 2, the project envisions training in each country a minimum of 20 conservation and forest professionals in data collection on logging, abundance of key species like elephants and great apes, hunting and poaching, law enforcement effort and results. The project will build on existing systems with an aim to achieve increased efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts. A monitoring strategy and work plan will be elaborated and agreed upon to ensure coordination between the different protected areas, where the World Bank/WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool scorecards will be used, and the existing systems at the local and national levels, including the CyberTracker technology, and to define joint programs in terms of ecological monitoring to facilitate the decision-making process. Partnerships in and outside TRIDOM will be strengthened to ensure implementation of the monitoring plan. The development of a TRIDOM database is seen as an important aspect of the monitoring strategy.

84. Monitoring biodiversity and ecological functions will emphasize monitoring the phenomenon of large-scale migrations and seasonal movements of large mammals such as elephants, which is important in the development of biological corridors between protected areas. One of the most effective ways of obtaining this information is through the satellite collaring of elephants. There has already been some of this activity in all three countries, but it is important to extend it and organizations such as WCS and WWF are ready to assist in this important aspect of biological monitoring. It is also proposed that survey be conducted to provide information on baseline populations on other species such as Nile crocodile, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles, and Congo clawless otters. Ecological connectivity will be further monitored via the mapping of vegetation types and agricultural activity (based on remote sensing data), via the identification and monitoring of network topology parameters as well as accessibility parameters (e.g. related to logging roads, public roads, and permanent settlements).

85. Monitoring of the use of forest resources will be achieved through the development of databases through surveys. It is proposed that surveys be carried out to provide some information on the routes and destinations to which forest products are exported. This would include local routes within the project area, urban markets in the major cities of the three countries, and markets in international destination for commodities such as wild meat and ivory and timber. Evidence of illegal logging, detection of an ivory smuggling trails, etc would be entered into a TRIDOM GIS network linked to national GIS units, and made available to the law enforcement team. Monitoring results will be published upon completion of the project in the “State of the TRIDOM”.

### **Output 4. The legal framework is re fined and law enforcement systems are effective**

86. This output will specifically seek to build on-the-ground operational law enforcement capacity of the Ministries in charge of forests and protected areas. To achieve this, it is envisioned that at least two additional law enforcement teams per country be recruited, trained and made operational to improve protection in the interzone, in complement to the efforts undertaken in TRIDOM’s protected areas. The field teams would operate as ‘flying squads’ and would have at their disposal boats and outboard motors, four-wheel drive vehicles, etc., and excellent communications equipment which would enable them to communicate with other team members, other control posts (including those in other countries), with their respective headquarters, and with the authorities in the capital cities. These “flying squad” teams would

be the key to the enforcement of laws and regulations in the project area as well as to the negotiation of the land-use and master plan. Each team would have about 10 permanent members under a commander and his assistant. The “flying squad teams” will concentrate on minimizing heavy unacceptable poaching resulting from commercial hunting in logging concessions and ivory hunting. They will operate in a mobile way in logging concessions and along the few roads in the area. There is a large amount of elephant hunting going on in the interzone and the teams will concentrate on arresting and sanctioning those who are liable. Subsistence hunting and small-scale commercialization of bush meat should not be a big problem in the area, given the low population density. Project intervention will be limited to improved understanding of the impact and organization of this type of hunting and might lead to increased legalization of the activity.

87. In this context, it is suggested as per the assessments carried out as part of the PDF B, that the following entities be strengthened: (i) the Ministry/ECOFAC Djoum base which should strongly increase its operations towards the southern part of Dja Reserve, Mintom, Lele, northern Minkebe and the logging concessions in the area, (ii) Ministry/WWF-ECOFAC team in Lomié for operations towards Ngoïla and northern Nki, (iii) Ministry/WCS-ECOFAC-WWF team for work in the northwestern periphery of Odzala, (iv) Ministry/WWF team in Oyem and Makokou for work in northern Minkebe (Cameroon-Gabon border) and the Mekambo-Okondja forest, (v) Ministry/WCS team for operations within logging concessions around Ivindo National Park. All the law enforcement monitoring data collected will be entered into a central and national GIS database. A comprehensive law enforcement monitoring strategy will be designed and coordinated with law enforcement efforts in existing protected area. Awareness raising activities will target village communities on the specific issue of health-related issues, in particular, Ebola that has killed more than 100 people and an uncounted number of gorillas and chimpanzees over the recent years in Gabon and Congo. This will include building awareness on the nature of Ebola and how to avoid it as well as on other health dangers linked to apes, transport of bush meat, etc. A key element in this strategy will also be to develop and implement tools specifically targeting awareness building of key stakeholders such as magistrates, decision-makers and administrative / military authorities, as well as the civil society. Law enforcement efforts at the field level will be complemented by lobbying for the adoption of national policies on hunting and poaching. A series of consultation will also be conducted with a view to reach a specific agreement on control of trans-border poaching. The signing of the proposed agreement by the three governments will provide the legal framework for the overall law enforcement activities in TRIDOM.

88. While strengthening law enforcement capacity at strategic locations on the ground, this Output will also seek to develop and negotiate, through participatory processes, a series of co-management agreements that provide clear rights and obligations for the signatories, on activities such as hunting related to gold mining camps, hunting related to mining concessions, village hunting near logging concessions, etc. This activity includes intensive work with local communities. In particular, one of the outcomes is a better-defined and more secured bundle of rights (use rights/ access rights) of local communities with regard to forest and wildlife resources (as also indicated under Output 6). A particular outcome is the fact that village hunting becomes footed on a more legal basis and in the long-term. Access to abundant wildlife resources in village hunting territories is a key factor for rural poverty alleviation. In the thinly populated interzone, sustainable village hunting is compatible with conservation of intact wildlife populations in un-hunted core areas where hunting is not authorized.

89. The final line of action under this Output will focus on ensuring comprehensive protection of threatened aquatic fauna. This will consist primarily in conducting biological and socio-economic surveys to identify critical habitats for endangered species such as Nile crocodile, slender snout crocodiles, river turtles, and Congo clawless otter, and devise a management strategy for their conservation. Pilot rivers or river segments will be identified, law enforcement missions will be conducted on a regular basis, and co-management agreements negotiated to ensure buy-in from the local communities in the protection of aquatic resources. It is anticipated that at least six co-management agreements including two for

protection of river fauna and four village hunting agreements will be signed and implemented by project completion.

**Output 5: Mechanisms are in place to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions**

90. Under this Output, the project will seek to mainstream biodiversity in productive landscape, by ensuring effective wildlife management and promoting conservation set asides in logging concessions, including marginal areas such as swamp and hilly areas in addition to potentially important biological areas in terra firma. The conduct of logging in the project area must be subject to the highest technical standards. Regular law enforcement will be conducted in logging concessions, using new technology such as the CyberTracker tool to monitor law enforcement effort. “Best practices” regarding control of hunting in logging concessions, such as the already successful examples of WWF in Minkebe Forest and WCS in the CIB concession in northeastern Congo will be promoted in national policy within the three countries. The project will provide support to the consultative process to be conducted leading to the adoption of a code of “best practices” on wildlife management to be applied in logging concessions. Activities under this Output also include negotiating with logging companies that they contribute to part of the costs linked to law enforcement efforts in their concession, to ensure the financial sustainability of this activity.

91. Logging companies will also be approached for including in their management plans areas that are to function as biological corridors. A draft strategy to promote conservation set asides will be discussed with logging companies as from the first year of project implementation. Starting from Year 2, a pilot logging concession will be identified per country, to test the “set aside” approach. It is anticipated that, by Year 3, at least one pilot logging company operating in the interzone would have successfully integrated a conservation “set aside” in the management of its concessions, and that two additional similar initiatives are achieved by project completion.

**Output 6: Viable community initiatives providing socio-economic incentives for biodiversity conservation are designed and operational**

92. As indicated above, developing socio-economic incentives that catalyze support to biodiversity conservation is key to the project’s success but the interzone has always been at the margins of economic development of the three nations. The project will therefore seek to achieve the following main targets under this Output. First, the socio-economic assessment on sustainable development options contributing to biodiversity conservation already initiated during the preparation phase of the project will be expanded and completed. Special attention will be paid to clearly map the situation of local communities and to take into account the rights, knowledge, systems and traditions of indigenous populations. In parallel with the land-use planning exercise, opportunities for developing long-term income generating activities such cash crops in a way compatible with biodiversity conservation will be carefully analyzed in cooperation with specialized agencies such as FAO. The findings and recommendations of the socio-economic assessment will be integrated into a number of proposals to be presented during a round-table with donors and other specialized actors to stimulate the intervention of new development partners in the area.

93. Second, the project will promote a limited number of ecotourism sites, with a view to complement efforts already undertaken in the protected areas of the TRIDOM. The conditions for ecotourism development in the project area are not ideal due to a number of constraints, in particular, the high costs of transportation, insecurity and political instability, geographical isolation and difficult access to some areas, poor infrastructure and difficulties at the borders, fear of diseases (Ebola, malaria), difficulty in observing charismatic species, and competition from well-organized tourism attractions in other regions of the continent. However, recent studies have found that tourism targeted on sites with established tourism potential is of high interest to finance some costs of biodiversity conservation, attract the interest of partners at the international level, and, even more importantly, produce direct employment and indirect

benefits for local populations, thereby catalyzing increased opportunities and willingness to protect and respect natural resources. A market analysis will be carried out to ensure that the target audience is well defined. The project will focus on identifying pilot sites that diversify tourist offerings (e.g. through promoting cultural tourism) to attract a greater variety of tourists, and on promoting incentives to catalyze the interest of the private sector to invest in building facilities, carry out tourism operations, and recruit and train local stakeholders in those pilot sites. Given the potential risk of Ebola (and its potential negative impacts on tourism development), input will be provided to develop various tools (such as health brochures) in collaboration with tourism operators and health authorities to build awareness and knowledge on potential health risks (Ebola, malaria, filaria, etc.) and how these can be prevented. Please note that chances of contracting Ebola are low, in particular if elementary precautions are taken (like not being in contact with dead animals). During Ebola epidemics, strict access measures are also usually enforced by the relevant authorities to control access to the infected area.

94. Third, the project will focus on promoting, in each country, training and employment of local communities in protected area management, research and other conservation-related activities, as well as the implementation of the critical enabling conditions to successful community-based management of forests and wildlife, i.e. a favorable legislation, trained and committed conservation services, informed local communities with strengthened organizational capacity, as well as transparent and fair benefit sharing systems. This will be complemented by efforts to set up a microfinance facility and training in business planning and financing targeting community-based biodiversity enterprises and to build the capacity of local communities to access Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) funds to implement sustainable natural resources management activities, where applicable.

#### **Output 7: A multi-level financing plan is developed, endorsed and implemented**

95. As indicated above, there is an urgent need to increase the sources and types of funding for conservation and protected area management in the project area. The experience in other countries shows that sustainable financing requires the combined implementation of an ensemble of financing mechanisms. In addition to developing the funding mechanisms, close monitoring of actual impact of the resources generated and on-going fundraising efforts are also required.

96. The main mechanism to steer achievement of this Output will be a multi-stakeholder public / private tri-national sustainable financing committee including representatives from the government, including the Coordinator of the Forest and Environment Sectorial (*Programme Sectoriel Forêt et Environnement* – FESP, see Section 9 below) programs in Cameroon and Gabon, donors, NGOs, local communities, civil society and the private sector. The role of the committee will be twofold. First, it will be responsible for catalyzing improved coordination between the various funding sources and actors in the TRIDOM, as mentioned in Section 9 below. Second, it will be in charge of developing and implementing a multi-level (regional, national and local) strategy of diversified financing mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the TRIDOM. The committee will first catalyze the assessment of short, medium and long-term funding needs for both capital and recurrent costs. This will also include an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with the various land use options identified, including a review on how to account for opportunity costs associated with setting aside proposed logging areas for conservation purposes and an economic analysis of the benefits generated by ecological functions. The feasibility of implementing a number of innovative instruments to finance natural resources management in the project's area will then be reviewed. This includes reviewing the feasibility of capitalizing a trust fund structure at site-specific and / or TRIDOM level through government and other contributions, as well as studying constraints and opportunities linked to debt management mechanisms. Initiative in Cameroon and Congo, forestry-based carbon offsets, and user fees / charges and taxes linked to tourism and research, fees / taxes and charges for extraction of natural resources and forestry funds.

97. There is increasing dialogue between natural resource-based companies, especially with logging companies, conservationists and governments in the project area. A number of partnerships have been developed, which encourage the adoption of sustainable management practices and the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts in the proximity of protected areas. These partnerships also aim to foster conservation and social investments by maximizing the environmental, social and economic benefits of the operations. The project will aim to strengthen those partnerships and explore other opportunities with the private sector with the aim to leverage its substantial investment in conservation-related activities.

98. There is also a number of other financing options that have proven successful or are currently being tested in other parts of the world and which need to be further investigated in the project area. Such mechanisms include the concept of conservation concession introduced in other parts of the world by Conservation International. In a conservation concession, the government or local resource users agree to protect an area in exchange for a steady stream of structured compensation from conservationists or other investors. A related idea is that of “direct payments” where communities receive payments to maintain habitat or species values of an area, with the funding dependent on the environmental value being retained.

99. Based on the review of those mechanisms, a multi-level financing plan consisting of different mechanisms and fundraising strategies tailored to the needs of each of TRIDOM segments will be gradually designed and implemented through a participatory process. Implementation of all above-mentioned mechanisms will be monitored on an ongoing basis and strategies adapted accordingly.

100. Significant efforts will also be devoted to reinforce the currently weak knowledge on innovative financing mechanisms in the three countries and to expand the number of practitioners able to develop and implement those mechanisms. This will be achieved through, in particular, using a new training tool, the “Conservation Finance Guide”. The Guide has been developed through the Conservation Finance Alliance, which groups together organizations active in the area including the UNDP, The Nature Conservancy, the Ramsar Convention, USAID, IUCN, CI, WCS and WWF. Designed to assist target audiences that are most critical to putting innovative conservation finance mechanisms in place, i.e. government officials, protected area managers, local and international conservation NGOs, technical experts and donor agencies, the Guide provides practical, user-friendly tools to methodically assess which conservation finance mechanisms are most viable in specific settings, and to efficiently and successfully implement these mechanisms for long-term funding of biodiversity conservation. It covers major conservation finance mechanisms available at three levels of conservation action: site, national / regional and international. It addresses both well-proven mechanisms and promising new finance mechanisms in early stages of development and testing.

## **7. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

101. Stakeholder participation has been a key and successful ingredient of the work undertaken during PDF-B activities. Three national workshops were organized involving the village leaders, administrative authorities, elected representatives, different concerned ministries, other projects, NGO’s, donor representatives, etc. from the three countries. In the field the PDF-B project teams have consulted with local communities, authorities and government officials responsible for forests and protected areas. GEF support will continue and expand upon this involvement, with stakeholders at all levels: local communities, local and district officials, central government, NGOs, private sector and donors). Stakeholder participation and support ultimately will be fundamental to successfully achieving the objectives for this project.

102. Special attention will be placed on applying the main principles guiding the relationships with indigenous peoples, i.e. pygmies, as outlined in the document “UNDP and Indigenous People – A Policy of Engagement”. In particular, the project will aim at (i) encouraging increased participation of pygmies



in the decision-making process regarding their natural resources, in particular during the land-use planning exercise, and (ii) ensuring the recognition and protection of their rights, systems and knowledge, especially in terms of natural resources management, in the development and implementation of policies and activities catalyzed by the project, including in particular, poverty reduction initiatives. The project will build upon the successful experiences catalyzed by WWF in implementing a collaborative management agreement on control of hunting with the Association of Baka pygmies of Minvoul (Northwestern of the Minkebe Forest Block), which aims at strengthening the legal and social status of the Baka and promoting benefit sharing from their ecological knowledge.

103. The project will be implemented with full participation of the authorities in charge of forests and protected areas who will be the leaders of most activities. The regional land-use plans will be developed via a highly participative process under the leadership of the respective Ministries in charge of forests and COMIFAC. At higher levels, government representatives will meet at least yearly to discuss collaboration, progress, monitoring results, options and coordination and assess implementation.

## **8. LINKAGES WITH UNDP COMMITMENTS, OTHER GEF INITIATIVES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

104. The United Nations Programs in all three countries have a core of common objectives together with programs that are specific to the individual needs of individual countries. The core elements concern progress towards development and eradication of poverty, provision of basic amenities (such as safe drinking water, education, health, reduction of infant mortality), governance and the policy environment, sustainable development and the environment. The project will address issues of poverty eradication through provision of economic alternatives. A principal goal of the project is that of establishing sustainable resource management and of preserving global biodiversity. Some aspects of UNDP country programs have specific relevance to the current project, and these are listed below.

105. In Cameroon a major goal of the UNDP program is to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015. The current project, if successfully implemented, would assist substantially in the achievement of this goal. In Congo a major focus of the UNDP program is concerned with the civil war and its consequences. The environment is a high priority for the UNDP program in Congo. It is also concerned with the restoration of the rule of law, the fight against corruption and transparency in public office. In Gabon, a principal goal of the UNDP program is assisting refugees who have been displaced by the civil war in Congo.

106. Cameroon, Gabon and Congo are developing Sectoral Forest and Environment (*Programme Sectoriel Forêt et Environnement* – FESP) programs. The Cameroon program is well advanced in the process, and an appraisal mission is expected in April 2004 to assess the progress achieved in developing the different components of the program. Under this initiative, it is expected that a new forest control brigade and a wildlife control unit will be in place, fully equipped, in each of the country's ten provinces by March 2004, including one in the eastern province. However, this forest brigade lacks adequate equipment, and it is anticipated that this project will provide resources to strengthen its capacity and ensure that it is operational. The main axis of the Cameroon FESP includes sustainable forest management, and sustainable livelihoods for which no source of funding has been identified so far. By the intervention proposed, this project will contribute to fill some of the financial gaps to ensure that the control units are operational. During the PDF B execution, close coordination has been established with the FESP Cameroon to ensure that expected project achievements will contribute directly into the FESP objectives.

107. A PDF-B study for a World Bank GEF Project focusing on the national park system is under way in Gabon. It should result in a project that will complement the current proposal focusing on the biological linkages between protected areas and sustainable resource use. In Congo, a FESP program is at the early stage of its formulation and it is expected to include a component on planning biodiversity

conservation and a focus on the network of protected areas. During the PDF B, contacts have already been made with World Bank to ensure that synergies between the two projects are maximized. Closer links will be further developed during project execution.

108. Lessons learned from the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program (CBCMP)<sup>8</sup> have been integrated in this proposal. The technical audit of this project summarized the CBCMP contribution to conservation as follows: (i) mitigation of severe threats to biodiversity of global significance, (ii) strengthening and successful testing of landscape management approaches, (iii) setting the foundations and creation of successful examples of participatory management of ecosystems. It was found that the main field problems in Central Africa are poaching, land-zoning (including completing the protected areas network) and development and application of refined regulation. It was noted that it is difficult to get good conservation results without strong involvement of MINEF.

In the project brief these lessons learned from the Cameroon GEF program were incorporated. Landscape approaches and land-zoning have a prominent role in the project (output 1) as have participatory approaches for biodiversity management (participatory land-use planning, participatory refinement of the regulatory framework based on replication of successful examples and on the development of new collaborative management approaches) (outputs 4,5,6). The major weakness of the Cameroon Program (CBCMP) (insufficient strengthening of State conservation services) has equally been addressed as implementation of the (strong) national components will be a shared responsibility of MINEF with support from a technical advisor. Development of law enforcement capacity based on mobile squads (output 4) and the regulatory framework (outputs 4 & 5) is equally given due attention in this project brief.

More information on some of the lessons learned is addressed in annex G.

## **9. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

109. Given the regional nature of the project, UNOPS will serve as the executing agency for UNDP, the GEF IA. UNOPS will assist project implementers in the hiring and supervision of a Technical Advisor (TA) based at COMIFAC. Implementation will essentially take place through three strong autonomous but well-coordinated *National Components* (NC) and a light regional *Project Coordination Unit* (PCU) headed by the TA, hosted by the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat. The overall project implementation will be overseen by a *Project Steering Committee* (PSC) vested with the responsibility of approving the project's annual operational plans and reports and ensuring that project activities are in line with those outlined in the approved project documentation and with national policy frameworks. The PSC would be composed of the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC as the chairman, representatives from the Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Protected Areas in the three countries and in Cameroon and Gabon the coordinators of FESP, the UNDP Resident Representative (or his/her designee) from the three countries, the GEF focal points and three CBD focal points from the three countries, the Representative in Central Africa of IFIA (Interafrican Forest Industries Association) or another representative of the logging sector, representatives from the international conservation NGOs involved in the project area, including WWF, WCS, ECOFAC-EU, and JGI, three representatives from the local communities and the TA, acting as the Secretary. Local NGOs in the project area are in general very weak or non-existent and collaborations will be developed with programs such as the Small Grant Program of CARPE to identify and strengthen capacity of selected NGOs so that they can gradually increase their input in the management process.

<sup>8</sup> This program is more widely known under its French acronym PCGBC: Programme de Conservation et de Gestion de la Biodiversité au Cameroun.

110. Chairmanship of the PSC by COMIFAC, which is an inter-ministerial body, will undoubtedly facilitate direct flow of information from the project to regional governments and vice versa. Representation of the interests of other stakeholders such as the private sector will be ensured, throughout project's duration, through the multi-faceted participatory mechanisms that are anticipated to be implemented i.e. land use planning process, master plan and management planning process, negotiation of collaborative management agreements, development of socio-economic alternatives, and sustainable financing committee.

111. The PSC will meet twice a year, and on other occasions as needed, to review progress reports, monitor results, receive other reports that they may request on an *ad hoc* basis and approve annual project's reports and work plans. The TA attached to COMIFAC will be responsible for setting up meetings, circulating documentation for review, and preparing minutes and reports.

112. Two advisory committees will provide ad-hoc support to the PSC. First, a Scientific and Technical Committee, composed of representatives from the private sector, scientific community, and civil society, will provide technical and / or scientific input on specific issues and strategic guidance on work plans. Second, the sustainable financing committee (see Output 7) will act as a platform to catalyze improved coordination of funding sources and actors within the TRIDOM and advise the PSC accordingly.

113. The TA and one administrator will form the PCU to be located and housed in Yaoundé (Cameroon) at COMIFAC Headquarters. The TA will be responsible for timely achievement of all project's objectives. His/her duties will include the oversight and coordination of project implementation at the operational level, including the coordination of financial flows from the PCU to the NCs. He/she will be the focal contact to UNDP concerning all operational aspects (contracts, equipment procurement, etc.). The TA's responsibilities will also include developing work plans and budgets consistent with the project's logical matrix. It will also include providing guidance and support to the national components of the project to ensure that the implementation of activities in each country segment is coherent with the overall project structure and objectives, and that lessons learnt at each site are shared with others. The TA will also be responsible for periodic reporting to UNDP on lessons learnt and be the key point through whom lessons learned in similar projects in other parts of the world would be channeled to enhance project's operations.

114. The TA's responsibilities will also include periodic evaluation of progress and the preparation of progress reports based on inputs from the national components of the project and regular field visits. The end of year project reports to be submitted to the PSC and UNDP/GEF will be prepared under his/her responsibility. Part of the TA's monitoring and evaluation functions will also be to ensure the timely measurement of indicators to objectively verify and record progress towards the project objectives and the achievement of targeted impacts.

115. The NC will be housed at the Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Protected Areas in each of the three countries. The responsibility for the financial and technical management of the country component will be shared by one person designated by the Forest, Wildlife and Protected Areas authorities and one person designated by the conservation entities working on the ground - WWF, WCS and ECOFAC. The NC will oversee the implementation of project activities on a daily basis at the national level, and prepare country-based budgets and work plans in the agreed formats to enable consolidation at the TRIDOM's level.

## **10. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The total project budget (see below) (excluding estimated associated financing of US\$ 9.266 million) and also excluding preparation costs is US\$ 44,475,600, of which US\$ 10,117,500 is being requested from GEF (excluding PDF funds of US\$ 0.35 million). Therefore, the GEF contribution would be

approximately 22.75% of the total project cost. Co-funding of US\$ 11,180,400 is expected from the Governments and US\$ 23,177,700 from bilateral and multilateral organizations and from NGOs. It should be noted that further review of the contribution of the Government of Cameroon and potentially of others will have to take place before CEO endorsement to ensure full consistency between the financial modality of the present project and that of the proposed GEF contribution to the FESP in Cameroon as needed.

116. The incremental cost analysis and justification for the GEF grant are provided in Annex A. In the course of finalizing project preparation work, other sources of co-financing will be sought to increase the project's impact and coverage and in particular to strengthen eco-development and poverty alleviation. Calculation of opportunity costs will occur during project's implementation and will be agreed with Governments depending on the area to be set aside from logging. It is proposed that disbursement of the requested GEF commitment take place according to two or three successive phases. The details of this phased approach as well as the triggering benchmarks will be defined during the development of the Project Document. Those details will be presented for CEO endorsement.

117. Budget.

<b>Outcomes and Outputs</b>	<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>GEF (US\$)</b>	<b>Co-Funding (US\$)</b>	
<b>Outcome 1</b> The land-use and the governance structures of a trans-border complex for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use are designed, endorsed and operational	<b>15,766,400</b>	<b>2,765,200</b>	<b>13,001,200</b>	
<u>Output 1.</u> TRIDOM zoning is effective through legal endorsement of three national land-use plans and their implementation	<b>8,436,700</b>	<b>1,936,100</b>	<b>6,500,600</b>	
			1,911,600	Governments
			4,589,000	Other Co-funding <sup>1</sup>
<u>Output 2.</u> A trans-boundary status is adopted for the TRIDOM and operational management systems are effective at the regional, national and local levels	<b>7,329,700</b>	<b>829,100</b>	<b>6,500,600</b>	
			1,911,600	Governments
			4,589,000	Other Co-funding <sup>2</sup>
<b>Outcome 2:</b> The capacity to monitor trends in biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions and to minimize pressures on natural resources is strengthened in TRIDOM	<b>20,578,300</b>	<b>5,862,600</b>	<b>14,715,700</b>	
<u>Output 3.</u> A pragmatic and cost-efficient system to monitor biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions is	<b>5,295,100</b>	<b>915,300</b>	<b>4,379,800</b>	
			1,320,600	Governments

operational			3,059,200	Other Co-funding <sup>3</sup>
<b>Output 4.</b> The legal framework is refined and law enforcement systems are effective	<b>9,401,600</b>	<b>3,445,500</b>	<b>5,956,100</b>	
			3,290,700	Other Co-Funding <sup>4</sup>
			2,665,400	Governments
<b>Output 5.</b> Mechanisms are in place to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions	<b>5,881,600</b>	<b>1,501,800</b>	<b>4,379,800</b>	
			3,059,200	Other Co-funding
			1,320,600	Governments <sup>5</sup>
<b>Outcome 3.</b> Benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation	<b>6,888,100</b>	<b>1,274,000</b>	<b>5,614,100</b>	
<b>Output 6.</b> Viable community initiatives providing socio-economic incentives for biodiversity conservation are designed and operational	<b>6,888,100</b>	<b>1,274,000</b>	<b>5,614,100</b>	
			1,025,100	Governments
			4,589,000	Other Co-funding <sup>6</sup>
<b>Outcome 4</b> Sustainable funding is mobilized for the conservation and sustainable management of the TRIDOM	<b>1,240,800</b>	<b>215,700</b>	<b>1,025,100</b>	
<b>Output 7.</b> A financing plan is developed, endorsed and implemented	<b>1,240,800</b>	<b>215,700</b>	<b>1,025,100</b>	
			1,025,100	Governments
<b>Total (MUS\$)</b>	<b>44,473,600</b>	<b>10,117,500</b>	<b>34,356,100</b>	

1 20% total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECOFAC, JGI, CI

2 20% total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECOFAC, JGI, CI

3 13.3% total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECOFAC, JGI, CI

4 13.3 % total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECFAC, JGI, CI

5 13.3% total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECOFAC, JGI, CI

6 20% total PA intervention over 7 years p.v. for CBFP, UNF, ECOFAC, JGI, CI

(WWF and WCS contributions subsumed under matching cost agreements ; years 6 and 7 extrapolated from trends.)

## 11. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT RESULTS

118. Sustainability. The following key elements of the project will directly contribute to its sustainability:

- (i) The necessary mechanisms will be put in place to lead to legal endorsement and implementation of each country segment of the land-use plan by the respective Government (decree issued), thereby ensuring long-term and secure recognition of the conservation and development values in the TRIDOM as agreed upon during the land-use planning exercise.
- (ii) TRIDOM will be adopted as a trans-border conservation and sustainable use complex that benefits from official national, regional and international recognition.
- (iii) A master plan will be designed at the TRIDOM level and implemented in at least 50% of the project area, thereby setting a long-term framework for strong governance structures and operational systems. This master plan will integrate an institutional set-up that fulfils the need to have operational field conservation units capable of working over large landscape segments.
- (iv) Adequate regulations will be adopted at TRIDOM level and at national level, thereby ensuring that the required enabling legal framework is in place concerning the control of hunting linked to logging concessions.
- (v) A sufficient number of personnel responsible for law enforcement and park management will be trained and able to effectively operate in at least 50% of the project area (backbone of the conservation services). Based on field experience, the project will gradually define how many law enforcement and park staff are required to achieve long-term effective management.
- (vi) Effective participation by all stakeholders (local communities, local leaders, civil society, political, military and administrative authorities, etc.) will be ensured in at least 50% of the project area, thereby gradually building a long-term and broad-based buy-in for a common vision.
- (vii) In the areas and pilot sites of project's intervention, conservation will bring local benefits via an emerging tourism industry and communities, including indigenous populations, will continue to benefit from the wild game through community hunting zones.
- (viii) Sustainable funding will be gradually mobilized to cover at least 50% of the core management costs in TRIDOM; in particular those linked to law enforcement and protected area management. The level of required funding will be based on a thorough analysis of the short, medium and long-term costs associated to the various conservation and sustainable natural resource management options in TRIDOM. Some projections have been made but are so far only focusing on protected area management costs. For instance, a recent study estimates that the annual recurrent expenditures for *minimum* park management amount to US\$ 58/km<sup>2</sup> in Cameroon, US\$ 82/km<sup>2</sup> in Congo and US\$ 76/km<sup>2</sup> in Gabon, and that annual recurrent expenditures for *effective* park management amount to US\$ 212/km<sup>2</sup> in Cameroon, US\$ 299/km<sup>2</sup> in Congo and US\$ 277/km<sup>2</sup> in Gabon. A financial planning methodology adapted to TRIDOM will need to be developed and applied to account for all relevant expenditures and identify sources of funding.

119. Risks (reflecting failure of critical assumptions in the log frame in Annex B).

**Table 9: Risks and mitigation measures**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk rating</b>	<b>Risk mitigation measure</b>
Diminishing and insufficient support for the Yaoundé Declaration and trans-border conservation by Central African Governments.	Medium	A Follow-up meeting to the Yaoundé Forest Summit is proposed to keep the political momentum ongoing.
Deteriorating political and economic conditions.	Low	Continue basic conservation activities, even in times of conflict. Experience in the Congo Basin (DRC, Congo Brazzaville) has shown that this is feasible and can produce good results (Okapi, Odzala)
The three countries are not willing to engage in a transparent land-use planning process.	Medium	Engaging a transparent land-use planning process, with the participation of a wide variety of actors, under the clear leadership of the Government and the Ministries in charge of forests.
Governments are not willing to strengthen significantly the protected area systems.	Medium	Ensure adequate participation of government officials and relevant Government agencies and regional institutions like COMIFAC.
The partners –involved in designing and implementing the monitoring strategy cannot agree to adopt a single monitoring framework for all of TRIDOM or do not apply it. .	Medium	The project will adapt and learn from already adopted systems in TRIDOM components and should avoid to “over-design” making field implementation much easier.
Insufficient support for law enforcement (against heavy poaching in particular).	Medium	Adoption and implementation of a law enforcement strategy that does not hurt basic legitimate interests of the majority of hunters/resource users. Involvement of administrative, military, political and judiciary authorities.
The logging companies are not willing to contribute significantly to the cost of hunting surveillance in their concession.	Medium	Work with logging industry federations towards adoption of clear standards for hunting management and ways to get their support (e.g. support external surveillance in addition to internal company controls). Make logging companies responsible and fine them for poaching that benefits from their logging roads or vehicles. Split the cost of operations of a mobile unit between several logging companies.
Low numbers of ecotourists make commercial tourist enterprises unviable. .	Medium	Visitation rates can only increase as they are currently close to zero. Contribute to the positive publicity regarding the wonders of the Congo Basin Rainforest. Work with Government to provide attractive investment environment for ecotourism ventures so as to start up the industry in the Western Congo Basin.
Allocation of budgetary resources to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management is slow or not sufficient.	Medium	Donors and NGO’s exercise pressure on governments to allocate resources to protected area management. New national funding mechanisms, based on a mix of national and international funding, are under development in the countries of the region (framework of forest and environment sectoral programs).
The international community and private investors are reluctant to provide resources for rainforest biodiversity conservation	Medium	Provide very tangible projects for international donor investment (like conservation concession in Ngoïla Mintom). Build partnerships with different groups (like Conservation International) to reach a wider target audience. Implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms is a key component of the project.

Corruption hampers law enforcement efforts and project implementation, and discourages potential investors in long term funding mechanisms.	Medium	Ensure adequate financial controls (such as independent audits of project’s funding and administration). Ensure implementation of collaborative and transparent systems of law enforcement efforts and sanctioning as well as adequate monitoring thereof. Ensure adequate management board for governance of sustainable financing sources (including through representation by several organizations from both the private and the public sectors).
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120. Replicability. The following critical expected elements at project completion have replication potential in the Congo Basin:

- (i) The consolidation of a set of isolated protected areas in a broader conservation and multiple-use complex can inspire other sites in the Basin (e.g. Okapi-Maiko-Kahuzi Biega in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Campo Ma’an - Mt Alen – Mt Cristal in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon). It can serve as a basis for managing national protected area and conservation systems ensuring biological connectivity and operational capacity at national and regional levels.
- (ii) National conservation and protected area systems will be strengthened through collaboration across borders. Lessons learned will inspire other sites (COMIFAC listed twelve promising sites for trans-border conservation).
- (iii) The project will put in place the operational units for landscape management. If successful, these have immediate replication potential at the national level to ensure that most of the forest area is covered with a certain level of operational capacity.
- (iv) If the project succeeds in its aim to make logging companies pay for wildlife surveillance costs (because they also benefit from it), then replication of operational units (wildlife squads) will also be financially possible.
- (v) The project will replicate promising agreements already reached on the ground (such as Memorandum of Understanding with gold mining communities, Memorandum of Understanding on community hunting and control of hunting in logging concessions). It will thus further test, promote, improve and strengthen these systems and therefore provide ground for replication at an even larger level (other sites, national, regional).
- (vi) The project will put significant effort in putting in place sustainable funding mechanisms. Lessons learned can be used in all of Central Africa and even beyond.

121. Throughout project implementation, an emphasis will be put on organizing staff exchange programs with other priority conservation areas where multiple-use complex approaches are being tested, so as to ensure effective replication of the elements mentioned above in other areas. For example, it is anticipated that law enforcement and biodiversity-monitoring teams of other areas will come to TRIDOM where lessons learned will be shared, and a “learning by doing” process will be initiated. Specific support will be provided to government and other staff from other conservation areas who wish to build on TRIDOM’s experience to start up implementing a broad conservation approach. To further facilitate replication of the main achievements of the project, a wide range of tools will be used, including presentations at seminars, workshops, and symposia at local, national, regional and international level, as well as production and wide dissemination of leaflets, posters, etc.

## 12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

122. Monitoring and evaluation of key ecosystem and biodiversity indicators is a key output of the project (see Output 3) and will provide the primary means to measure the success or failure of the project and to communicate the status of the TRIDOM to a wider audience. Preliminary baseline data have been collected during the execution of the PDF B, and complementary baseline data will be collected during the



first two years of project implementation. An overall TRIDOM Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be designed to guide the continuous monitoring activities over the lifetime of the project. Adaptive management will form an integral part of the Monitoring and Evaluation system. One of the aims of the project is the establishment of institutional capacity to monitor and control ecological changes and monitor project impacts. Once these capacities had been built and made operational, monitoring and evaluation will be carried out on a permanent basis throughout the lifetime of the project, ensuring the timely measurement of indicators to objectively verify and record progress towards the project objectives and the achievement of targeted impacts.

123. Standard UNDP monitoring and evaluation procedures and WWF/WB management effectiveness tracking tool will be applied throughout project execution. It is proposed that an independent evaluation take place at the end of Year 3, and a final evaluation at the end of the seven-year project period. It is also suggested that, on an annual basis, the PSC would be responsible to carry out an Annual Project Implementation Review (APR/PIR) to monitor progress in the project's implementation every year. Particular care will be given to the measurement of impact using the Results Measurement Table in Annex B –2.

## ANNEX A: INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS

### 1. Context and Broad Development Goals

1.1 Cameroon, Congo and Gabon are adjacent countries in Central Africa. At their intersection lies an area of un-logged forest, an interzone connecting important protected forests of global biodiversity significance<sup>9</sup>. The whole area is also known by the acronym TRIDOM (Trinational de Dja-Odzala-Minkebe). All three countries are afflicted with widespread poverty and have rapidly growing populations. Governments of the three countries are under pressure to diversify their economies and to maximize their Gross National Income. All three have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity; Cameroon in 1994, Congo in 1996 and Gabon in 1997 and all are in principle committed to sustainable development. All three countries have National Forest Plans (PAFN or PAFT). However, none has as yet developed a national sustainable development strategy. In Cameroon, a Sustainable Development Commission is in place, having been established by Prime Ministerial Order of 29 December 1999.

1.2 In Cameroon and Gabon sectoral programs on the forest and environment (FESP) are being prepared. Cameroon also possesses a National Framework Law on the Environment, dating from 1996. In Gabon a GEF Project on National Parks is in the process of development. All three countries have relatively recent forest laws and Cameroon has a National Forest Policy dating from 1995. None presently has a national wildlife policy, although one is in the early stages of development in Cameroon. Wildlife is treated as a subset of the forestry law in Cameroon and Gabon; in Congo there is a separate law defining the conditions of wildlife conservation and exploitation. Big game hunting has been illegal in Gabon since 1981 and is also illegal in Congo; sport hunting is practised in Cameroon within the interzone.

1.3 Cameroon and Congo are eligible for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Cameroon is beginning to implement its poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and Congo is in the process of developing it. There are few national interventions in the interzone that specifically focus on sustainable development. Continued development of community forests in Cameroon is one such initiative that will continue over the next five years. No independent overall development baseline exists in any of the three countries in respect of territory within the project system boundary and thus a baseline scenario needs to be developed specifically for this project.

1.4 Gabon has relied on the income from its extensive oil fields for many years but production is expected to decline by 50% over the next 5 years. Timber, already the second most important export item after petroleum, is expected help offset this shortfall through increased production and changes in the taxation regime. The forest sector thus represents not only biodiversity of global significance but also a resource of intense national economic focus. In all three countries, the frontier of logging has moved steadily over past decades from the more accessible areas towards the least accessible. Ecologically, logging leads to forest fragmentation and degradation and permits access to third parties who further degrade the forest in the search for bush meat, ivory and gold. In Cameroon, income from forest taxes has grown substantially over the past five years, basically through increased efficiency of collection rather than from increased logging activity. Area taxes, which averaged 100 CFA francs per hectare in 1995, are now close to 4,000 CFA francs. In Gabon it is proposed that area taxes be increased from the current rate of between 4 and 20 CFA francs per hectare to 300 CFA francs per hectare for forests with management plan and 600 CFA francs for forests without management plan.

<sup>9</sup> Dja Wildlife Reserve (also a Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site), Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary, Nki National Park, Boumba-Bek National Park, Minkebe National Park, Mwagne National Park, Ivindo National Park, Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

1.5 Limited national public sector capacity to plan, oversee and control natural resource use and the absence of a mechanism for coordinated trans-boundary coordination in planning and control of resource use are factors contributing to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources in the interzone. Public sector knowledge of the resource base and capacity to detect and analyze trends in the status of the resource are also weak. Endemic poverty and a lack of economic alternatives further contribute to unsustainable resource exploitation in the interzone. In the absence of a focused intervention to address these underlying threats, it is likely that degradation and fragmentation of the interzone forest will continue. Existing protected areas would lose the biological links between them, eventually becoming biological islands, leading to local extinctions, reduction in biodiversity, disruption of biological processes, genetic isolation and the loss and impairment of global environmental benefits.

1.6 Despite intense economic pressures, the three governments have made significant contributions towards protecting the forest environment through the creation of national parks and other protected areas that now cover 35,968 km<sup>2</sup> or 24,46% of the 147,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the TRIDOM. In addition, the Government of Cameroon (GoC) has placed a moratorium on exploitation of a further 8,300 km<sup>2</sup> of biologically important forest in the interzone, zoned for logging in the national plan, pending the outcome of negotiations on its ultimate use. Much of this forest protection activity is a direct result of the Conference of Central African Heads of State held in Yaoundé in March 1999 in which high-level commitment was made to the concepts of forest conservation, sustainable management and trans-boundary collaboration. All three governments are committed to the long-term sustainable management of their forest resources and to sustainable development in the interzone. However, Governments are also concerned that their suite of economic options be not unduly constrained.

1.7 Both Cameroon and Gabon are developing FESP programs. The biodiversity component of the Gabon program will have an institutional strengthening and national park focus. The Cameroon program has a capacity-building focus. In Cameroon, which is well advanced in the process, an appraisal mission is expected in April 2004 and it is possible that disbursements will begin in the second half of 2004. In the meantime, MINEF has begun to implement the FESP program with its own funds. Under this initiative, it is expected that a new forest control brigade and a wildlife control unit will be in place, fully equipped, in each of the country's ten provinces by March 2004. The eventual implementation of the Cameroon FESP project with its emphasis on field services will have a strong impact on the current project during its period of implementation. A PDF-B study for a World Bank GEF Project focusing on the national park system is under way in Gabon; a project that will complement the current proposal that focuses on the biological links between protected areas and on sustainable resource use.

1.8 The general political context, including the Yaoundé Declaration and its instrument COMIFAC, the CEMAC treaty, New Partnership for African's Development (NEPAD), CEFDHAC and its instrument the PAS, IMF and HIPC conditionalities, ratification of international treaties including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, as well as national policies and legislation have contributed towards the formulation of the following priorities for investment and institutional development: (i) sustainable forest management; (ii) reform of the policy and legal framework in the forest and environment sectors; (iii) permitting local communities to participate in and to benefit from natural resource use, (iv) regional collaboration; (v) ensuring good governance in the forest sector and effective fiscal policies that ensure efficient revenue flows to central and local governments and communities. Collaboration in promoting sustainable natural resource use and alleviating endemic poverty in the interzone landscape are important national priorities within this overall framework. The GEF alternative presented here aims at catalyzing the sustainability of protected area systems in the TRIDOM and also at strategically mainstreaming biodiversity conservation by establishing and maintaining biological linkages in a predominantly production forest landscape, thus addressing GEF strategic priorities BD-1 and BD-2.

1.9 The specific political context includes COMIFAC, the executive instrument of the Yaoundé Declaration involving seven countries of the Congo Basin including Cameroon, Congo and Gabon. The countries have developed a “Plan de Convergence” which includes detailed national plans with activities and indicators. Much of these will be implemented as part of the FESP programs in Cameroon and Gabon. COMIFAC is now operational and it is a sign of political commitment to the process that the three governments have transferred a total of 120.7 million CFA francs (US\$ 204,576) as their portions of the operating budgets for the years 2002 and 2003. In addition, major support to COMIFAC is provided through technical assistance by GTZ (Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit) who have allocated a total of 5 million euro (US\$ 5.9 million) over five years; a similar commitment has been made by the French Government at the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (see below) meeting in Paris in 2003. However, according to the most recent information, this commitment is not fully secured and therefore is not included in this analysis. Further assistance is also promised through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (see below). The TRIDOM project is one of the priorities of COMIFAC and it is anticipated that budgetary support will be given by COMIFAC to the project and that some of the technical assistance provided to it will be allocated to TRIDOM activities as well.

1.10 **The Increment:** In all three countries, conservation policy is focused on protected areas and their management. The longer-term biological issues that will result from reduced or fractured connectivity are not a national concern and will not be addressed by the countries in the absence of GEF intervention. The costs of increased biological viability of these protected areas, of great significance to the global environment, cannot reasonably be expected to be met from national budgets and it is for this primary reason that GEF intervention is sought.

## 2. Global Environmental Objective

2.1 As part of a broader Congo Basin Biodiversity Vision, eleven landscapes of global conservation significance have been identified across the Congo Basin. Among these landscapes is the Dja-Odzala-Minkebe forest landscape of Cameroon, Congo and Gabon. It shelters significant populations of forest elephant *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*, chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes verus*, bongo *Tragelaphus euryceros*, sitatunga *Tragelaphus spekei*, forest buffalo *Syncerus caffer nanus*, giant forest hog *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*, leopard *Panthera pardus* and in the northwest, the mandrill *Mandrillus sphinx*. In many ways this landscape is the heartland and final refuge of the remaining population of western lowland gorilla *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*. Furthermore, these mammals and especially the elephants are still able to range widely along age-old migration routes that often cross national boundaries. The rivers of the region also possess considerable biological value as centers of diversity and endemism for fish – for example a species flock of Mormyrid electric fish of the genus *Brienomyrus*. The global biodiversity value of this landscape has been confirmed by several independent analyses. Apart from its intrinsic value, the forest also represents an integral biological link between the forests of the Atlantic Coast to the west and those of the Congo Basin proper to the east, as well as with the drier forests to the north and south of the landscape. The global environmental objective is to promote the long-term biological integrity of a number of forest protected areas of global environmental significance within this landscape through the preservation of biological links between them and thus to assure the long-term survival of biological populations and processes; speciation, long-distance migration, genetic interchange, integrity of populations and preservation of essential ecotones. The need for this intervention is the result of unplanned and *ad hoc* development patterns that are inconsistent with the conservation of biological diversity.

## 3. Scope of the Analysis

3.1 The scope of this analysis is the project system boundary over the expected lifetime of the project. The project system boundary is defined geographically approximately by a polygon of 408km x 360km with the coordinates 0°7' N - 3°23' N; 11°53' E - 15°32' E, lying at the boundaries of the

Dja/Odzala/Minkebe forest landscape. It covers an area of 147,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including 35,968 km<sup>2</sup> in protected areas and over 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> of logging concessions. Hunting zones, Zones d'Intérêt Cynégétique (ZIC), and community hunting zones, Zones d'Intérêt Cynégétique de Gestion Communautaire (ZICGC), in Cameroon are located within UFAs (Unité Forestière d'Aménagement). The principal economic activities within the interzone are logging, commercial bush meat hunting, artisanal mining for gold, biodiversity conservation, sport hunting (in Cameroon), some limited *cacao* and plantain cultivation in Cameroon and Congo, some exploitation of non-timber forest products and subsistence agriculture, hunting and fishing.

3.2 The project is defined temporally by its expected lifespan of seven years, beginning in 2004. At the conclusion of the project it is anticipated that management structures will be in place to sustain project achievements in the long term and sustainable funding mechanisms identified and secured. Interventions proposed to advance conservation in this globally significant part of the Congo Basin may also play an important supporting role. Such interventions include the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, sponsored initially by the Governments of South Africa and the United States and launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in September 2002. This Partnership now involves more than 20 countries, and its initiatives are still being developed. There is little doubt that there will be considerable impact on the development of conservation, poverty alleviation and sustainable forest management (SFM) in the Congo Basin in general and in the project interzone in particular, but apart from the specific initiatives that are already in place, other bilateral initiatives that will be part of this partnership are not far enough advanced in planning to determine what impact they will have, if any, and where. However, some of these initiatives are possible sources of co-financing.

#### **4. Baseline**

4.1 The baseline situation comprises activities in the forest linking a number of protected areas whose establishment began in the colonial era (Dja, Odzala) but which has increased rapidly over the past few years. The Odzala-Kokoua National Park was extended to 13,500 km<sup>2</sup> in 2001, the National parks of Minkebe, Ivindo and Mwagne were created in Gabon in 2002 and the National Parks of Nki and Boumba-Bek and Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary are still in the process of gazettelement in Cameroon. These protected areas lie in an interzone matrix of predominantly un-logged forest. The protected areas receive significant budgets and international focus; the land between them is essentially neglected. In Cameroon the protected areas contribute towards a national target of 30% of the national territory as permanent forest estate. In Gabon, the recently created 13 National Parks cover about 30,000 km<sup>2</sup>, therefore contributing towards the national target of 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> under protection set by the Government. In Congo, the Government has expressed interest in considering the potential creation of a protected area adjacent to Minkebe in connection with the review of their forest resource inventories.

4.2 Throughout the interzone, control of resource exploitation is weak and integrated development plans non-existent. Endemic poverty and a lack of economic alternatives lead to environmental degradation. Such processes under way in the interzone will eventually sever biological links between the protected areas. This project, unlike many focusing on biological linkages, will not require rehabilitation or reforestation of potential biological corridors, but will take advantage of existing links and preserve them through development and implementation of forest zoning plans.

4.3 Logging is a feature of the project's zone and is well established in Cameroon having expanded greatly since devaluation of the CFA franc in 1994. In Congo and Gabon, the frontier of logging is expanding into the interzone area. All three countries have relatively new forestry laws, and all espouse sustainable management, but at this point, the capacity for development and implementation of management plans is weak. Technical standards of logging and control of exploitation are weak. Of the three countries only Cameroon has controlled hunting zones. There are several of these within the

interzone with one near Nki and eight near Boumba-Bek; all are located in forest management units (UFAs). The population of the region is low – in many parts of the area less than one person per square kilometer. The population comprises mainly Bantu farmers and immigrants working in the principal commercial sector and Baka pygmies, increasingly sedentary, increasingly marginalized and with few economic alternatives apart from the continued unsustainable exploitation of the natural resource base.

4.4 Mining in the interzone area principally takes the form of artisanal mining for gold in Gabon and Congo. But commercial exploitation is beginning to have an impact and international companies have carried out initial mineral exploration surveys in the interzone. The potential strategic importance of mining to national economies is illustrated by the case of Geovic in Cameroon, which is in the process of developing a concession east of Lomié in the interzone area. The reserves of the area contain predominantly cobalt and nickel. According to the information available, mining operations are not expected to begin before 2005 and will affect a relatively small area.

4.5 The effects of mining on biodiversity are principally through hunting for meat and from the habitat degradation that is a common consequence of mining operations. It is considered part of the baseline situation that concerned governments should have in place legislation and legal instruments requiring commercial mining operators to include environmental rehabilitation and mitigation as part of their “cahier de charges”.

4.6 Within the project’s zone are some facilities for field training and for developing an information and database that will play a role in development of the GEF alternative. There are facilities at Somalomo in the Dja Wildlife Reserve that may be used for the in-service training of control staff and ecoguards. A conservation capacity centre is being planned by WWF and ECOFAC at Lomié in Cameroon. Other facilities are being developed at Makokou where a biological database is being developed with the assistance of the European Union. This will assist in monitoring of trends within the interzone. Other databases exist outside the project’s zone in Libreville and other training facilities exist and are being expanded, including the National Forestry School (ENEF) at Cap Esterias, Gabon.

4.7 The process of development in the project’s zone has to a large extent been abrogated by governments and is, *de facto*, in the hands of commercial logging corporations who construct the roads, provide employment and provide some socio-economic infrastructure. Without GEF assistance in addressing global biodiversity objectives, it is expected that the three governments will concentrate their limited investments in the project’s zone on the existing protected areas, on forestry and wildlife posts for the control of logging activity and wildlife exploitation and, in Cameroon on the development of community forests and hunting zones (estimated cost \$US 6.234 million). Project assistance with rural development in protected area buffer zones will add another US\$ 2.894 million at present value over 7 years. Biodiversity programs for specific protected sites in the interzone, initiated and maintained with donor support would continue (estimated cost \$US 22.92 million p.v. 2004-2010). These donor-supported programs reinforce government protected area programs and are aimed at capacity building, improving infrastructure and equipment, increasing scientific knowledge and improving control of resource use. These projects, while part of the baseline scenario, address the fundamental issues of the protected area network and these investments are a necessary adjunct to the GEF project and are for that reason considered as co-financing. These financial commitments extend in some cases to 2008, but estimates have been made of probable support in the final two years of the project (2009, 2010) these estimates are less than U.S.\$ 2.5 million (p.v) per year and this is considered conservative as USAID’s CBFP has a time scale of 10 years from the present, although only three years of funding have been currently committed.

4.8 Under the baseline scenario, it is also expected that final gazettelement of protected areas already in progress would be completed (Boumba-Bek, Nki). The full baseline scenario also envisages that necessary legal actions such as a Decree of Implementation for the new forestry law would be

promulgated in Gabon. It also envisages the introduction or modification of specific “cahiers de charge” for logging companies in the interzone making them legally responsible for controlling access to their concessions by third parties, the model in this case being the successful agreement concluded with the Malaysian company, Bordamur in Gabon. Similar “cahiers de charge” are also envisaged for mining companies. The estimated cost of these actions is US\$0.02 million. It is also assumed that a portion of COMIFAC budget (here calculated at 5% of the three country subventions) and of the overall technical assistance provided to COMIFAC (here calculated at 2%) will be allocated to TRIDOM, which is a priority project; this amounts to a total of US\$ 0.2211 million per year or US\$ 0.91 million over 5 years. The combined cost of activities in the interzone (Government budgets, and legislative actions and COMIFAC budgets) is estimated at US\$9.2664 million. In TRIDOM, most conservation investments are directed at the protected area network. Under the baseline, unsustainable logging and wildlife exploitation would continue and probably increase. Incomes in the interzone would rise slightly and the rate of forest degradation and fragmentation would continue to increase with increased biological isolation of the protected areas. The protected areas themselves would be relatively well protected, except for their periphery with the interzone, through the intervention of donor-supported conservation projects. But their long-term viability, integrity and robustness, and the development of controlled, sustainable use of natural resources in the interzone would not be achieved.

## **5. The GEF Alternative**

5.1 The proposed GEF alternative includes activities aimed at mitigating threats to the TRIDOM while at the same time putting in place a long-term solution to management of the area. The GEF alternative will assist existing implementing agencies to broaden their vision for the landscape, while at the same time putting in place the management structures, the planning and the long-term resource management and financing systems needed to achieve the vision. It will assist in development of collaboration between existing initiatives on the ground. Training and improving capacity of the existing management agencies will also provide the backbone for national sustainable management capacity over the longer term. The GEF alternative will provide a model for transnational landscape conservation in Central Africa through maintaining biodiversity and ecological processes in a predominantly production landscape.

5.2 With assistance from GEF in addressing the global biodiversity objectives, the three governments would be able to undertake a substantive program that would generate global, regional and national benefits. The GEF alternative would comprise the baseline scenario described earlier (government investments, donor-supported conservation and rural development programs and legal and institutional reform) as well as an expanded conservation and sustainable use programs in the interzone landscape specifically planned to promote the integrity of the protected areas through the development of biological linkages and develop long-term sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation in the project’s zone.

5.3 The GEF alternative project would extend for seven years. The general objective is to conserve globally significant forest biodiversity in the Congo Basin through catalyzing the integration of conservation objectives into national and regional planning for sustainable development in the TRIDOM area. The project’s objective is to maintain the ecological functions and connectivity of TRIDOM and ensure long-term conservation of its protected area system through enhancing the integrated, sustainable and participatory management in the interzone between the protected areas. Four outcomes are proposed to achieve these goals: these and the associated outputs have been described in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the main text.

5.4 A key element of the GEF intervention is the adoption by the three nations of a land-use plan covering at least 80% of the some 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> of currently unprotected national land (the interzone) through the designation of additional protected areas, permanent forests (where controlled, sustainable

logging may take place) and rural development areas. In parallel with the land-use planning exercise, the intervention will catalyze a thorough analysis and a participatory review of the costs and benefits associated with the various land use options identified, including a negotiation on how to account for opportunity costs associated with setting aside proposed logging areas for conservation purposes. As part of this process, the GEF alternative will aim at resolving the issue of the biologically important Ngoila-Mintom forest through studies and consultation. This forest of 8,300 km<sup>2</sup> was zoned for logging in the national plan, but was put under moratorium by the Government of Cameroon administration in 2000 because of its biodiversity value and is still under this moratorium today. The Ngoila-Mintom forest provides an important biological link between the Dja Wildlife Reserve and the Nki National Park and possibly also south to Odzala in Congo and Minkebe in Gabon. The conservation community considered intervention in the area as a possible conservation concession, and progress should be made on this issue, which is of considerable significance to the future of the TRIDOM.

5.5 The GEF alternative would lead to an operational conservation area with governance structures effective, an international status recognized, strengthened ecological monitoring, adequate regulations adopted and enforced through increased capacity and synergy of all actors, as well as integration of “set asides” in logging concessions. Implementation of the GEF alternative would help reducing illegal hunting and poaching through the imposition of better controls and collaborative management agreements with the logging industry on hunting issues. Provision of community hunting zones will improve rural livelihoods and nutritional status and reduce illegal hunting. Implementation of the GEF alternative would reduce road construction in the interzone due to better land-use planning and control. However, most current construction is by logging companies and has little long-term infrastructural significance. In the short term this reduction will help reduce access to the forest by third parties. Some ecotourism and sport hunting will be developed, the latter probably only in Cameroon as part of the baseline process. Ecotourism currently provides little income within the project’s zone, most national parks having fewer than 50 visitors per year. However, there are possibilities, which will be explored as part of the GEF alternative. One of the objectives of the GEF alternative is to stimulate biodiversity-linked community incentives to address a root cause of biodiversity loss – the lack of economic alternatives. It will be necessary to avoid development projects that will attract immigrants from outside and further complicate the conservation process. This has happened in both Nigeria (Omo) and in Cameroon (Waza).

## **6. Incremental Costs and Benefits**

6.1 The total project budget (see below) excluding preparation costs is US\$ 44,473,600 of which US\$ 10,117,500 is being requested from GEF (excluding PDF funds of US\$ 0.35 million). Co-funding of US\$ 11.18 million is expected from the Governments and US\$ 23.1777 from bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs.

6.2 The proposed intervention foresees a zoning plan covering at least 80% of the 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> interzone. According to the amount of protected area included in it, opportunity costs would be incurred and the disposition and accounting for these will be negotiated as part of the planning phase.



## Incremental Costs and Benefits Matrix

Component	Category	Cost US\$ million	Domestic Benefits	Global Benefits
<b>Outcome 1:</b> The land-use and the governance structures of a trans-border complex for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use are designed, endorsed and operational (Outputs 1,2)				
<b>Output 1:</b> TRIDOM zoning is effective through legal endorsement of three national land-use plans and their implementation	Baseline	0.118 (COMIFAC-TRIDOM) 0.02 (GoCam 0.01)  (GoG 0.01)	An absence of planning capacity in the public sector encourages unsustainable use and compromises the ability to collaborate across borders leading to a loss of national resources.	Lack of national and international coordinated planning leads to degradation of the resource base and compromises the long-term viability and the survival of globally important biodiversity of the Congo Basin Forest
	Alternative	Total: 8.4367		
	Increment	GEF 1.9361 Govnrnments GoCam 0.591 GoCo 0.591 GoG 0.591 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Bilateral & multi. CBFP 0.4594 UNF 0.2812 EU 2.6456 WWF 0.284 ITTO 0.36 WCS 0.284 CI 0.2748	Harmonised planning and management at adjacent sites across boundaries of the three nations would reduce excessive exploitation of forest resources to the national benefit	Systematic planning would permit effective control of resource use and the ability to create and maintain biological linkages increasing the long-term viability of globally significant biodiversity.
<b>Output 2:</b> A trans-	Baseline	6.234	Lack of a land-use plans	Forest fragmentation and

<p>boundary status is adopted for the TRIDOM and operational systems are effective at the regional, national And local levels</p>		<p>(Governments) Multilateral: 2.894 (EU: 2.23) (JGI:0.332) (UNF: 0.332)</p>	<p>in the interzone area are exploited by hunters and smugglers and lead to the loss of national resources.</p>	<p>degradation that result from an absence of land-use plans compromise biological processes and threaten the integrity and long-term survival of biodiversity of global significance.</p>
	Alternative	Total: 7.3297		
	Increment:	<p>GEF 0.8291 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Bilateral and multi. CBFP 0.4594 UNF 0.2812 EU 2.6456 WWF 0.284 ITTO 0.36 WCS 0.284 CI 0.2748 Governments GoCam 0.591 GoCo 0.591 GoG 0.591</p>	<p>Controlled and planned resource exploitation will ensure the long-term survival of the forest and its resources for future generations</p>	<p>A landscape planned for maximising the biological potential while permitting sustainable development will ensure the long-term survival of species of global biodiversity significance.</p>

Outcome 2: The capacity to monitor trends in biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions and to minimize pressures on

natural resources is strengthened in TRIDOM (Outputs 3,4,5)

<b>Output 3:</b> A pragmatic And cost-efficient system to monitor biodiversity, Resource exploitation and ecological functions is operational	Baseline	0	The inability to detect changes and trends in resource use results in an inability to implement policy and to resource loss.	The absence of reliable data on populations and trends permits unsustainable exploitation of species such as elephants.
	Alternative:	Total: 5.2951		
	Increment	GEF 0.9153 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462  GoG 0.0462 Bilateral & multi CBFP 0.3063 UNF 0.1875 EU 1.7637 WWF 0.1893 ITTO 0.2399 WCS 0.1893 CI 0.1832 Governmentts GoCam 0.394 GoCo 0.394 GoG 0.394	The ability to monitor permits resource use to be controlled and finely tuned and reduces loss of natural resources and revenue.	The ability to monitor effectively may lead to a reduction of elephant hunting for ivory and commercial poaching for bushmeat.

<b>Output 4:</b> The legal framework is refined and law enforcement systems are effective	Baseline	0	Weak and ineffective controls encourage illegal activity and result in a loss of revenue to the State and compromise the long-term situation.	The absence of effective controls on resource exploitation encourages unsustainable exploitation of valuable species such as elephants.
	Alternative	Total: 9.4023		
	Increment	GEF 3.4455 Counterpart: GoCam 1.391 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Bilateral and multi. CBFP 0.3063 UNF 0.1875 EU 1.7637 WWF 0.1893 ITTO 0.2399 WCS 0.1893 CI 0.422 Governments GoCam 0.394 GoCo 0.394 GoG 0.394	Effective controls on resource exploitation will reduce illegal exploitation and help to secure the long-term future of the resource.	Effective controls on resource exploitation will reduce poaching and the trade in endangered species and their products.

<b>Output 5:</b> Mechanisms are in place to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions	Baseline	0	The absence of controls in logging and hunting concessions permits excessive and unsustainable exploitation and a loss of resources of benefit to the State and to local communities.	Without effective controls, uncontrolled and excessive resource exploitation leads to species loss and population declines.
	Alternative	Total: 5.8816		
	Increment	GEF: 1.5018 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Bilateral and multi CBFP 0.3063 UNF 0.1875 EU 1.7637 WWF 0.1893 ITTO 0.2399 WCS 0.1893 CI 0.1832 Governments GoCam 0.394 GoCo 0.394 GoG 0.394	With effective controls in place in hunting and logging concessions, unsustainable and excessive exploitation will be reduced and resources conserved.	With effective controls in place in hunting and logging concessions, the impacts of unsustainable resource use on endangered species and spaces will be reduced.

<b>Outcome 3:</b> Benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation and reduction in pressures on the natural resource base				
<b>Output 6:</b> Viable community initiatives providing socio-economic incentives for biodiversity conservation are designed and operational.	Baseline	0	Poverty and a lack of economic alternatives encourage the unsustainable use of the resource base.	Poverty and a lack of economic alternatives drive local communities in the interzone to exploit the resource base for short-term gain, to the detriment of globally significant species.
	Alternative	Total: 6.8881		
	Increment	GEF 1.274 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Bilateral and multi CBFP 0.4594 UNF 0.2812 EU 2.6456 WWF 0.284 ITTO 0.36 WCS 0.284 CI 0.2748 Governments GoCam 0.2955 GoCo 0.2955 GoG 0.2955	With economic alternatives in place in the interzone, rural exodus will be reduced and a development equilibrium will be achieved.	With a development equilibrium achieved in the interzone pressures for the unsustainable use of significant species and encouraging ecosystem degradation will be reduced.

<b>Outcome 4:</b> Sustainable funding is mobilized for the conservation and sustainable management of the TRIDOM				
<b>Output 7:</b> A multi-level financing plan is developed, endorsed and implemented	Baseline	0	Without a sustainable financing plan, economic outflows from the interzone will continue and the development agenda will be delegated to commercial interests.	Without a sustainable finance mechanism in place, current trends of resource degradation and fragmentation will continue and significant biodiversity will be lost
	Alternative	Total: 1.2408		
	Increment	GEF 0.2157 Counterpart: GoCam 0.0462 GoCo 0.0462 GoG 0.0462 Governments GoCam 0.2955 GoCo 0.2955 GoG 0.2955	With a sustainable financing mechanism in place, protection of the interzone and ordered, systematic development will be achieved.	With a sustainable financing mechanism in place, ordered development and adequate protection will ensure the long-term survival of the flora, fauna and ecological and evolutionary processes .
<b>Total Cost:</b>	Baseline	9.266		
	Alternative	44.4743		
	Increment	Full Project (without PDF): 53.7403 : PDF-B Co-financing 0.26 GEF Increment: 10.1175 GEF PDF-B: 0.35 Total GEF: 10.4675 Co-financing increment regional govts: 11.18 Co-financing increment bilateral & multilateral agencies and NGOs 23.1777		

**Addendum to the incremental cost analysis : Estimation of cash co-financing (parallel funding on project basis) and in-kind financing by Governments.**

Four tables are included and provide estimates for:

- 1) Project PA budgets in TRIDOM
- 2) Project non-PA budgets in TRIDOM
- 3) Government PA budgets in TRIDOM
- 4) Government non-PA budgets in TRIDOM

**CO-FINANCING**

**PROJECT PA BUDGETS IN TRIDOM - PRESENT VALUE (\$US million)**

<b>Protected Area</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009#</b>	<b>2010#</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Dja Wildlife Reserve								
CBFP	0,35	0,31				0,16	0,15	0,97
CAWHFI UNESCO^ (WWF)	0,434	0,206	0,206	0,25				1,096
EU (ECOFAC)		1,1	0,99	0,89	0,798	0,94	0,85	5,568
D-BB-N WWF match	0,36	0,32						0,68
Minkebe-Mwagne CBFP	0,31	0,28						0,59
Minkebe WWF match	0,39	0,35						0,74
Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary (ITTO)&	0,33	0,3	0,27					0,9
Ivindo National Park CBFP	0,23	0,2						0,43
Ivindo WCS Match!*	0,36	0,32						0,68
Ivindo CI Match!	0,5	0,036	0,324	0,029	0,026	0,024	0,021	0,96
Mwagne WCS match*	0,39	0,35						0,74
ITTO Gabon Project&	0,33	0,3	0,27					0,9
Odzala-Koukoua National Park								
CBFP	0,13	0,12				0,03	0,027	0,307



CI	0,324	0,03	0,03	0,03					0,414
CAWHFI (CI)	0,22	0,03	0,03	0,03					0,31
EU (ECOFAC)		1,73	1,56	1,4		1,56	1,41		7,66
	4,658	5,982	3,68	2,629	0,824	2,714	2,458	22,945	<b>22,945</b>

Where precise data are not available, 30% has been deducted from raw figures for administration, indirect costs etc.

n.b. Figures marked with a \* are estimated, extrapolated or adjusted on a pro rata basis.

^ WWF network matching funds omitted (included in CBFP Project) Covers Dja, Odzala, Boumba, Nki

\$ These ITTO funds may be withdrawn if both components are not activated in the near future

ECOFAC FED funds will be spent on regional activities, national activities such as Pas will come from national funds.

YR1 (2004) = capital costs; YRS 2-7 = recurrent costs.

# estimated figures for years 6 & 7 based on mean of recurrent costs over previous 4 years. (Programmes with a known end date omitted)

! Proceeds of Trust Fund (\$1m) calculated at 4% interest, p.v. (from 2005)

**PROJECT NON-PA BUDGETS IN TRIDOM - PRESENT VALUE (\$US million)**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Social &amp; Support</b>								
EU Makokou Project!	0,56	0,5						1,06
STABEX (EU) Mesures d'Accompement**.	0,43	0,39	0,35					1,17
Dja Wildlife Reserve								
(JGI + UNF)**	0,27	0,14	0,16	0,094				0,664
	1,26	1,03	0,51	0,094	0	0	0	2,894
								<b>2,894</b>

Where precise data are not available, 30% has been deducted from raw figures for administration, indirect costs etc.  
! = converted from euros. The Project began on January 1, 2002.

ECOFAC FED funds will be spent on regional activities, national activities such as Pas will come from national funds.

## CO-FINANCING

### GOVERNMENT PA BUDGETS IN TRIDOM - PRESENT VALUE (\$US million)

	2004	2005*	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		TOTAL
Protected Areas	0,597	2,664	2,39	2,157	0,39	0,351	0,316		8,865
	0,597	2,664	2,39	2,157	0,39	0,351	0,316	8,865	<b>8,865</b>

\* Ecofac states that GoC will budget \$US 0.424 million p.a. for functioning of Dja and that Congo will budget US\$ 1.7 million p.a. running and investment costs Odzala-Koukoua 2005-2007.

**GOVERNMENT NON-PA BUDGETS IN TRIDOM - PRESENT VALUE (\$US million)**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
Forestry and Wildlife Posts	1,197	1,077	0,97	0,88	0,78	0,7	0,63		6,234
COMIFAC-									
TRIDOM*	0,029	0,026	0,023	0,021	0,019				0,118
Legislative actions	0,02								0,02
	1,246	1,103	0,993	0,901	0,799	0,7	0,63	6,372	<b>6,372</b>

\* GTZ commitment 5 years

**ANNEX B: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

**ANNEX B**

**TABLE B 1. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN TRIDOM LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX**

**Development Objective:**  
To conserve globally significant forest biodiversity in the Congo Basin through catalyzing the integration of conservation objectives into national and regional planning for sustainable development in the Tri-National Dja -Odzala -Minkebe (TRIDOM)

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Project Objective:</b> To maintain the ecological functions and connectivity of TRIDOM and ensure long-term conservation of its protected area system through integrated, sustainable and participatory management in the interzone between the protected areas</p>	<p><b>By project completion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An adopted land-use plan designating protected areas, permanent forest and rural development areas, that covers at least 80% of the 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> interzone area and provides the framework for maintaining ecological functions and connectivity in TRIDOM, is implemented.</li> <li>2. The 35,968 km<sup>2</sup> covered by the existing protected areas in TRIDOM<sup>10</sup> are under effective management.</li> <li>3. The three Governments legally recognize TRIDOM as a trans-border conservation and sustainable natural resource use complex.</li> <li>4. Elephant and great ape populations are stabilized or have increased in TRIDOM compared to levels at Year 1.</li> <li>5. In at least two pilot river sites per country, populations of Nile crocodiles, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo clawless otters are stabilized or have increased.</li> <li>6. The overall percentage of TRIDOM without bush meat hunting is stabilized or has increased compared to levels at Year 1 through an effective law enforcement system and collaborative management schemes with the private sector and communities.</li> <li>7. The average distance covered on foot by village hunters is stabilized or has decreased compared to levels at Year 1.</li> <li>8. The number of tourist days in TRIDOM has increased by at least 15% per year from Year 4 onwards.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decrees adopting land-use plan, decrees gazetting protected areas.</li> <li>2. World Bank/WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool scorecards.</li> <li>3. Government documents.</li> <li>4. Large mammal monitoring data and monitoring reports.</li> <li>5. Freshwater monitoring data.</li> <li>6. Monitoring data and reports. Law enforcement data. Signed agreements.</li> <li>7. Socio-economic data.</li> <li>8. Tourism data.</li> <li>9. Adopted regulations</li> </ol>	<p>- There is continued and strong political support to the Yaoundé Declaration by the Central African Governments</p> <p>- There is political buy-in for trans-border conservation and land-use planning in the interzone.</p> <p>- There is continued commitment from all other intervening actors in protected area and sustainable natural resource management in the TRIDOM</p>

<sup>10</sup> Existing protected areas in TRIDOM include the Dja Biodiversity Reserve, Boumba-Bek National Park, Nki National Park and Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary in Cameroon, the Odzala-Kokoua National Park and Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary in Congo-Brazzaville, and the Minkebe, Mwagne and Ivindo National Parks in Gabon.

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>9. A pragmatic legal framework for community hunting has been adopted for all of TRIDOM and compliance has increased by 25% from Year 4 onwards.</p> <p>10. Income generated from ecotourism development and community-based forest and wildlife management in the areas targeted by the project have induced local populations to stop unsustainable natural resources harvesting.</p> <p>11. A diversified sustainable financing scheme is functional and covers at least 50% of the core management costs in TRIDOM (in particular law enforcement and protected area management).</p> <p>12. TRIDOM complex is coordinating conservation operations with adjacent Sangha Tri-National Complex and Lopé-Chaillu Complex leading to increased resilience of the Western Congo Basin Forest Ecoregion.</p> <p>13. Lessons learned in TRIDOM in coordinated management, control of hunting and law enforcement, land-use planning, setting up partnerships with the private sector and catalyzing sustainable financing are disseminated and used as a model for replication in at least three other conservation areas in the Congo Basin.</p>	<p>on community hunting in each country. Monitoring and law enforcement data. Collaborative agreements.</p> <p>10. Socio-economic data.</p> <p>11. Financial records.</p> <p>12. Regional land-use planning data and management planning data.</p> <p>13. Documents from other areas referring to TRIDOM management experience; field visits to other conservation areas.</p>	<p>- There is continued commitment from the international community to support global biodiversity conservation</p> <p>- The eco-tourism market is further developing</p> <p>- There is no new ebola related ape die-offs or other natural disaster in TRIDOM.</p> <p>- The political and economic conditions remain stable.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Outcome 1: The land-use and the governance structures of a trans-border complex for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use are designed, endorsed and operational</b>  <i>To facilitate impact monitoring, specific targets and verifiers for this outcome are detailed in a Results Measurements Table as part B 2 of this annex, along with sampling frequencies and rationale for selection</i></p>			
<p><b>Output 1.</b> TRIDOM zoning is effective through legal endorsement of three national land-use plans and their implementation</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year one</b>            (a) Each country has appointed a national multidisciplinary land use planning coordination team, in cooperation with any existing land use teams at the protected area level.            (b) Existing land use data on the interzone and in / around protected areas are compiled into databases and made available to all stakeholders.            (c) Complementary data collection is initiated (satellite images, field surveys, etc.).            (d) Consultations with local stakeholders are initiated in the interzone and in / around protected areas.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b>            (a) Complementary data collection is continued (satellite images, field checks, etc.).            (b) For each country updated thematic land use maps for the interzone and / or existing protected areas are produced to serve as a basis for discussion.            (c) Land use scenarios ensuring that key connectivity areas receive conservation attention are proposed.            (d) Multi-level stakeholder consultation is conducted on proposed land use scenarios.</p> <p><b>3. By the end of year three</b>            (a) Land use zoning is endorsed in each of the three countries for the interzone and / or existing protected areas.            (b) Legal instruments to adopt the land use plans (e.g. decree, regulations) are proposed.</p> <p><b>4. By the end of year four</b>            (a) The Governments have adopted the legal instruments adopting the land use plan and they cover at least 80% of the 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> interzone.</p>	<p>1. (a) Meeting reports; (b) GIS database; (c) Surveys and database reports; (d) Minutes of stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>2. (a) Surveys and database reports; (b) Thematic maps and GIS database; (c) Report; (d) Minutes of stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>3. (a) Signed approval by stakeholder meetings; (b) Draft land-use planning decree.</p> <p>4. Legal instrument (e.g. decree, regulation); (b) Official publication;</p>	<p>- There is continued willingness of the three countries to engage in land-use planning</p> <p>- The situation of the personnel within the partner ministries remains stable.</p> <p>- Land use data are available and of good quality.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(b) The Governments publish the land-use plans in the national press.</p> <p><b>5. By the end of year five</b> (a) Legal implementation and enforcement of the land use zoning is initiated (e.g. gazettelement process, decrees, etc.).</p> <p><b>6. By the end of year six</b> (a) At least two measures (e.g. gazettelement decree) to implement the land use plans has been formally endorsed and enforced (e.g. allocation of resources by the Government and other actors).</p> <p><b>7. By project completion</b> (a) All implementation measures (e.g. gazettelement decrees) of the land use plans are adopted and enforced.</p>	<p>newspapers.</p> <p>5. (a) Draft gazettelement decrees;</p> <p>6. (a) Implementation documents.</p> <p>7. (a) Implementation documents; TRIDOM status report (see Output 3).</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b> A trans-boundary status is adopted for the TRIDOM and operational management systems are effective at the regional, national and local levels.</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year one</b> (a) An inventory of trans-boundary status and management models is conducted. (b) The results and recommendations of the inventory are discussed with all key stakeholders. (c) An action plan leading to adoption of an official status and trans-boundary management systems is adopted. (d) From Year 1 onwards, support and capacity building in effective protected area management is provided to strengthen conservation services in existing protected areas and at the national level. (e) The participatory process to draft / update protected area management plans is initiated in Ivindo, Mwagne, Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks, pursued in Minkebe National Parks, and updated in the Dja Biosphere Reserve and Odzala-Kokoua National Park. (f) From Year 1 onwards, an Internet site for TRIDOM is established and maintained.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b> (a) A consensus is reached on proposed trans-boundary status of TRIDOM. (b) The tri-national agreement on TRIDOM status signed.</p>	<p>1. (a) Report; (b) Minutes of stakeholders meeting; (c) Action plan; (d) Reports of conservation services; financial records; (e) Minutes of meetings; draft outline management plans; (f) Internet site and number of visitors on the Internet site.</p> <p>2. (a) Meeting reports; (b) Signed agreement; (c) Draft outline for master</p>	<p>- There is continued willingness of the three governments to engage in a trans-border conservation complex.</p> <p>- There is continued willingness of the three governments to strengthen the protected area systems and operations.</p> <p>- There is active involvement of all stakeholders in the design of collaborative management structures and tools.</p>



OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(c) The main orientations of the TRIDOM master plan (operational rules, management structures, model collaborative management agreements, including with indigenous people, and zoning) are outlined.</p> <p>(d) The TRIDOM management structures are outlined.</p> <p>(e) The participatory process to draft / update protected area management plans is pursued in Ivindo, Mwagne, Boumba-Bek &amp; Nki National Parks, initiated in Mengame, and finalized in Minkebe and Odzala-Kokoua National Parks.</p> <p>(f) From Year 2 onwards, the score in management effectiveness of the existing protected areas increases by at least 15% each year.</p> <p><b>3. By the end of year three</b></p> <p>(a) A consultative process is conducted with the stakeholders to define operational rules based on the land-use plan.</p> <p>(b) The management structures are agreed upon and endorsed by the relevant bodies.</p> <p>(c) Model collaborative management agreements defining the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for each unit type of the interzone (i.e.: protected areas, logging and mining concessions, community management areas, etc.) are drafted and discussed with the stakeholders.</p> <p>(d) The participatory process to draft / update protected area management plan is finalized in Ivindo, Mwagne, Boumba-Bek &amp; Nki National Parks and in Mengame.</p> <p><b>4. By the end of year four</b></p> <p>(a) Model collaborative management agreements are agreed upon by key stakeholders for the management or exploitation of each of the units (protected areas, logging concession, mining concession, etc.).</p> <p>(b) A consolidated draft master plan is available and discussed in a participatory manner.</p> <p>(c) Management plans are endorsed and effectively implemented in at least four existing protected areas.</p> <p><b>5. By the end of year five</b></p>	<p>plan; (d) Draft document on management structures; (e) Minutes of meetings and draft management plans; (f) World Bank/WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool scorecards</p> <p>3. (a) Minutes of stakeholders meeting; (b) Signed approval of management structures; (c) Draft model collaborative management agreement; (d) Minutes of meetings and draft management plans.</p> <p>4. (a) Model collaborative agreements; (b) Consolidated master plan; (c) Management plans.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(a) Each country endorses its country-specific portion of the master plan, which covers in total at least 147,000 km<sup>2</sup> of forest.</p> <p>(b) The international status of TRIDOM is endorsed.</p> <p>(c) An additional protected area management plan is endorsed and effectively implemented.</p> <p>(d) Collaborative agreements are drafted and discussed in at least three units of the interzone outside protected areas.</p> <p><b>6. By the end of year six</b></p> <p>(a) An additional protected area management plan is endorsed and effectively implemented.</p> <p>(b) Collaborative agreements are implemented in at least three units of the interzone outside protected areas.</p> <p><b>7. By project completion</b></p> <p>(a) Management plans are effectively implemented in all existing protected areas.</p> <p>(b) Collaborative agreements are implemented in at least six units of the interzone outside protected areas.</p>	<p>5. (a) Signed copies of master plan adopted by stakeholder meetings; (b) Official document endorsing international status; (c) Management plan; (d) Draft collaborative agreements.</p> <p>6. (a) Management plan; (b) Signed collaborative agreements.</p> <p>7. (a) Management plans; (b) Signed collaborative agreements.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Outcome 2: The capacity to monitor trends in biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions and to minimize pressures on natural resources is strengthened in TRIDOM</b></p> <p><i>To facilitate impact monitoring, specific targets and verifiers for this outcome are detailed in a Results Measurements Table as part B 2 of this annex, along with sampling frequencies and rationale for selection</i></p>			
<p><b>Output 3.</b> A pragmatic and cost-efficient system to monitor biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions is operational</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year one</b> (a) A draft monitoring strategy and work plan is prepared in cooperation with efforts already undertaken or planned in existing protected areas.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b> (a) The management agencies and partners in the interzone and existing protected areas adopt a monitoring strategy and a work plan defining roles and responsibilities on data collection and analysis. (b) From Year 2 onwards, monitoring data are included in a TRIDOM GIS database in close cooperation with GIS database systems used in existing protected areas and national GIS database systems. (c) At least one partnership is concluded with a national or an international entity (such as the foreseen Ipassa ecological research station, Global Forest Watch, etc.) to develop joint monitoring and training activities. (d) At least 20 conservation and forest professionals in each country are trained in monitoring (data collection protocol and analysis).</p> <p><b>3. By end of year three</b> (a) From Year 3 onwards, an annual TRIDOM monitoring report is completed, including a consolidated monitoring work plan for the subsequent year.</p> <p><b>4. By end of year four</b> (a) Participatory revision / update of monitoring strategy has taken place on the basis of lessons learned during implementation in Years 1 to 3.</p> <p><b>5. By end of year five</b> (a) Final revision of monitoring strategy based on field</p>	<p>1. (a) Document with monitoring strategy and work plan.</p> <p>2. (a) Minutes of meetings; (b) Database and database reports; (c) Partnership / cooperation agreement; (d) Training courses and records of training sessions.</p> <p>3. (a) TRIDOM status report.</p> <p>4. (a) Document with updated / revised strategy.</p> <p>5. (a) Document with final monitoring strategy.</p> <p>6. (a) “State of the TRIDOM.</p>	<p>- The partners – in the three countries and from different agencies – remain committed to data collection and analysis.</p> <p>- The partners involved in designing and implementing the monitoring strategy can agree to adopt a single framework for all of TRIDOM.</p> <p>- Pragmatic monitoring can be done in a cost – effective way and the benefits outweigh the costs over time</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>experience is agreed upon as part of the master plan and published.</p> <p><b>6. By project completion</b>            (a) Final “State of the TRIDOM” report, including recommendations for the future, is published.</p>		
<p><b>Output 4.</b> The legal framework is refined and law enforcement systems are effective.</p>	<p><b>1. By end of year one</b>            (a) In each country, at least one additional law enforcement team is recruited, equipped, trained and operational in the interzone.            (b) As from Year 1 onwards, law enforcement efforts are reinforced in existing protected areas.            (c) Missing baseline data on law enforcement have been collected.            (d) A draft strategy to monitor law enforcement efforts and results is designed by field partners based on models already in use in parts of the interzone and in existing protected areas.            (e) In each country at least two pilot segments of rivers in TRIDOM are identified where conservation of aquatic fauna (Nile crocodile, slender snout crocodile, giant river turtle, Congo clawless otters) will be a priority.            (f) In each country, a strategy and an action plan to build awareness of logging companies, magistrates, decision-makers, communities and authorities through workshops and other communications tools.</p> <p><b>2. By end of year two</b>            (a) In each country, at least one other additional law enforcement team has been recruited, trained and equipped and has started operating in the interzone.            (b) A report on law enforcement in TRIDOM is published and proposes a pragmatic problem solving law enforcement strategy.            (c) From Year 2 onwards, law enforcement data are entered in GIS database and reports on law enforcement are published with an agreed upon periodicity.            (d) An inventory of situations where there is a need to refine</p>	<p>1. (a) Letters of appointment of surveillance team leaders and lists of staff; records on training sessions; mission reports; (b) Mission reports; (c) Mission reports and data available in database; (d) Approval of draft strategy to monitor law enforcement efforts and results; (e) Map of river segments with aquatic fauna; (f) Draft strategy.</p> <p>2. (a) Letters of appointment of surveillance team leaders and lists of staff; records on training sessions; mission reports; (b) TRIDOM law enforcement report; draft law enforcement strategy;</p>	<p>- A sufficient and overall level of political support can be generated to achieve effective law enforcement.</p> <p>- The courts are willing to apply strict sentences for heavy poaching.</p> <p>- Most of the stakeholders agree with strict law enforcement against unacceptable poaching.. Corruption can be mitigated so that the law is effectively enforced.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>the legal framework through collaborative management agreements or other tools is established in each country.</p> <p>(e) In each country, at least one supplementary collaborative management agreement on law enforcement is being actively negotiated with stakeholders (e.g. gold-mining in Megobe camp on the Congo-Gabon border, e.g. definition of “customary” hunting grounds in Ngoila Mintom Forest or Northern Odzala NP, e.g. use of the Djoua river in Northeastern Gabon etc.).</p> <p>(f) Workshops are organized and communications materials disseminated to build awareness of logging companies, magistrates, decision-makers, communities and authorities with a view to develop and endorse national policies.</p> <p>(g) A trans-border agreement on law enforcement is proposed and discussed with all stakeholders.</p> <p>(h) In each country, an inventory of elephant poaching by the Baka pygmy communities is conducted and meetings held to discuss the issue.</p> <p>(i) Bush meat and ape poaching and/or elephant poaching is reduced by 75% in at least one zone where efforts are focused in each country TRIDOM segment, compared to levels at Year 1.</p> <p>(j) Pressure on aquatic fauna is documented in the pilot sectors and a management strategy is outlined.</p> <p><b>3. By end of year three</b></p> <p>(a) A consolidated law enforcement strategy is adopted and implemented in the interzone and at the national levels in cooperation with efforts undertaken in existing protected areas.</p> <p>(b) Lessons learned from law enforcement activities in Year 1 and 2 are shared with logging companies, magistrates, decision-makers, communities and authorities through workshops and other communications tools.</p> <p>(c) From Year 3 onwards, in each country, at least one additional collaborative management agreement is signed.</p>	<p>(c) Data in GIS database; reports on law enforcement; (d) Inventory report; (e) Draft collaborative management agreement; (f) Minutes of workshops; communications materials; (g) Draft trans-border agreement on law enforcement; (h) Inventory;; Minutes of meetings; Monitoring reports; (i) Law enforcement monitoring data; (j) Reports.</p> <p>3. (a) Law enforcement strategy; (b) Workshop reports and communications materials; (c) Signed agreements; (d) Monitoring reports; (e) Signed trans-border agreement; (f) Village hunting monitoring reports and collaborative agreements; (g) Draft co-management agreements; Minutes</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(d) Bush meat and ape poaching and/or elephant poaching is reduced by 75% in at least two zones where project efforts are focused in each country segment, compared to levels at Year 1.</p> <p>(e) The three governments adopt a trans-border anti-poaching agreement.</p> <p>(f) For at least four pilot communities, in each of the three countries, a collaborative management agreement is adopted defining rights and obligations in terms of bush meat hunting and trade.</p> <p>(g) A collaborative management agreement is under negotiation for each of the pilot river segments to assure community involvement in protection of aquatic resources..</p> <p><b>4. By the end of year four</b></p> <p>(a) Administrative and military authorities as well as decision-makers have formalized their support for control of poaching in TRIDOM.</p> <p>(b) Bush meat and ape poaching and/or elephant poaching is reduced by 75% in at least three zones where project efforts are focused in each country segment of TRIDOM, compared to levels at year one.</p> <p>(c) Aquatic fauna captured in the pilot river segments is reduced by at least 30 % compared to levels in Year 1 and collaborative management agreements are adopted.</p> <p><b>5. By the end of year five</b></p> <p>(a) Based on field experience, the law enforcement strategy is revised with all stakeholders in the interzone and existing protected areas and is agreed upon as part of the master plan and published.</p> <p><b>6. By project completion</b></p> <p>(a) Elephant and great ape population are stabilized or have increased in TRIDOM, compared to levels at Year 1.</p> <p>(b) The overall percentage of TRIDOM without bush meat hunting is stabilized or has increased, compared to levels at Year 1.</p>	<p>of meetings.</p> <p>4. (a) Signed statements by decision maker and authorities; (b) Law enforcement monitoring reports; (c) Signed co-management agreements; Law enforcement monitoring data.</p> <p>5. (a) Revised law enforcement strategy.</p> <p>6. (a) Monitoring reports (see Output 3); (b) Monitoring reports; (c) Cost/benefit analysis of law enforcement structure; (d) Signed agreements; (e) Monitoring reports; (f) Monitoring reports; (g) Stakeholders survey or official letters.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(c) A cost-effective law enforcement system (surveillance teams and their mode of operation, sanctioning, clear rules and obligations, performance monitoring, incentive system) is operational in at least 50% of the interzone and existing protected areas.</p> <p>(d) At least 6 co-management agreements including two for protection of river fauna and 4 village hunting agreements are signed in each country.</p> <p>(e) The average distance covered on foot by village hunters is stabilized or has decreased compared to levels at Year 1.</p> <p>(f) In at least two pilot river sites per country, populations of Nile crocodiles, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo clawless otters are stabilized or have increased.</p> <p>(g) In each country, at least four requests exist for replication of co-management agreements including two for river management.</p>		
<p><b>Output 5:</b> Mechanisms are in place to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year 1</b></p> <p>(a) Draft “best practices” on poaching control in logging concessions are discussed with all stakeholders in the interzone and in / around protected areas.</p> <p>(b) Baseline data on the extent of poaching in logging concessions are compiled.</p> <p>(c) A draft strategy to promote conservation “set asides” in logging concessions is discussed.</p> <p>(d) Regular law enforcement missions are conducted in at least three logging companies in TRIDOM.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b></p> <p>(a) As a result of a consultative process, the Ministries in charge of Forests issues a code of “best practices” on wildlife management to be applied in logging concessions.</p> <p>(b) Regular law enforcement missions are conducted in at least six logging concessions in TRIDOM.</p> <p>(c) Overall poaching linked to logging infrastructure is reduced by at least 25% in all logging concessions in the interzone as a result of the project efforts.</p>	<p>1. (a) “Best practices” draft document available; Minutes of meetings; (b) Survey reports; (c) Draft strategy and minutes of meetings; (d) Missions reports and field visits.</p> <p>2. (a) Code and other relevant official documents; (b) Mission reports and field visits; (c) Monitoring data on law enforcement in logging concessions; (d) Field visits and progress report on</p>	<p>- The logging companies are interested in cost effective solutions to eliminate poaching in their concessions.</p> <p>- There is sufficient political to forbid use of logging infrastructure for poaching.</p> <p>- The logging companies are willing to pay the cost of surveillance in their concession.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(d) A process to propose a “set aside” is initiated in one pilot logging concession per country and integrates the results of ecological monitoring (e.g. monitoring on large mammals with wide distribution).</p> <p><b>3. By the end of year three</b></p> <p>(a) From the end of Year 3 onwards, regular law enforcement missions are conducted in all logging concessions in TRIDOM.</p> <p>(b) In at least 75% of the logging companies, alternatives to bush meat are available to workers at an affordable price.</p> <p>(c) In at least 50% of the logging companies, the code of “best practices” is integrated in their “internal regulations” and approved by the Ministry of Labour.</p> <p>(d) Overall poaching linked to logging infrastructure is reduced by at least 50% in all logging concessions in TRIDOM as a result of the project efforts.</p> <p><b>4. By the end of year four</b></p> <p>(a) Efforts are underway at the national level to expand the “best practices” on wildlife conservation in logging concessions as a national policy.</p> <p>(b) At least one pilot logging company in the interzone officially integrates a “set aside” in the management of its concession.</p> <p>(c) Overall poaching linked to logging infrastructure is reduced by at least 75% in all logging concessions in TRIDOM as a result of the project efforts.</p> <p><b>5. By the end of year five</b></p> <p>(a) “Best practices” are adopted in 75% of the logging concessions within TRIDOM.</p> <p>(b) In at least one country a policy is adopted at the national level on wildlife conservation in logging concessions.</p> <p><b>6. By the end of year six</b></p> <p>(a) In all three countries a policy is adopted at the national level on wildlife conservation in logging concessions.</p> <p>(b) At least two additional logging companies in the</p>	<p>“set aside” process.</p> <p>3. (a) Mission reports and field visits. (b) Field enquiry. Reports; (c) Copies of internal regulations of the logging companies. (d) Monitoring data on law enforcement in logging concessions.</p> <p>4. (a) Draft policy; (b) Official announcement by logging company; (c) Monitoring data on law enforcement in concessions.</p> <p>5. (a) Data on law enforcement monitoring; (b) Official documents adopting policy on wildlife conservation.; (c) Data on law enforcement</p>	



OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>interzone officially integrate a “set aside” in the management of its concession.</p> <p><b>7. At project completion</b></p> <p>(a) “Best practices” are adopted in all logging concessions within TRIDOM.</p> <p>(b) In logging concessions representing 80% of the total surface area under logging in TRIDOM, infractions related to hunting (e.g. transport of bush meat in vehicles) have decreased by 75% in concessions having critical hunting rates at the project outset and remains at or under baseline level in concessions already implementing an effective control system at project outset.</p>	<p>monitoring.</p> <p>6. (a) Policy document; (b) Official announcement by logging companies.</p> <p>7. (a) Data on law enforcement monitoring; (b) Data on law enforcement monitoring.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 3. Benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation</b></p> <p><i>To facilitate impact monitoring, specific targets and verifiers for this outcome are detailed in a Results Measurements Table as part B 2 of this annex, along with sampling frequencies and rationale for selection</i></p>			
<p><b>Output 6:</b> Viable community initiatives providing socio-economic incentives for biodiversity conservation are designed and operational</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year one</b></p> <p>(a) The socio-economic assessment on sustainable development options contributing to biodiversity conservation already initiated during the preparation phase of the project is expanded and completed.</p> <p>(b) A market analysis for ecotourism development in the interzone is conducted in cooperation with the initiatives already undertaken in existing protected areas and, in each country, a pilot site is identified to promote private sector investment in the interzone.</p> <p>(c) From Year 1 onwards, support to develop ecotourism in protected areas is strengthened in Odzala Kokoua, Boumba-Bek &amp; Nki, Ivindo and Minkebe National Parks.</p> <p>(d) A marketing strategy targeting private entrepreneurs at the national and international level is developed and implemented to attract investment in pilot sites and existing protected areas.</p> <p>(e) In each country, the process leading to one additional community forest or community hunting zone is initiated in</p>	<p>1. (a) Terms of reference, designations of assessment team and report on socio-economic assessment; (b) Market analysis document; (c) Financial records; technical reports; promotion documents; Mission reports, field visits and records of meetings with local communities; (d) Marketing strategy document and</p>	<p>- There is political support for decentralised development activities.</p> <p>- There is political willingness to implement the institutional and legal enabling conditions for community-based forest / wildlife resources management.</p> <p>- The market for ecotourism in the rainforest is growing.</p> <p>- There is good</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>the interzone and around protected areas.</p> <p>(f) As from Year 1, a pragmatic legal framework for community-based forest / wildlife resources management, that takes into account the rights of indigenous people, is adopted or drafted / discussed in each country.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b></p> <p>(a) Findings, recommendations and proposals based on the socio-economic assessment are presented to donors and other development actors.</p> <p>(b) In each country, negotiations are concluded with a private investor to build and operate model ecotourism facilities in the pilot sites and partnerships on ecotourism management in protected areas are established in at least Odzala-Kokoua National Park.</p> <p>(c) From Year 2 onwards, in each country, one additional community forest or community hunting zone is established.</p> <p>(d) A draft program to set up a microfinance facility and training in business planning and financing targeting community-based biodiversity enterprises is designed and discussed in each country.</p> <p>(e) At least two projects enabling local communities to access HIPC funds to implement sustainable natural resources management activities are established in Cameroon.</p> <p>(f) The conservation and sustainable management of natural resources is fully taken into consideration in the development of the PRSP (Congo) and in the strategy on poverty alleviation in Gabon.</p> <p><b>3. By the end of year three</b></p> <p>(a) Ecotourism infrastructures are finalized at the three pilot sites in the interzone, at least fifteen local community members are trained in tourism-related activities and ecotourism activities are initiated.</p> <p>(b) A pragmatic legal framework for community-based forest / wildlife resources management is adopted in each country.</p>	<p>marketing tools; (e) Minutes of meetings; draft legal documents; (f) Draft legal framework.</p> <p>2. (a) Project proposals; minutes of roundtable with donors and development actors; (b) Contract between Government and private investor; partnership agreements; (c) Legal documents endorsing the rights and obligations of the communities; (d) Draft program on microfinance facility and related training; (e) Project documents and approval documents; field visits; (f) Draft PRSP document and poverty alleviation document.</p> <p>3. (a) Records of training sessions; field visits; records on tourism activities; (b) Legal documents; (c) Financial records;</p>	<p>understanding by all actors of the potential for economic development linked to biodiversity conservation.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(c) As from Year 3 onwards, a microfinance facility and training in business planning and financing targeting community-based biodiversity enterprises is implemented in each country.</p> <p><b>4. By the end of year four</b></p> <p>(a) In each pilot site and protected area, at least 15 community members have stable direct employment as a result of the success of ecotourism development.</p> <p>(b) As from Year 4, ecotourism activities have an estimated Internal Rate of Return of at least 12% and the number of tourist days increases by 15% per year.</p> <p>(c) As from Year 4 onwards, at least two additional projects enabling local communities to access HIPC funds to implement sustainable natural resources management activities are established each year.</p> <p><b>5. By the end of year five</b></p> <p>(a) In each pilot site and protected areas, at least 25 community members have stable direct employment as a result of ecotourism development (see also Output 7 in terms of return for conservation management).</p> <p>(b) In each country segment, as a result of the project efforts, at least five community-based forest and / or wildlife management are providing steady legal revenues to local actors as a result of the project efforts.</p> <p><b>6. By end of year six</b></p> <p>(a) In each country segment, at least 50% of communities are requesting establishment of a community forest and / or hunting zone.</p> <p><b>7. At project completion</b></p> <p>(a) In the areas targeted by the project in the interzone and around protected areas, revenues generated from ecotourism and legal community-based forest and wildlife management have induced local populations to stop unsustainable resource harvesting.</p>	<p>reports on training sessions.</p> <p>4. (a) Socio-economic and financial data; data on ecotourism activities; (b) Financial data from entrepreneur; (c) Project documents and approval documents; field visits.</p> <p>5. (a) Socio-economic and financial data; data on ecotourism activities; (b) Socio-economic and financial data.</p> <p>6. (a) Official requests by communities.</p> <p>7. (a) Socio-economic data.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Outcome 4. Sustainable funding is mobilized for the conservation and sustainable management of the TRIDOM</p> <p><i>To facilitate impact monitoring, specific targets and verifiers for this outcome are detailed in a Results Measurements Table as part B 2 of this annex, along with sampling frequencies and rationale for selection</i></p>			
<p><b>Output 7:</b> A multi-level financing plan is developed, endorsed and implemented</p>	<p><b>1. By the end of year one</b></p> <p>(a) A multi-stakeholder public / private tri-national sustainable financing committee is operational to improve funding coordination, and develop and implement a strategy of diversified financing mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the TRIDOM.</p> <p>(b) Short, medium and long-term investment and recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management are assessed.</p> <p>(c) An analysis of the costs and benefits associated with the various land use options identified, is carried out, including a review on how to account for opportunity costs associated with setting aside proposed logging areas for conservation purposes and an economic analysis of the benefits generated by ecological functions.</p> <p>(d) The constraints and opportunities of a range of different financing mechanisms are assessed, including the feasibility of capitalizing a trust fund structure at site-specific and / or TRIDOM level through government and other contributions.</p> <p>(e) A training program on financial planning and conservation finance that is adapted to the needs of the interzone and the existing protected areas in TRIDOM is developed.</p> <p>(f) The awareness of decision-makers and leaders in the society on the value of biodiversity conservation for the development of the region is enhanced.</p> <p><b>2. By the end of year two</b></p> <p>(a) The sustainable financing committee catalyzes a broad and participatory discussion on the cost assessment and on the feasibility of financing mechanisms.</p> <p>(b) Fundraising strategies are developed and discussed.</p>	<p>1. (a) Minutes of the committee's meetings; (b) and (c) Cost assessment documents; (d) Feasibility documents for different financing mechanisms, including trust fund; (e) Training materials and records of training sessions; (f) Minutes of meetings and workshops/</p> <p>2. (a) Minutes of meetings. (b) Draft fundraising strategies; minutes of stakeholders' meeting; (c) Draft regulations; minutes of meetings with Governments and other stakeholders concerned; (d) Draft legal and financial</p>	<p>- There is strong political will to allocate budgetary resources to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management</p> <p>- The international community and private investors confirm and strengthen their interest to provide financial resources for rainforest biodiversity conservation</p> <p>- The political situation remains stable in the region</p> <p>- There is no recession at the international level.</p> <p>- Corruption can be mitigated so that investors' confidence is ensured.</p>

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p>(c) At least three proposals to “green“ tax regulations on forestry, mining, wildlife and tourism activities are formulated and discussed.</p> <p>(d) If the feasibility of a trust fund structure is confirmed, draft legal and financial instruments to create a trust fund are developed and discussed.</p> <p>(e) At least one additional partnership established with the private sector (in particular with logging companies) in each country to secure funding of conservation activities at site level.</p> <p>(f) At least 10 conservation professionals and protected area managers in each country are trained in financial planning and conservation finance mechanisms each year as from Year 2.</p> <p><b>3. By the end of year three</b></p> <p>(a) Costs and selected financing mechanisms are agreed upon and a first draft five-year multi-level (regional, national and local) financing plan (including an investment plan) is developed and discussed.</p> <p>(b) Key stakeholders adopt the fundraising strategies.</p> <p>(c) At least one proposal to “green“ tax regulations on forestry, mining, wildlife and tourism activities are legally adopted and mechanisms are in place to ensure effective return of tax resources to conservation activities.</p> <p>(d) A trust fund structure is operational and funding sources are identified and secured (depending on feasibility study above).</p> <p>(e) From Year 3 onwards, at least one additional partnership established each year with the private sector in each country to secure funding of conservation activities at site level.</p> <p>(f) From Year 3 onwards, at least one innovative financing scheme (e.g. conservation concession, market-based instrument, direct payment, etc.) is developed, tested and marketed based on the findings of the financing planning and fundraising exercises.</p>	<p>instruments; minutes of meetings; (e) Partnership agreement and / or financial records; (f) Records of training sessions.</p> <p>3. (a) Draft multi-level financing plan; minutes of stakeholders’ meeting; (b) Minutes of stakeholders’ meeting; (c) Tax regulations; (d) Trust fund creation documents; financial records; (e) Partnership agreement and / or financial records; (f) Proposal and marketing tools on innovative financing scheme.</p> <p>4. (a) Minutes of stakeholders’ meeting; multi-level financial plan; (b) Tax regulations.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	TARGETS AND INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
	<p><b>4. By the end of year four</b>            (a) The draft five-year multi-level financing plan is fine tuned and endorsed in each country.            (b) At least two additional proposal to “green“ tax regulations on forestry, mining, wildlife and tourism activities are legally adopted and mechanisms are in place to ensure effective return of tax resources to conservation activities.</p> <p><b>5. By end of year five</b>            (a) Resources from tax revenues on forestry, mining, wildlife and tourism activities that are effectively earmarked for conservation activities are covering 50% of core management costs in the interzone and protected areas in TRIDOM.</p> <p><b>6. By project completion</b>            (a) Long-term financial resources are available to cover at least 50% of the core management costs in TRIDOM (in particular law enforcement and protected area management).</p>	<p>5. (a) National budgets; financial records.</p> <p>6. (a) Financial records.</p>	

**Activities per output:**

Note: funding secured by an NGO should, at this stage, be accounted by that NGO (e.g. CARPE, CAWHFI)

<p><b>Activities of Output 1:</b>  <b>TRIDOM zoning is effective through legal endorsement of three national land-use plans and their implementation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct an inventory of existing land-use data and integrate them into a central and national database.</li> <li>2. Define the most cost effective approach for collecting missing information to design a land use plan.</li> <li>3. Set up a multidisciplinary team in each country to collect complementary or missing information (satellite images, field checks).</li> <li>4. Implement an information exchange system to ensure land use data is communicated widely to all stakeholders.</li> <li>5. Produce updated thematic land use maps for each country.</li> <li>6. Produce land use zoning scenarios based on existing and collected land use data.</li> <li>7. Hold public consultations to discuss the proposed land use scenarios and obtain agreement.</li> <li>8. Fine-tune agreed upon land use plan.</li> <li>9. Finalize the technical and legal documents needed prior to endorsement of the land use plan.</li> <li>10. Issue Government decrees endorsing the indicative land-use plan.</li> <li>11. Implement adopted land use zoning through e.g. gazettelement of forest management units, protected areas.</li> </ol>	<p><b>GEF and non GEF funded activities</b></p> <p>GEF: all activities  Governments: all activities  WWF: all activities in Cameroon and Gabon  WCS: all activities in Congo and Gabon  ECOFAC.</p>
<p><b>Activities of Output 2:</b>  <b>A trans-boundary status is adopted for the TRIDOM and operation management systems are effective at the regional, national and local levels</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define through a participatory approach the most appropriate trans-boundary management model for TRIDOM and design an Action Plan leading to adoption of its official status and coordinated management systems.</li> <li>2. Hold consultations with the three governments and finalize signing of tri-national agreement on the proposed TRIDOM status.</li> <li>3. Set up and maintain an Internet web site on TRIDOM.</li> <li>4. Provide support and capacity building in effective protected area management to the conservation services in the existing protected areas in TRIDOM and at the national level.</li> <li>5. Draft, discuss in a participatory process, endorse and implement management plans for each of the existing protected areas in TRIDOM.</li> <li>6. Draft the elements of the TRIDOM master plan and propose delivery mechanisms, including zoning plan, operational rules, management structures, surveillance system, collaborative management agreement guidelines, etc.</li> <li>7. Hold public consultations in each country to discuss and agree upon the elements and mechanisms proposed in</li> </ol>	<p>GEF: all activities except 4 and 5  Governments: all activities  WWF: 4 and 5  WCS: 4 and 5 in Gabon and Congo  ECOFAC: 4 and 5 in Cameroon and Congo  Others:</p>

<p>the master plan.</p> <p>8. Finalize the technical and legal documents required for the endorsement and implementation by country of the elements of the master plan by all stakeholders within TRIDOM.</p>	
<p><b>Activities of Output 3:</b>  <b>A pragmatic and cost-efficient system to monitor biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions is operational</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop monitoring strategy and work plan by using existing experience and in coordination with already ongoing initiatives in existing protected areas in TRIDOM.</li> <li>2. Assess partnerships with agencies in and outside of TRIDOM. Agree on tasks and responsibilities to ensure implementation of the monitoring plan.</li> <li>3. Ensure that monitoring data are entered into a TRIDOM GIS network in coordination with national GIS units and GIS database systems used in existing protected areas in TRIDOM.</li> <li>4. Assess training needs and train conservation professionals as needed.</li> <li>5. Ensure that the needed data defined in the monitoring strategy and work plan are collected and entered into the TRIDOM GIS network.</li> <li>6. Analyze data and publish results in an annual monitoring report: <i>State of the TRIDOM</i>.</li> <li>7. Update monitoring guidelines as needed.</li> <li>8. At the end of the project, publish updated official monitoring procedures as part of the TRIDOM Master Plan.</li> </ol>	<p>GEF: all activities, as they relate to the interzone  Governments: all activities  WWF: all activities  WCS: all activities in Gabon and Congo  ECOFAC: all activities as they relate to Cameroon and Congo</p>
<p><b>Activities of Output 4:</b>  <b>The legal framework is refined and law enforcement systems are effective</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Ensure effective law enforcement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recruit at least two additional law enforcement teams per country to improve protection in the interzone.</li> <li>b. Purchase equipment and supplies for these teams and ensure that they are operational (operating procedures etc.).</li> <li>c. Strengthen support to law enforcement efforts in existing protected areas in TRIDOM.</li> <li>d. Ensure that regular patrolling is done, focusing action on targeted areas where poaching is perceived by most actors as critical.</li> <li>e. Complete baseline data with reference to ongoing hunting and poaching activities, including in trans-border areas.</li> <li>f. Develop a law enforcement monitoring strategy and work plan by using existing experience and in coordination with already ongoing initiatives in existing protected areas in TRIDOM.</li> <li>g. Consult stakeholders and draft a specific agreement for improved control of trans-border (elephant) poaching.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>GEF: all activities except 4.1.c  Governments: all activities  WWF: all activities except 4.3  WCS:  ECOFAC: all activities as they relate to protected areas in Cameroon and Congo</p>



- h. Organize official meeting for signing the trans-border law enforcement agreement.
- i. Assess training needs and provide training for law enforcement staff (monitoring methodology, conservation strategies, paramilitary training, medical training, conflict resolution, accounting, etc.).
- j. Ensure appropriate collection and integration into database of law enforcement monitoring data.
- k. Ensure analysis of data on a semi-annual basis to assess law enforcement performance.
- l. Update monitoring methodology based on field testing.
- m. Organize workshops with decision makers, magistrates, authorities, etc. to build awareness and broad-based support for wildlife conservation.
- n. Build an effective partnership with the Ministry of Justice for improved sanctioning of heavy poaching crime.
- o. Together with all concerned management agencies draft TRIDOM law enforcement strategy.
- p. Gradually improve infrastructure (relay stations, radio-network, offices) as needs arise.

4.2. Ensure refinement of existing regulation and participatory adoption of new regulations

- a. Assess needs and opportunities for refinement of existing regulations or development of new co-management agreements.
- b. Consult stakeholders and negotiate collaborative management agreements that provide clear rights and obligations for the signatories (e.g. hunting related to gold-mining camps, hunting related to mining concessions, hunting on navigable rivers, agreements with bush meat traders, village hunting near logging concessions).
- c. After individual stakeholder consultations, organize multiple stakeholder meetings.
- d. Organize signing ceremonies after agreement has been reached.
- e. Start up negotiation of new agreements as opportunities rise or as requests from stakeholders come in.
- f. Monitor application of agreements and disseminate outcomes. Propose successful agreements as reference for replication and/or for national policy.
- g. Work towards a legal framework for village hunting and bush meat trade (This activity is part of output 6 on community development).

4.3. Ensure protection of threatened aquatic fauna

- a. Identify critical habitats in TRIDOM for endangered species like Nile crocodile, slender snout crocodiles, river turtles, and Congo clawless otter.
- b. Organize biological and socio-economic surveys on some of these critical habitats.
- c. Identify pilot rivers or river segments where an active aquatic fauna conservation strategy will be pursued.
- d. Together with stakeholders (in particular fishermen) develop in a participatory manner a management strategy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Conduct law enforcement missions on these rivers as needed (e.g. targeting crocodile hunters).</li> <li>f. Agree with stakeholders on a management strategy aiming conservation of endangered aquatic fauna.</li> <li>g. Implement the agreement and monitor application.</li> <li>h. Disseminate success or failures. Develop a replication mechanism.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activities of Output 5:</b>  <b>Mechanisms are in place to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions</b></p> <p>5.1. Ensure wildlife conservation in logging concessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Draft “best practices” regarding control of hunting in logging concessions.</li> <li>b. Complete baseline data on hunting in logging concessions.</li> <li>c. Consult with logging companies, concerned communities and the Ministry in charge of forests on adoption of “best practices” and urgent measures to take (guarded barriers, updating internal regulation regarding workers hunting, improving alternatives to bush meat for workers).</li> <li>d. Conduct awareness building sessions among logging company workers.</li> <li>e. Conduct awareness-building sessions among authorities.</li> <li>f. Conduct regular law enforcement missions in logging concessions and monitor the law enforcement effort deployed in these concessions using CyberTracker tools.</li> <li>g. Assess infrastructure needs and request the logging companies to build a relay station in their concession (if the need arises).</li> <li>h. Ensure that alternatives to bush meat are provided to workers by the logging company.</li> <li>i. Ensure formal participatory adoption of effective regulation to control hunting related to logging infrastructure.</li> <li>j. Monitor and strengthen compliance with adopted regulation through regular surveillance missions in these companies.</li> <li>k. Develop a financial mechanism through which logging companies can contribute financially to the cost of mobile wildlife units that ensure “outside” control on hunting in the concession.</li> <li>l. Manage a process leading to adoption of “best practices” regarding control of hunting in all logging concessions.</li> <li>m. Promote adoption of best practices at a TRIDOM wide basis and as a national policy.</li> </ul> <p>5.2. Promote conservation set-asides in logging concessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review existing experience with conservation set-asides (e.g. Rougier and CEB concessions in Gabon).</li> <li>b. Identify companies interested in setting aside some parts of their concession for strict conservation.</li> <li>c. Agree with these companies on a strategy to define conservation set-asides and integrate them into the</li> </ul>	<p>GEF: all activities as they relate to the interzone  Governments: all activities under 5.2  WWF: all activities under 5.1  WCS,  ECOFAC: all activities in targeted forest concessions</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. management of the concession.</li> <li>d. Organize surveys and use existing data to define candidate areas for conservation set-asides.</li> <li>e. Negotiate with the company on basis of the gathered data.</li> <li>f. Define and mark the limits of the conservation set-asides and put them on the maps or GIS system of the concession.</li> <li>g. Promote success and lessons learned with conservation set-asides and promote replication.</li> <li>h. Obtain Government recognition of the conservation set-asides.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activities of Output 6:</b>  <b>Benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation</b></p> <p>6.1. Conduct comprehensive socio-economic study in TRIDOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop terms of reference.</li> <li>b. Hire consultant.</li> <li>c. Conduct Study.</li> <li>d. Present results to donors and other development actors.</li> </ul> <p>6.2. Promote development of a viable ecotourism industry in TRIDOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Realize a survey among national and international ecotourism private operators.</li> <li>b. Identify in each country a pilot site that reflects the needs of private operators.</li> <li>c. Continue and / or initiate support to ecotourism development in existing protected areas in the TRIDOM.</li> <li>d. Provide marketing tools and incentives to induce private investors to start ecotourism operations in pilot sites.</li> <li>e. Negotiate agreement with private operators.</li> <li>f. Provide technical assistance to private investors as needed.</li> <li>g. Promote TRIDOM with environmental education / marketing materials for targeted ecotourists.</li> <li>h. Provide training to members of local communities in tourism related skills.</li> <li>i. Disseminate lessons learned and promote replication.</li> </ul> <p>6.3. Establish community forests and hunting zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess experience with establishment of community hunting zones and forests in Southeast Cameroon.</li> <li>b. Assess the legal tools available in each country to establish community forests or community hunting zones.</li> <li>c. Promote adoption and / or enforcement of a pragmatic legal framework for community-based forest / wildlife resource management.</li> </ul>	<p>GEF: 6.1, 6.2 as it relates to three pilot sites, 6.3  Governments: 6.3  WWF: 6.2 in Boumba Bek &amp; Nki and in Minkebe, 6.3 in Boumba Bek &amp; Nki  WCS: 6.2 in Ivindo  ECOFAC: 6.2 in Dja and Odzala  Others:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Identify pilot communities.</li> <li>e. Work with pilot communities draft legal framework for establishment and management of the community-based zones.</li> <li>f. Prepare legal documents and apply with the Ministry of Water and Forests for establishment of legal community forests/hunting zones</li> <li>g. Monitor compliance of exploitation with the legal framework.</li> <li>h. Disseminate results and experience at the TRIDOM level and at national levels.</li> <li>i. Promote replication in TRIDOM.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activities of Output 7:</b>  <b>A multi-level financial plan is developed, endorsed and implemented</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Catalyze the creation and operation of a multi-stakeholder public / private sustainable financing committee and provide technical assistance in the development of the Committee’s action plan.</li> <li>2. Carry out a in-depth and multi-level study to assess short, medium and long-term costs of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the TRIDOM.</li> <li>3. Carry out feasibility studies for a range of financing mechanisms (trust fund, debt management, user’s fees, etc.).</li> <li>4. Assess training needs in financial planning and conservation finance, develop tailored training program and carry out training courses.</li> <li>5. Organize meetings and workshops to build awareness of decision-makers and other leaders in the society on the economic value of biodiversity for the region’s development.</li> <li>6. Develop draft financial plan (including investment plan), organize consultation process and lobby for approval.</li> <li>7. Develop funding strategy, catalyze consultation and marketing process.</li> <li>8. Catalyze the creation process of a trust fund structure if its feasibility is confirmed.</li> <li>9. Prepare and catalyze adoption of proposals to “green” tax regulatory framework.</li> <li>10. Develop policy documents and capacity building activities to ensure increased budgetary allocation from HIPC and other debt management instruments for forest conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.</li> <li>11. Catalyze partnership with the private sector for effective site-level contribution to conservation activities.</li> <li>12. Design, test and implement innovative financing schemes in pilot areas.</li> </ul>	<p>GEF: all activities  Governments: all activities  WWF: 2, 3, 6, 11  WCS:  ECOFAC: all activities as they relate to Jan and Odzala  OTHERS:</p>

**TABLE B 2: RESULTS MEASUREMENT TABLE**

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Population of key species, selected as indicators of improved protection from threats in TRIDOM.	<p>Baseline for Elephant and Great apes populations TBD after Year 1&amp; 2 of project implementation</p> <p>Baseline for populations of Nile crocodile, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo Clawless TBD after Year 1 of project implementation</p>	<p>Consolidated TRIDOM wide elephant survey provides usable baseline for long-term (time span of decennia) monitoring of elephant and great ape population in TRIDOM (year 4).</p> <p>Surveys of aquatic fauna realized in at least two pilot river sectors per country (year 3).</p>	<p>Elephant and great ape populations are stabilized or have increased in TRIDOM compared to levels at Year 1.</p> <p>In at least two pilot river sectors per country, populations of Nile crocodiles, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo clawless otters are stabilized or have increased.</p>	<p>Start of project.</p> <p>End of project.</p>	<p>Eventual ape die-off due to Ebola should be filtered out when assessing response of numbers related to hunting the reduction as Ebola so far is essentially uncontrollable threat.</p> <p>Fauna in river habitat is especially vulnerable in TRIDOM. Indicator species will depend which species are living in a river sector (e.g. Nile crocodile naturally absent in many rivers in TRIDOM).</p>

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Percentage of TRIDOM with no hunting	Baseline for level of hunting TBD after Year 1 of project implementation  Baseline TBD after Year 1 of project implementation	Consolidation of existing data and collection of new data provides estimate of area of TRIDOM with no (bushmeat) hunting (year 2).  By year 6, a second estimate is made of the area of TRIDOM without hunting and trend is assessed, reflecting conservation success or failure.	The overall percentage of TRIDOM without bush meat hunting is stabilized or has increased compared to levels at Year 1 through an effective law enforcement system and collaborative management schemes with the private sector and communities  The average distance covered on foot by village hunters is stabilized or has decreased compared to levels at Year 1.	Year 1. Year 7.	This indicator measures amount of forest with relative intact vertebrate assemblages.  This indicator measures spa impact related to the control hunting.
	Funding levels	Baseline will be established in Year 1 (through analysis of costs and funding sources)	Funding needs for core operations are assessed for TRIDOM and compared to levels of secured funding as well as to levels of sustainable financing (year 3).	A diversified sustainable financing scheme is functional and covers the core management costs in the TRIDOM (in particular law enforcement and protected area management)	Year 7	This indicator measures long-term financing sustainability result from project efforts

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> (Outputs 1 and 2) The land-use and the governance structures of a trans-border complex for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use are designed, endorsed and operational</p>	Land-use plan with legal endorsement.	Land use plan and governance structure non-existent; only 9 protected areas gazetted	Land-use plans adopted at stakeholder endorsement meeting (year 3) and Governments have adopted them (year 4). (Land-use plan covers at least 80% of the interzone).	The Governments publish the land-use plans in the national press and all implementation measures (e.g. gazette process, etc.) of the land-use plans are adopted and enforced.	Year 7	It is expected that the land-plans will be subject to Government decree in Year Note that Cameroon has already land-use plan for its core segment, so in Cameroon it is refined land-use plan that is stake to take into account needs of the TRIDOM complex
	Official international status for TRIDOM Complex	Status not yet defined	An internet site for TRIDOM is established (Year 2). Consensus reached on proposed trans-boundary status of TRIDOM (end of year 2).	The international status of TRIDOM is endorsed	Year 7.	It is expected that TRIDOM will benefit from an international status that will enhance its promotion and marketing attractiveness. Examples in Africa include Peace Parks in Southern Africa
	Master plans official endorsement	Master plan not yet available	Main orientations of TRIDOM master plan outlined in draft document (year 2).  Consolidated draft TRIDOM is available and the national components have been discussed at stakeholder meetings in each country (year 4).	Each country endorses its country-specific portion of the master plan, which covers in total at least 147,000 km <sup>2</sup> of forest.	Year 7.	Master plans contain the whole of management orientations and tools: land-use plan, surveillance system, monitoring system, infrastructure needs, ecotourism plans, regulation, fees and financial mechanisms.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Score in management effectiveness	Tracking tool for management effectiveness not yet applied	For every protected area the score in management effectiveness is established (year 1).	All existing protected areas in TRIDOM under effective management.	From Year 2 onwards	This will be assessed through 1 of the WB/WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking T scorecards
<b>Outcome 2:</b> (Outputs 3, 4 and 5) The capacity to monitor trends in biodiversity, resource exploitation and ecological functions and to minimize pressures on natural resources is strengthened in TRIDOM	ENDORSEMENT OF OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING	MIKE (Monitoring of illegal killing of elephant) project only effective in Minkebe NP; need for monitoring strategy for the whole landscape	Draft monitoring strategy available (year 1) for discussion and input.	Final revision of monitoring strategy based upon field experience is agreed upon as part of the master plan and published.	First Draft Year 1. Update Year 3. Final version Year 7.	Monitoring must be carefully planned and costs and benefits proposed monitoring actions must be taken into account.
	“State of the TRIDOM” monitoring reports		First TRIDOM annual monitoring report completed (year 3).	Final annual “State of the TRIDOM”, including recommendations for the future, is published.	From year 2 onwards each year a ‘State of the TRIDOM’ production	Annual State of the TRIDOM report provides data on the quality of monitoring and trends biodiversity levels and natural resource exploitation TRIDOM.



Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Size of Elephant and great ape population	Baseline TBD at the end of year 4 of project implementation	New surveys and consolidation of existing data provide a baseline for long term monitoring of elephants and great apes (year 4).	Elephant and great ape populations are stabilized or have increased in TRIDOM, compared to levels at Year 1.	Year 1. Year 7.	Given the large area of TRIDOM this will need the use of available baseline data as well adoption of a sampling mechanism so as to be able measure these trends in TRIDOM. Quite some data is already available from inside the existing protected areas, but little from outside.
	Sized of endangered aquatic fauna populations	Baseline TBD after Year 1 of project implementation	In two pilot river sectors per country baseline data on endangered aquatic fauna are available (year 3).	In at least two pilot river sites per country, populations of Nile crocodiles, slender snout crocodiles, giant turtles and Congo clawless otters are stabilized or have increased	Year 1-2 baseline. Year 7.	Though TRIDOM is mostly about conservation of forest ecosystems we should not forget that river linked fauna is the most vulnerable. Therefore introduce a special target so as to direct a specific protection effort to selected rivers or river segments.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	% of TRIDOM with no hunting	Baseline TBD after Year 1 of project implementation	Consolidation of existing data and collection of new data provides estimate of area of TRIDOM with no (bushmeat) hunting (year 2).  By year 6 a second estimate is made of the area of TRIDOM without hunting and trend is assessed, reflecting conservation success or failure.	The overall percentage of TRIDOM without bush meat hunting is stabilized or has increased compared to levels at Year 1.  The average distance covered on foot by village hunters is stabilized or has decreased compared to levels at Year 1.	Year 1 Baseline. Year 7.	This indicator provides information of the % of TRIDOM where more or less intact wild assemblages can be found (excluding elephants). The distance covered by hunters is a key indicator to measure impact of village bushmeat hunting on the forest ecosystem.
	Signed collaborative management agreements or otherwise adopted regulation.	Only one collaborative management currently exist between gold miners and Minkebe National Park	From year 3 onwards and each year at least one collaborative management agreement is signed by stakeholders in every country of TRIDOM.	At least 6 co-management agreements including two for protection of river fauna and 4 village hunting agreements signed in each country.	Year 3, Year 4, Year 7	Collaborative management agreements are instruments to refine rules for specific situations in the field (for example access and hunting related to remote mining camps). If successful they often have great replication potential.
	Number of requests for replication of collaborative management agreements	No request documented		In each country at least four requests exist for replication of co-management agreements including two for river management.	Year 7	This is an indicator that shows which extent adopted management schemes fit with stakeholder concerns. Successful examples can be replicated and adopted as a national policy.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Best practices adopted regarding control of hunting in logging concessions	The Bordamur model, between Minkebe project and Bordamur logging company regarding control of hunting Policy on wildlife conservation in logging conservation not yet available at national level	Best practices for conservation of wildlife in logging concessions are drafted based on existing experience (year 1).  In at least 50% of the logging concession in the interzone best practices are adopted and integrated in their internal regulations(Year 3).	In all logging concessions within TRIDOM, “best practices” are adopted.  In at least one country a policy is adopted at the national level on wildlife conservation in logging concessions.	Year 7	These best practices prohibit particular the use of logg infrastructure for hunt purposes & encourage logg companies to contribute to cost of regular hunt surveillance in their concessio This kind of regulation provic the basis from which surveillar systems can operate and essential for building the capac of logging companies to cont access and workers’ poaching;

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Percentage of infractions related to hunting in logging concessions	Baseline TBD after Year 1 of project implementation	<p>The baseline concerning poaching in logging concessions is established in TRIDOM at the end of year 1.</p> <p>In logging concessions representing at least 50% of the surface area under logging in the interzone infractions related to hunting have decreased by 75% (year 4).</p>	<p>In logging concessions representing 80% of the total surface area under logging in TRIDOM, infractions related to hunting (e.g. transport of bush meat in vehicles) have decreased by 75% in concessions having critical hunting rates at the project outset and remains at or under baseline level in concessions already implementing an effective control system at project outset.</p>	Every year.	These indicators result from law enforcement monitoring data and intelligence data on illegal enforcement gathered in logging concessions.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
Outcome 3. (Output 6) Benefits from community-based natural resource management contribute to poverty alleviation	Number of local jobs in ecotourism enterprises	Baseline TBD after Year 1 of project implementation	In each country at least one ecotourism operation can be identified (year 3).	In each pilot site at least 25 community members have stable direct employment as a result of ecotourism development.	Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7	The project targets economically viable ecotourism industry in TRIDOM based eco-lodges, trekking, canoeing. Ecotourism will improve local support for wild conservation.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Village income in areas targeted by the project	Baseline TBD in Year 1 during socio-eco assessment		In each country segment of the interzone at least five community-based forest and / or wildlife management zones are providing steady legal revenues to local actors as a result of the project efforts.	Year 7	There is a need to put vill. hunting on a legal framework coherent with long term wildl conservation objectives. Bush meat is a varied protein source well as an important source financial revenue. As returns come in almost immediate and almost no capital investment needed it can safely be said that sustainable bush meat hunting an essential ingredient of poverty alleviation strategy in remote forests. By strictly controlling access into logging concessions the wildlife in core of the forest can be largely untouched and migration of game from that core towards the village territories enriches sustainability of this type hunting. This model - combining hunting and wildlife conservation in neighboring zones – can only work if village hunting groups remain limited in size and do not expand. Community forests are a tool for increasing local revenues on a long-term basis. Community forests with conservation objectives can provide income through direct payments.

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
	Number of requests for community hunting zones or forest management zones	Baseline TBD after Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	The potential for community hunting zones and/or community forest management zones is assessed in the three countries (expert report) (year 2).  Findings, recommendations and proposals based on TRIDOM socio-economic assessment are presented to donors and other development actors (year 2).	In each country segment of TRIDOM at least 50% of communities are requesting establishment of a community forest and / or hunting zone.	Year 3, Year 5, Year 7	If demand is high, it shows that community hunting zones and community forests become management tool at the periphery of the permanent forest – defined in the land-use plan – and in the periphery of the “non-hunted core”.
	Number of people who abandoned illegal hunting	Baseline will be defined during Year 1, through socio-economic assessment		Income generated from ecotourism development and community-based forest and wildlife management in the areas targeted by the project have induced local populations to stop unsustainable natural resources harvesting	Year 3, Year 5, Year 7	This will show how sustainable income-generating activities catalyzed by the project have impact on the change of behavior of local populations.
Outcome 4. (Output 7) Sustainable funding is mobilized for the	% of management and protection costs covered	Baseline will be defined during Year 1 through analysis of costs	By the end of year 4 the draft five-year multi-level financing plan is	Long-term financial resources are available to cover the core management costs in TRIDOM (in particular law enforcement and	Every year	Building a varied sustainable financing mechanism is key to success of the TRIDOM initiative

Objectives	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Indicative Critical Benchmarks + Target Date	Target (Year 7)	Sampling frequency	Additional Information
conservation and sustainable management of the TRIDOM	by long-term financial resources	and funding sources	fine tuned and endorsed in each country.	protected area management).		



## ANNEX C: STAP ROSTER TECHNICAL REVIEW / RESPONSE TO STAP COMMENTS

{Disclaimer: UNDP/GEF staff involved in the preparation of this proposal at regional and HQ levels are aware that the STAP reviewer used herein may have a vested interest since he works for Conservation International, one of the co-funders of the proposed project. However, he is uniquely placed in terms of relevant expertise and experience among all listed in the roster of STAP reviewers. Therefore, the decision was made to give priority to level of competency in criteria used for his selection to outweigh potential conflict of interest.)

Review of the Project 1583 entitled:  
“Conservation of Transboundary Biodiversity in the Minkebe-Odzala-Dja Inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon”.

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February 25, 2004

### Key issues

#### 1. *Biodiversity importance*

As clearly stated in a number of sections of the project proposal document this area located in the second largest tropical rain forest of the world and recognized as a high biodiversity wilderness area by the international scientific community deserves the greatest conservation attention. The specific area targeted by this project is one of the last untouched blocks of forest that remains in the western part of the Congo Basin. Ecosystems are still very much functional with more or less intact faunal assemblages. This large area of 147,000 km<sup>2</sup> comprises 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas including one World Heritage Site. These protected areas are recognized internationally for their importance to conserve the unique biodiversity of the Congo Basin forest among which some threatened and charismatic species such as the western lowland gorilla, the chimpanzee and the forest elephant. The interest of this project is to take into account the inter-zone between these protected areas and manage natural resources for both biodiversity conservation and economic development. This project is designed very much like all the projects taking place in the 11 landscapes selected in the region as part of the Congo Basin Forest Initiative funded by the US Government. As a result this project should be able to address biodiversity conservation at a large scale and maintain forest connectivity between existing reserves.

The TRIDOM (Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkebe) is a logical area for an investment by the donor community interested in addressing biodiversity conservation on a large scale such as GEF.

#### 2. *Scientific and technical soundness of the project*

This project aims at conserving biodiversity and maintaining important ecological processes. The main goal is very clear, the expected outcomes well defined, and the analysis of the constraints is relatively complete. The proponent have realized that increasing the surface area legally protected might be difficult and they propose an interesting alternative that consists in up-scaling the approach and deal with conservation issue at the landscape level. The integration in the conservation management plan of all significant activities taking place in the project area is a key of the success of this project. The proponents base their project on years of experience acquired in the region. WWF has been working in Gabon and Cameroon for many years and have built good working relationships with the governmental institutions in charge of the management of natural resources. The proponent also benefits from several years of experience in the proposed project area as a result of the PDF B that was obtain from GEF UNDP. This

resulted in a clear vision of the situation prevailing in the proposed project area, making of WWF the best possible organization to implement this project.

However, a few weak points in the scientific and threat analysis have been noted and should be taken into account by the proponent. In general too much attention has been put on the current threats, especially the analysis on major threats, and not enough analysis on the likely development in the region.

Forests that are today considered as inappropriate for logging because they are swamp forests of inaccessible may be targeted in the near future as the technology associated with wood extraction is evolving quickly. In addition wood resources are shrinking rapidly, pushing loggers to exploit areas that were once considered as marginal lands. The proponent should then make sure that they address the conservation needs of these forests their considered as not targeted by the logging industry.

The issue of human health associated with the transport and consumption of bush meat is not addressed in the threat assessment. This is really a regional concern that is not covered. Consuming bush meat put humans at risk. Hepatitis, Ebola, monkey pox, malaria, measles, yellow fever, SIV, the precursor of HIV has been isolated from wild caught faunal species.

Taking into account the conservation of the ecological functions is an important and attractive element of the proposal. However the ecological functions taken into account by the project are not clearly defined. The practicality of monitoring ecological functions is de facto not defined either. The proposal is not dealing adequately with ecological functions that are likely to play an important role in the local, regional and national economies. An economic analysis of the benefits generated by the ecological functions is necessary to be able to compare the value of the standing forest versus the logging value of the same forest. For example, one should compare the cost of maintaining the forest taking into account the loss for not logging and the gain through ecological functions.

Monitoring should be made according to a clear methodology in order to be replicable from one site to another and duplicable year after year. The adoption of a single scientific protocol for the entire project area is necessary to be able to compare data and conduct analysis at the regional basis. It is also important to measure the impact of the conservation effort at the corridor level to see if the improved management in some areas (i.e. protected areas) does not provoke an increased pressure in other areas (typical case of the transfer of problems). The proponents mention the use of CyberTracker in the proposal. CyberTracker has been used in the monitoring program in Odzala for several years and could be used throughout the project area.

The section dealing with communities and alternatives to destruction of the forest and its faunal resources is somewhat disappointing. First of all, local communities should be clearly defined. A map describing the starting point is necessary to monitor possible migrations in areas receiving attention from the conservation community. In providing alternatives to hunting and slash and burn cultivation, the proponents may get the opposite result that the one expected in attracting more people in the area.

When the local communities are clearly defined, the key thing will be to identify who has ownership over the resources before engaging in any co-management process. This is not addressed in the document and often the Bantus claim ownership over the resource when in fact Pygmies should. The project proposal is not addressing this situation of the pygmy communities and their proposed way to maintain or restore their rights.

The project encourages subsistence activities such as hunting instead off re-introducing more durable and profitable economic activities that once prevailed in the region such as coffee or cocoa production. I believe that the responsibility of such a project is to look at the long-term benefit for the communities.

Cash crops such as cocoa and shade-grown coffee can play a significant role in maintaining wildlife corridors between protected areas. The project should seriously look at restoring this form of agriculture instead of promoting a hunter-gatherer way of life for the communities.

The section on mechanisms to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions is weak, not enough detailed, and not enough innovative. The proponent should have been more ambitious. Why not proposing to ban hunting in logging concessions. Logging companies bought the right to exploit wood, but are not paying for the fauna they exploit illegally. Why not applying standards that are applied by oil companies in the same countries where this project is proposing to take place?

Also logging companies could be asked to identify, with the assistance of the scientific/conservation community, zones of conservation within their concessions where areas of specific biological interest or areas important to maintain key ecological functions would be protected.

Logging companies should be definitely been engaged to applied new standards and change the way they have been doing business up to recent times. Applying the terms of the contracts signed by them in terms of no-hunting, closing the roads after exploitation, removing exploitation camps, replant trees in trails used for extraction, favor local employment versus importing manpower are key issues that the project should address in engaging the logging companies active in the TRIDOM.

The same applies to the community initiative section. One could hope to see more originality and innovation. Ecotourism is marginal in Central Africa and even more in this part of Central Africa where the project is proposing to be implemented. This region does not have a tradition of ecotourism, does not have infrastructure, is expensive and suffers from a somewhat unjustified bad reputation as far as political stability and public health are concern. The proponent should think about engaging the local population in the protected area management activities. Conservation and research are an important source of employment especially in a region where the human density is low. Bio prospecting is another possibility to generate revenues for the local communities.

In the context of ecotourism the proponent should address the issue of benefit sharing. If local populations do not get an economic benefit through the management of PA they will not respect them. So far, to my knowledge there is no case of benefit sharing between the operators, the government and the local communities (entrance fees, tourism concessions paid to the communities...) These standard practices need to be defined, agreed upon by the different stakeholders before ecotourism could take place in the TRIDOM. Finally in relation with ecotourism, the project should target the captive audience that is made of these expatriate communities living in the three countries of the TRIDOM who have a strong financial capacity and are used to local conditions. Among them one can cite the staff of the oil and mining companies as well as expatriate living in the capitals cities of Gabon, Cameroon and Congo.

The cultural tourism is also a potential market. Ba'Aka and Bakola pygmies are fascinating cultures and they should be promoted as such. As a general statement, the proposal does not give much importance to the issue of the respect of traditions of indigenous people (Ba'Aka and Bakola) when it is known that it is a major concern of WWF.

The section dealing with poaching is well documented and is obviously based on a great field experience. The proposed measures to control poaching are sound. However, as part of their commitment toward this project, the states should make resources available to survey the TRIDOM with planes and helicopters and troops. The army and the *gendarmerie* could become partners in this project and could constitute a significant counterpart from the governments in this project

The establishment of these 'flying squads' is a good idea, but the three countries should do something at the national level to prevent illegal bush meat to be sold openly in the markets' capitals. Finally a comprehensive law enforcement monitoring strategy in existing protected areas is important if and only if it is backed up by a law enforcement at the national level, otherwise the hunting pressure is going to just shifted to another area.

The financial plan is very ambitious and also pretty unrealistic. If I well understand the proponent envisions one financial plan for the entire TRIDOM. It is proven that financial plan for one country is already complicated and hard to implement. I do not see a great future for a plan associated with three different countries as different as Gabon, Cameroon, and Gabon. I would encourage an approach of a sustainable funding mechanism on a country-by-country basis. This section appears very theoretical and not enough applied for the present case. A fundraising/marketing strategic document should be prepared for each protected area or for each cluster of protected areas on a country-by-country basis.

A regional project deserves better maps than the two included in the project document. It would be useful to visualize the logging permit, the mining permit as well as the human presence in the proposed project area. I am sure that WWF has the information and that their GIS lab could easily put this information together. The map should also highlight the biological corridors that are critical to maintain between the existing protected areas.

### *3. Structural and institutional issues related to the project*

The forest department in Cameroon is pretty decentralized and relatively well trained. In Congo the forest department does not operate well on a decentralized manner and its capacity is limited. In Gabon the decentralization took place, but the capacity based in the field is weak. In Gabon there is also a debate going on between the newly created National Park Service (*Conseil National des Parcs Nationaux*) and the Ministry of Forest over the management responsibility of the protected areas. This needs to be sorted out in order to allow the project to function smoothly in Gabon.

Conservation NGOs in the region have established working relationship with the part of the Ministries dealing with protected areas. In order to work in the inter-zone they will have to develop new partnership with the other directions of the Ministry of Forest dealing with forest outside protected areas. This will require time and different skills than those currently present in the NGOs.

The NGOs need to be prepared to establish and maintain link with the mining sector in order to include them in the stakeholder consultation that will take place in the context of the project.

The potential of the Congo Basin for industrial agriculture is huge and has been recently documented. The proponent did not discuss this potential threat that is likely to impact the periphery of the Congo Basin in the recent future. The production of palm oil and soybean could easily and rapidly become a major threat in the inter-zone. This means that a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture is also needed.

Finally in all trans-border projects, especially with this one dealing with three different countries, it is important to maintain the dialogue open to make sure that issues related to sovereignty are addressed. A kind of a working group where the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the three countries would be present would probably be useful.

Project implementation mechanism is well thought. However the project steering committee is heavy on the government side and does not give a chance to the private sector to play a significant role in the management of this project. The local communities, as the public sector, are equally not represented in this coordination structure. CI is listed among the NGOs who will part of this committee. CI does not run

activities in the TRIDOM. CI provided financial support to some partners intervening in TRIDOM. It is very unlikely that CI will take an active part in this region and therefore will not participate in the committee. In relation with the management committee, the European Union is not represented which constitute a big surprise since the EU has been involved in this area through two projects (Dja and Odzala) since more than a decade

The NGOs are represented uniquely by international NGOs. There are very few local NGOs in the region and one responsibility of such a project would be to promote the emergence of local NGOs. There is also a regional NGO called RAPAC that is dealing with protected areas that was created at the initiative of the ECOFAC program that is not mentioned when they could become a partner in this project. One responsibility of this project should be to build the capacity of the civil society and this aspect is not addressed in the proposal.

The role of the Technical Advisor (TA) is key and what happen after the TA's mandate is over is not discussed in the proposal. There is not enough responsibility put on the individuals representing the various ministries involved in this project. A more balanced structure should be proposed where the governments and the NGOs would have clear and equitable responsibilities that does not seem to be the case in the current structure.

I do not see the design of an exit strategy for the international NGOs involved in this project. At least the creation of local NGOs and a program of mentorship should be put in place in order to make sure that local NGOs and well trained and motivated governmental agents will become major players in the future of this project. However, the governments should make sure that civil servants would be assigned to this project for its entire duration of the project to make sure that the investment of NGOs in building local capacity will continue to serve this project.

The project does not describe how the GEF funds and the CBFP (USAID) finds are going to be used in the TRIDOM and how the different partners working in the TRIDOM in the context of CBFP are going to collaborate. The project proposed to GEF should give a stronger part to the integration of conservation efforts in the TRIDOM.

#### *4. Environmental benefits and drawbacks of the project*

TRIDOM is a masterpiece for conserving biodiversity of the western Congo Basin area. This project would definitely generate considerable environmental benefit and would set standards for the management of natural resources at a regional level. The pretty low human population, the limited number of stakeholders involved, the field experience of the proponent, the commitment of the three governments toward the promotion of a regional conservation projects, and finally the involvement of other major donors in the project area (USAID) are factors that are likely to play a significant role in the success of this project submitted to GEF.

Biodiversity conservation is the main objective, but this project is likely to generate additional environmental benefits through the protection of important watersheds and also through the fixation of a very large quantity of carbon in preventing deforestation.

Context within the goals of GEF

The project is generally speaking well designed and is on line with the GEF strategic priorities. The project combines biodiversity *conservation* with sustainable economic development for the benefit of local communities. This project put a strong emphasis on the participation of governments and international NGOs. However, the proposed structure does not give the chance to the private sector or to

local NGOs to play a role in the management of this project that constitute the weak point of the proposal together. Another weak point is the strong leadership of international NGOs in this project that may prevent the governmental partners to face their responsibilities.

### Regional Context

The project falls perfectly within the regional conservation priorities defined by the scientific community with the participation of governments and the private sector. It builds nicely on the political commitment expressed in the Yaounde Declaration on conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests signed on March 1999 by among others Cameroon, Gabon and Congo. The project contributes significantly to the Plan de Convergence, the priority action plan for the operationalization of the Yaounde Declaration.

### Sustainability of the project

The project focuses on biodiversity conservation and the goal is proposed to be achieved through a rationalization of the use of natural resources. The project aims at promoting the sustainable use of natural resources through the involvement of all local stakeholders. The sustainability of the project depends on the success of the financial plans that will be prepared for the protected areas.

### Risks

The project proponents have a great experience of the region and have minimized the risks associated with this proposed initiative. The potential risks are well presented (page 33 and Annex B) and analyzed in the document. The main risks include poor regional cooperation, illegal exploitation of natural resources (timber and non-timber forest products), pressure to increase timber exploitation to compensate the decreasing of oil revenue (Gabon), land tenure system not favoring investment from the private sector or from the local communities. Corruption and absence of transparent logging concession attribution process are not discussed in the risk analysis despite the fact that they constitute key factors that could influence the success of the project.

### Other issues

The TRIDOM is already benefiting from funding from different sources including from USAID as part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Initiative. The proponent has been successful in capturing the attention of the donor community for the benefit of this biologically important area. However it is a major challenge to coordinate the different funding sources as well as the activities implemented by the different partners taking part in this conservation initiative. This aspect of coordination of funding and activities from different sources is not presented with enough details in the project proposal.

The proportion of the total funding requested from GEF is reasonable, US\$10,117,500 out of a total of US\$44,473,600 to implement the project in the entire landscape. It seems important to recall that the entire landscape covered by the project covers 147,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> are protected areas.

### Conclusion

This is a well-conceived project, aiming at conserving a key biodiversity area, one of the last untouched large blocks of forest of the western Congo Basin. The project builds on previous experience, especially acquired during the execution of the PDF B grant. The project aims at implementing decision taken by Central Africa heads of state to join efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Congo Basin as expressed in the Declaration de Yaounde signed in 1999.

The proposal is well designed. However a few structural aspects should be looked at to increase the chance of success of this project and ensure the effective involvement of the civil society, the private sector as well as respective ministries in the execution of the project. It is an important project to support that falls well within the parameters of GEF.

## **Response to STAP Review**

The STAP review is a positive endorsement of the project design as it concludes that it is a well-conceived project, aiming at conserving a key biodiversity area which is one of the last untouched large blocks of forest of the western Congo Basin, and implementing the commitments made by Heads of State during the Yaoundé Forest Summit to join efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Congo Basin.

**1. Concerning possible future logging threats in inaccessible and swamp forests.** The project proponents recognize that ongoing logging operations across the Congo Basin may in the future pay more attention to marginal areas such as swamp and hilly areas. This project proposes a number of key strategies to address this concern, including the design of an effective mechanism for conservation “set-asides” that include marginal areas (the Djoua-Karangoua Basin in particular), as well as other potentially important biological areas in “terra firma”. Moreover, the Table on description of activities per output shows that output 5 and activities 5.2.a propose a review of existing experience with conservation set-asides in the project areas so as to inform future conservation “set-asides” work as planned in the context of this project. The comment is, however, well taken, and special attention will be paid to this aspect during project implementation. Clarification language has been further added in output 5, Para. 89.

**2. Concerning the issue of human health associated with the transport and consumption of bush meat.** The comment is well noted and activities to address human health associated with transport and consumption of bush meat have been added under Output 4, Para 87. An additional paragraph (n° 42) has been inserted under the threat assessment. The proponent and its partners are currently involved in Ebola monitoring and awareness building on the issue in the landscape.

**3. Concerning the definition of ecological functions.** Clarification language has been added in para. 71 in reference to ecological functions taken into account by the project such as clean water, rainfall generation, erosion control, temperature amelioration, healthy rivers and streams, water retention, protection from floods, climate stabilization, nursery habitats, watershed protection, amelioration of regional and global temperature variations and resilience to future climate.

**4. Concerning economic analysis of the positive benefits generated by the ecological functions.** An economic analysis of the benefits generated by the ecological functions is necessary to be able to compare the value of the standing forest versus the logging value of the same forest. For example, one should compare the cost of maintaining the forest taking into account the loss for not logging and the gain through ecological functions. Clarification language has been added into the description of output 7, paragraph 96 as well as in the log frame (at the level of output 7, end of Year 1 target).

**5. Concerning monitoring methodology.** Partners in the landscape are engaged in the adoption of a common and simple monitoring framework focusing on key issues like ivory, logging concessions, timber outputs etc. Using the CyberTracker tool is indeed the intention as indicated in the description of output 5. However, clarification language has been added in output 3, paragraph 83.

**6. Concerning distribution of local communities and traditional ownership of resources.** This point is well noted and clarification language has been taken in Para 92 & 102 of the Brief.

**7. Concerning the importance of cash crops such as shade-grown coffee and cocoa.** We wholeheartedly agree that these should play an important role in the local economies. This issue will be taken care of by engaging more substantially the Ministry of Agriculture and specialized agencies such as FAO, ICRAF and others, and clarification language has been added in output 1, Para 79; Output 6, Para 92.



**8. Concerning mechanisms to strengthen effective biodiversity conservation in logging concessions.**

The point is well taken. However, we feel that this comment is a little bit strong. The best practices referred to into the Brief indeed comprise a number of measures similar to those listed by the reviewers. The best practices as currently implemented in pilot areas in the field include a strict ban on hunting linked to logging infrastructure and contributions by logging companies to the cost of surveillance and law enforcement. This will also be pursued at the national and regional policy level. Also the project plans to promote “set-asides”, i.e. zones of strict conservation within logging concessions (see Output 5).

**9. Concerning involvement of communities in protected area management and activities.** The project will focus on promoting, in each country, training and employment of local communities in protected area management, research and other conservation-related activities, as well as the implementation of the critical enabling conditions to successful community-based management activities. Clarification language has been added accordingly in output 6, Para 94. The potential for bio prospecting will be investigated and linkages made with potential donors.

**10. Concerning ecotourism benefit sharing mechanisms and markets for ecotourism.** It is indeed proposed that a market analysis will be conducted to define the target audience for ecotourism activities: output 6: Para 93. Special attention will be given to ensure that benefits sharing mechanism are put in place and clarification language has been added in Para 94.

**11. Concerning the market for cultural tourism.** Clarification language has been added in the section on stakeholder participation of the Brief and in output 6, Para 92.

**12. Concerning the Governments contribution to dealing with poaching.** Specialized groups called guards or ecoguards are assigned with the task to implement law enforcement activities in protected areas in the 3 countries. Whether or not, the army and gendarmerie should be part of law enforcement scenario will be discussed with respective governments during project implementation. The project will also seize any opportunity to scale up surveillance if deems necessary and agreed upon by the governments. However, we feel that the priority for most of the project duration should be on putting in place the basic infrastructure for effective PA management, and providing the equipment necessary for an effective law enforcement on the ground by the above.

**13. Concerning illegal bush meat sales in markets and implementation of national law enforcement strategies (to avoid shifting the problem to other areas).** It is intended to address law enforcement at local, national and trans-border levels and clarification language has been added under output 4, Para 83.

**14. Concerning the financial plan and its geographical scope.** This comment has been taken care of in Output 7, Para 99 and in the log frame.

**15. Concerning the need for better maps.** Logging, mining as well as human presence maps have been added in Annex E 2 to 4. However, adding the biological corridors map may be politically sensitive, because it may give the impression to governments that the NGOs are already deciding where the corridors will be established before widespread and transparent consultation has been held (planned for the execution phase).

**16. Concerning the different agencies responsible for forests, wildlife, protected areas and parks.** The project will actively collaborate with the WB led PDF B that is preparing a national protected areas Project in the context of FESP. The project does include an institutional support component and will work with both government agencies, COMIFAC and other donors to help develop an institutional landscape that reconcile and respond to the challenge of building an effective PAs network in Gabon.

**17. Concerning the need to work with other directions of the Ministry in Charge of Forests and with the Mining Ministry.** This comment has been addressed in paragraph 79. Clarification language has been further added in Para 82.

**18. Concerning the potential threat of large-scale industrial plantations (e.g. oil palm).** It is anticipated that the land use planning exercise would review all recent studies on potential land use options including industrial agriculture, and would identify areas where sustainable agriculture activities would take place. The need to establish closer contact with the Ministry of Agriculture has been added in paragraph 79.

**19. Concerning issues related to sovereignty and the need to include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.** The comment is well noted and clarification language has been added in paragraph 80.

**20. Concerning project coordination.** This comment has been addressed by revising the Project implementation structure. It is now proposed under paragraph 112 that two advisory committees will provide ad-hoc support to the PSC: a Scientific and Technical Committee, composed of representatives from the private sector, scientific community, and civil society, will provide technical and / or scientific input on specific issues and strategic guidance on work plans, and a sustainable financing committee (see Output 7) that will act as a platform to catalyze improved coordination of funding sources and actors within the TRIDOM and advise the PSC accordingly. The comment made on the absence of ECOFAC-EU in the PSC is well taken and has been addressed under Para 109.

**21. Concerning involvement of local NGO's and capacity building of civil society.** The project will involve actively civil society at all levels and components throughout implementation: land use planning process, design of master plan, awareness raising on law enforcement and sustainable funding as referred to in paragraph 82.

**22. Concerning project implementation responsibility of Ministry officials.** We would refer to paragraph 115 that sets out the responsibilities of the National Component (NC) shared between government and NGO representatives. In addition, during the mid term evaluation, special attention will be paid to the role that the governments will play during project implementation.

**23. Concerning the exit strategy.** The point of the reviewer is well taken. It is planned that the question of exit strategy will be further refined when preparing the PRODOC, and over the seven years of project implementation. Daily project implementation will be rely a great deal on government officials in the field and the project will work with the three governments to ensure that sufficient government staff members are allocated to the project area. For example, in Minkebe, WWF can presently count on six senior government staff allocated to the field and implementing activities.

**24. Concerning collaboration of CBFP partners and coordinated management of funding for TRIDOM.** We would refer to paragraphs 96 & 111 that refer to the sustainable financing committee to be set up. This committee would act as a platform to catalyze improved coordination of funding sources and actors within the TRIDOM and advise the PSC accordingly.

**25. Concerning potential environmental benefits.** Potential environmental benefits have been mentioned in our response #3 above and in Para 70.

**26. Concerning the involvement of the private sector or local NGOs in the management of the project.** This comment has been taken care through revisions contained in Para 110, 112 & 114.

**27. Concerning risks associated with corruption and non-transparent logging concession attribution.** This is not indeed captured as such in the Brief. However, close coordination with other actors such as the governments and the World Bank will be established to find ways to mitigate these risks.

**28. Concerning the coordination of funding and activities from different sources.** This comment has been taken care of in Paragraphs 96 & 112.

**SECOND STAP review for: Conservation of Transboundary Biodiversity in the Minkébé -Odzala-Dja Interzone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon**

**By Ghillean T. Prance**  
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**20 March 2004**

**A. Key Issues**

*1. Importance of region for Biodiversity*

There is no doubt that the tri-country region of Cameroon-Congo-Gabon (TRIDOM) is an area of key importance for the conservation of biodiversity. As stated in the proposal it is indeed part of the second largest contiguous rainforest of the world. The area is a centre of endemism for many plant and animal species. It also has a high proportion of large mammals such as the forest elephant and the lowland gorilla. This gives it potential for development in ecotourism as suggested in the proposal. This TRIDOM region is one of the most important parts of Africa for conservation and so a plan to strengthen biodiversity conservation in the area should be welcomed. The project is timely because it is also important to act in the region while much of the forest still remains intact. The proposal outlines the threats to the TRIDOM area and so, because of the extreme importance of the biodiversity of the region, it is vital to act before they become a reality. As stated in paragraph 62 of the proposal, this is the last chance in the Western Congo Basin to set aside a large area for conservation.

*2. Scientific and technical soundness of the project*

The project has been designed by people with considerable experience in the region and builds on previous work of other organizations such as WWF. The main goal of the project is the right one, that is to conserve the regional biodiversity and to keep the ecological processes going. I am glad to see this emphasis on ecological functions, but there is not enough explanation in the text about how they will be monitored. The project also builds on the political climate produced by the important Yaoundé Declaration on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests, which was signed, amongst others, by the heads of state of all three countries involved in TRIDOM. The declaration has certainly produced the right atmosphere for a transboundary conservation programme. The plan of work is well thought out to produce annual targets against each proposed output.

Many of the necessary cautions and suggestions have been outlined by the previous reviewer, Olivier Langrand, and the review seems to me to be completely unbiased despite his vested interest in the project. In fact quite the opposite, for it raised many points that have obviously led to much improvement of the proposal. The twenty eight responses of the proposers and material added to the text are generally adequate. The initial review has quite obviously led to a considerable revision and improvement of the plan. The issues raised have been listened to and addressed in this version of the proposal.

On reading the proposal, like Langrand, I was particularly concerned about the human health issues not only from the consumption of bush meat, but also from the aspects of ecotourism. One of the principle ways proposed for generating income seems to be from ecotourism. This will need to be particularly carefully managed in an area where Ebola is endemic and resistant strains of malaria are common. It would be a disaster if some of the first tourists became afflicted with a serious disease. This aspect needs to be addressed further. Paragraph 93 shows that the proposers are well aware of the other difficulties for the development of ecotourism in the region. Ecotourism has not really caught on in the Congo basin region and has strong competition from East and Southern Africa. I think that the project proponents may be putting too much confidence in this sector as a source of income.

Another important point raised by Langrand is the importance of encouraging cash crops such as shade-grown coffee and cocoa versus the hunter-gatherer lifestyle that is outlined in the proposal. Establishing more permanent form of livelihood will be an important measurement of the success of this project since there is a considerable human population to be catered for in the TRIDOM region.

Paragraph 66 mentions, in addition to ecotourism, “other biodiversity enterprises”. What are these? They should be explained to show that other sources of support for the local community are available.

A key issue for the success of this project will be establishing a good working relationship with the logging companies so that the set-aside areas of strict conservation within the logging concession work. The idea is excellent, but it will take tact to implement.

I agree strongly with Langrand that the proposed structure does not give the chance to the private sector or to local NGOs to play sufficient role in the management of the project. This still does not seem to be adequately addressed in the revisions.

### *3. Context within the goals of GEF*

This project is designed to address all the principle goals of the CBD: the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of the biodiversity. The interests of the local communities are well considered in the proposal and there is an element of capacity building of local peoples. It is well within the goals of the forest ecosystem operational programme of GEF. The GEF component of the overall programme is appropriately focused on the inter-zone between the existing conservation areas of TRIDOM.

#### **B. Regional Context**

This project falls exactly within the intentions of the Yaoundé Declaration on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests which should give it a timely political advantage provided the governments involved remain stable. It is in line with the scientific information that indicates the particular importance of this region for its biodiversity.

#### **C. Sustainability of the Project**

The project is designed to bring sustainability through encouraging more rational use of the natural resources of the region. The long-term sustainability will depend on the success of these efforts and on the development of good financial plans for the future.

#### **D. Risks**

The proposal shows that the proposers are well aware of the main risks. Annex B outlines the risks well. In addition to the risks outlined in the proposal, such as an increase in poorly controlled timber exploitation, the two other risks not given attention are corruption and whether the region will maintain political stability in the three countries involved.

#### **E. Other issues**

The project is requesting just under a quarter if the total funds from GEF which seems an appropriate ratio (US\$10,117,500 out of a total of US\$44,473,600).

On page 9 of the proposal there is some confusion since the Latin names of the Dja river warbler is given twice (*Bradypterus grandis*).

## **F. Conclusions**

I am in complete agreement with the other reviewer that this is a well-conceived proposal that should help to conserve the biodiversity of a most important region. It is a proposal that builds well on the previous work of WWF and from a PDF B grant. Without this project the fate of the biodiversity of the forests of the western Congo Basin is likely to be far worse. The project is firmly based on a strong conservation goal and it seeks to develop effective sustainable financing strategies for the future of the TRIDOM region.

## **Response to second STAP review**

### **1. Concerning monitoring of ecological functions**

We take good note for the need to further explain how ecological functions will be monitored. We estimate that a key ecological function that needs to be monitored in TRIDOM is connectivity. This will be monitored via vegetation mapping, via the identification and monitoring of a series of network topology parameters, via the identification and monitoring of accessibility parameters (like those linked to logging roads, public roads and permanent settlements), and via the monitoring of effective use by large mammals of supposed biodiversity corridors. Clarification language has been added in paragraph 71 and 84 of the brief.

### **2. Concerning human health issues related to ecotourism development (Malaria and Ebola risks)**

We have well taken note of this. In collaboration with tourism and health national authorities, input will be provided by the project to develop various tools (brochures, films, etc.) aimed at building the awareness and knowledge of tourists on disease prevention. Please note also that chances are extremely low for tourists to contract Ebola as long as they do not get into contact with dead animals. During an Ebola epidemic, the concerned areas are closed to visitors. Clarification language has been added in paragraph 93 of the brief.

### **3. Concerning the ecotourism sector as a source of income**

We agree with the reviewer that ecotourism will not become, in the near future, a very important part of the TRIDOM economy. But, even if its total economic impact will be low, the impact of tourism on biodiversity conservation can be significant as it not only contributes to attract the interest of potential partners and / or investors but also helps reducing the cost of law enforcement in critical intact and strategically located areas in TRIDOM. For example an ecotourism camp on a river that provides access to the core of the forest might have a limited economic turnover but, because of its presence, might significantly reduce the need to organize surveillance missions on the river. We think that there exists a relatively untapped market for rainforest tourism among Central Africa's expatriate community and in the international community. The project should contribute, via collaboration with the private sector and the creation of enabling conditions, to development of viable ecotourism operations in TRIDOM.

### **4. Concerning "other biodiversity enterprises"**

"Other biodiversity enterprises" could include bio-prospecting initiatives, marketing of medicinal plants, etc. with benefit sharing schemes to local communities. Clarification language has been added to paragraph 66 of the brief.

### **5. Concerning the involvement of the private sector and local NGOs in the management of the project**

We strongly agree that, given the importance of logging operations in the project area, that industry should be actively involved in project management. We have therefore added the Representative of IFIA (Interafrican Forest Industries Association) in Central Africa as a member of the Project Steering Committee. Local NGOs in the project area are very weak or non-existent. We therefore propose that the project should collaborate with programs such as the Small Grant Program of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment to identify and strengthen those NGOs so that they can gradually contribute

to the project's management process in the medium term. Clarification language has been added to paragraph 109 of the brief.

#### **6. Concerning the risks of corruption and political instability**

Please note that the risk of political instability has been taken in account (paragraph 119, table 9, line 2). We agree that not enough attention might have been given to the corruption risk. . In Annex B, the need to take into account corruption aspects has been added as a critical assumption under output 4: 'The legal framework is refined and law enforcement systems are effective' and output 7: 'A multi-level financing plan is developed, endorsed and implemented'. In paragraph 119, table 9, this risk has been added and mitigation measures proposed (adequate audits and financial controls, ensuring adequate management boards including representatives of several organizations for long term funding sources). It should also be noted that the implementation of collaborative management agreements involving closely the private sector, the Government, conservation NGOs and local populations in a transparent way constitutes by itself a first step in mitigating corruption risks.

#### **7. Others**

The error on page 9 (twice using the Latin name of the Dja river warbler) has been corrected.

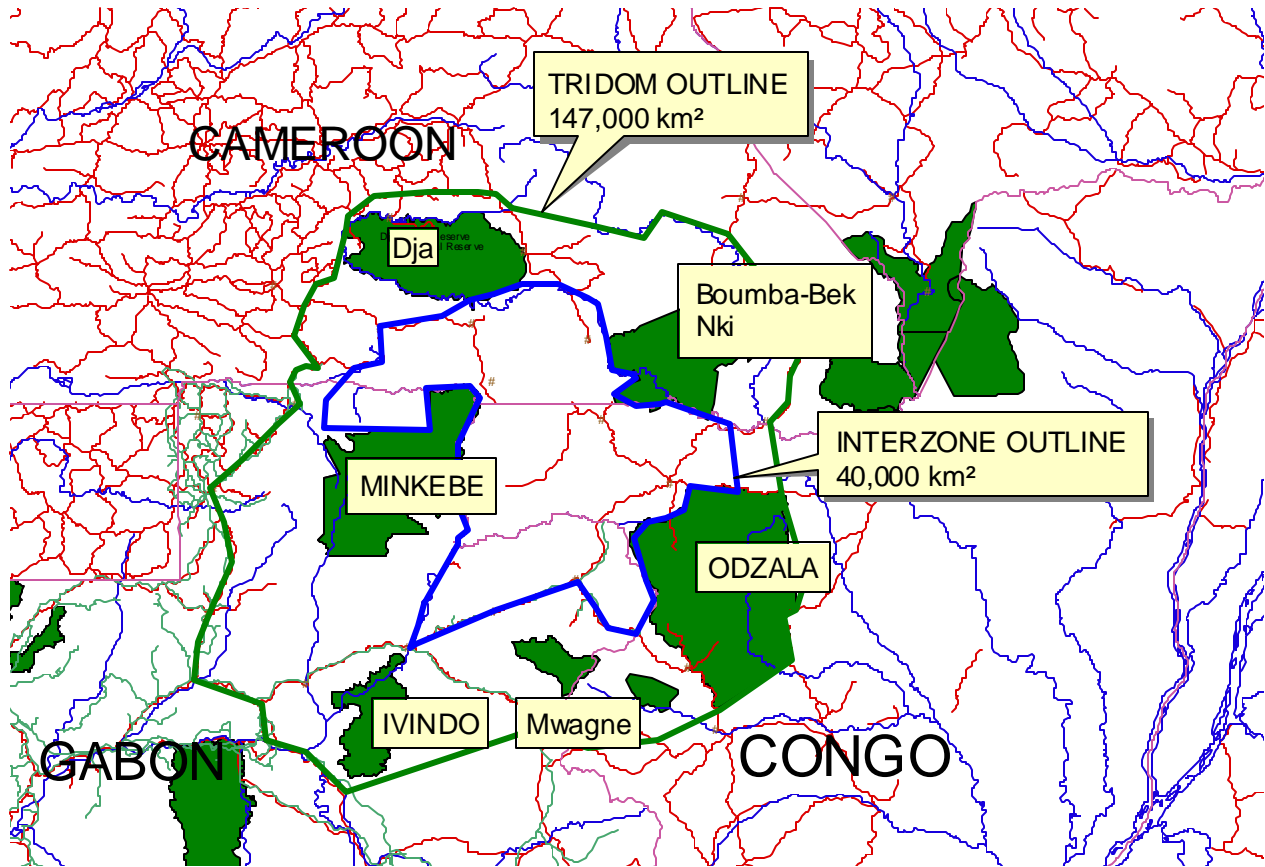


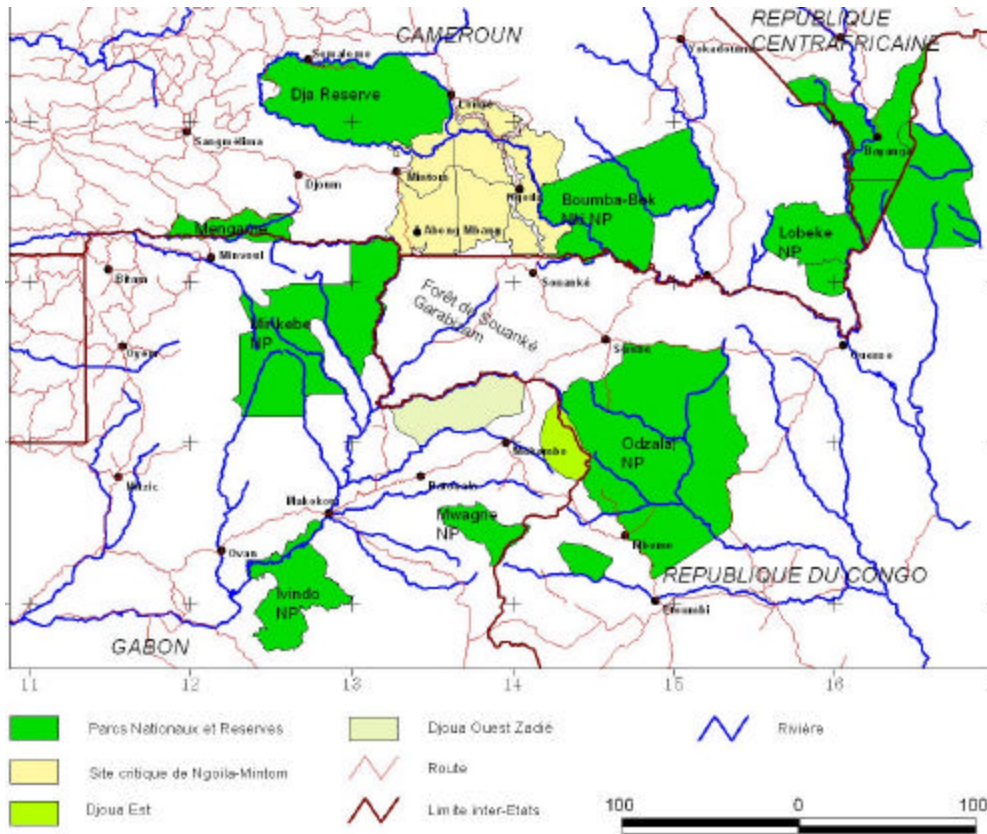
## **ANNEX D: OFP LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENTS**

See separate documents

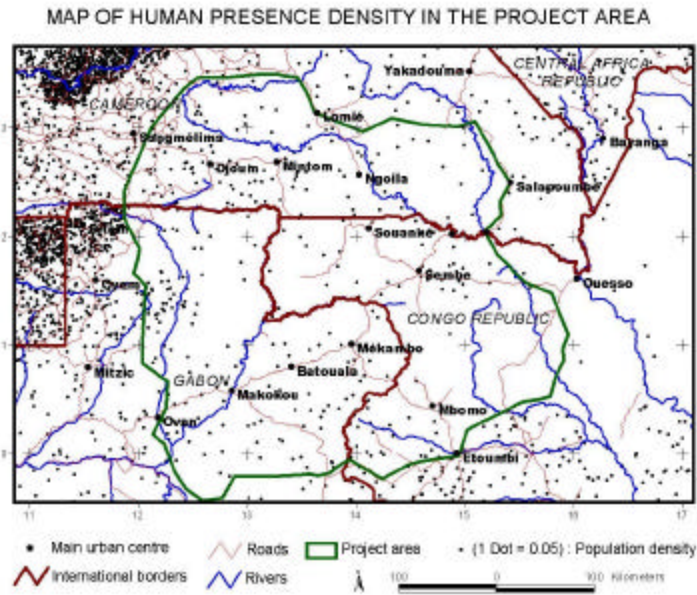
ANNEX E: MAPS

E.1: Maps of Project Area

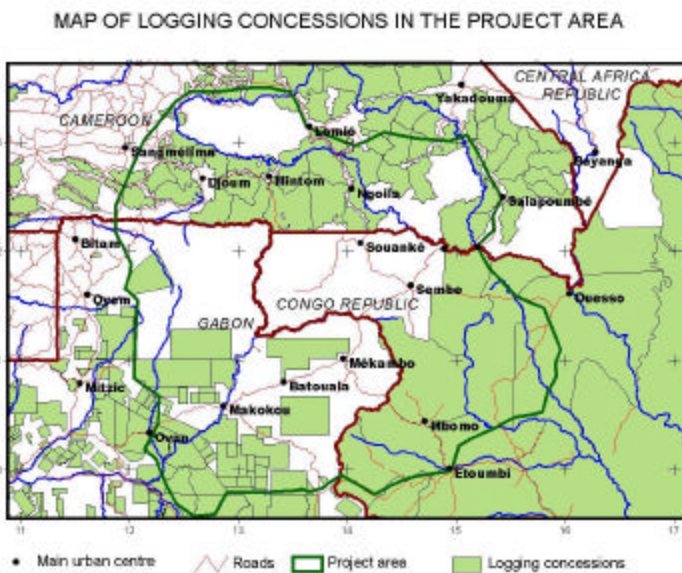




## E.2: Map of Human Density in the Project Area



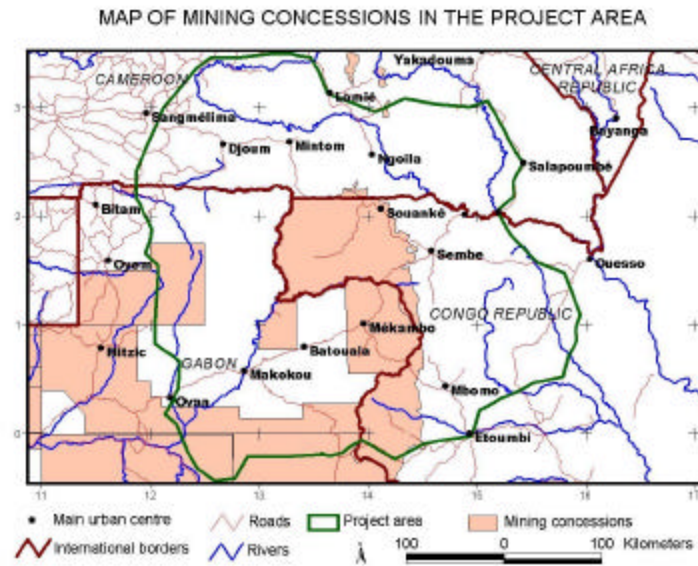
## E.3: Map of Logging



## Concessions in the Project Area



#### E.4: Map of Mining Concessions in the Project Area



## ANNEXE F.1: THREATS AND ROOT CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS IN TRIDOM

As further detailed below, three types of threats seriously threaten globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem processes in TRIDOM: (i) poaching and excessive hunting; (ii) logging; and (iii) new settlements in essential areas for maintaining ecological connectivity. Less imminent threats include deforestation or forest degradation, cash crop production and small-scale gold mining. These less imminent threats are described in the main text.

### THREATS, ROOT CAUSES and ACTIONS TO MITIGATE

#### MAIN THREAT 1: POACHING AND EXCESSIVE HUNTING FOR BUSH MEAT AND ELEPHANTS

**Threat description:** Explained in main text

Root Causes	Main planned actions to mitigate
1. Very weak property rights regime on wildlife resources	1. Activity 6.3: Establish community forests and hunting zones & Activity 4.2: Ensure refinement of existing regulation and participatory adoptions of new regulations (this includes co-management regimes which provide secure and exclusive access of communities to, for example, bush meat resources).
2. Fugitive character of wildlife	2. This is done through (i) activity 5.1 ensure wildlife conservation in logging concessions (so communities know that wildlife will not be hunted in the concession) and through activities 6.3 (hunting zones) and 4.2 (participatory regulation) which can ensure that several neighboring communities participate in hunting regulation definition.
3. Easy transport of bush meat, hunters and arms along logging roads and improved public roads.	3. Activity 5.1: ensure wildlife conservation in logging concessions which focuses on control of logging roads and 4.1 ensure effective law enforcement (so that adequate control is effectuated on logging and public roads).
4. Unregulated character of the bushmeat trade.	4. This is ensured through activity 4.2 that includes agreements to be reached with bush meat traders and bush meat suppliers. Equally, activity 6.3 (community hunting zones) includes a regulatory aspect.
5. Capture rate and applied sanction or fine are so low that this is felt	5. This is addressed via activity 4.1 (ensure effective law enforcement)

<p>as a taxation on the illegal activity rather than as a real deterrent.</p> <p>6. High demand for bushmeat in towns and cities.</p> <p>7. Opportunistic bycatch of endangered species (apes, slender-snouted crocodiles).</p> <p>8. Poaching is a low risk and low capital investment activity that provides quick income.</p> <p>9. Ivory demand</p>	<p>including 4.1.m (working with Ministry of Justice).</p> <p>6. This is partly addressed via activity 4.1 (ensure effective law enforcement) via the awareness raising workshops and communication that accompanies the work of law enforcement agencies and that will raise awareness on bush meat consumption and in particular endangered species consumption (like great apes).</p> <p>7. This is addressed via activity 4.3 (ensure protection of endangered aquatic fauna) as well as the co-management processes (activities 4.2 &amp; 5.1).</p> <p>8. This is addressed via activity 6.1 (socio-economic survey) and even more via activity 6.2 (ecotourism development) that will promote economic incentives at community level for wildlife conservation and alternative occupation of forest space by non-consumptive eco-tourism activity.</p> <p>9. That is not directly addressed as the cause has its origins in West Africa and Asia. As ivory trade is illegal, it is addressed via the strengthening of law enforcement (capture rate and sanctioning).</p>
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## MAIN THREAT 2: LOGGING

**Threat description:** See main text

Root Causes	Foreseen actions to mitigate
<p>1. Bad governance of the forest estate leads to untransparent allocation of concessions before stakeholders have had a chance to discuss the future of the forest estate.</p> <p>2. Protected areas are seen as a source of costs and obligations rather</p>	<p>1. This is addressed via activities under output 1 (TRIDOM land-use zoning) and activities under output 2 (trans-boundary status of TRIDOM recognized) which will strongly enhance the conservation importance of the whole of TRIDOM thus leading to increased examination by stakeholders of all natural resource management decisions related to the complex.</p> <p>2. This is addressed via activities under output 7 (sustainable financing), which also includes an evaluation of options to diminish the</p>



<p>than income thus government favor is shifted strongly towards logging.</p> <p>3. At national and international level people are unaware of TRIDOM and the changing state of its ecosystem integrity, leading to relatively little action in favour of increased conservation.</p>	<p>opportunity cost of not logging the Ngoïla Mintom Forest.</p> <p>3. This is addressed via activities under output 3 (ecological monitoring), which will allow a very broad public (local, national, regional, international) to follow trends in the state of natural resources and ecosystem parameters.</p>
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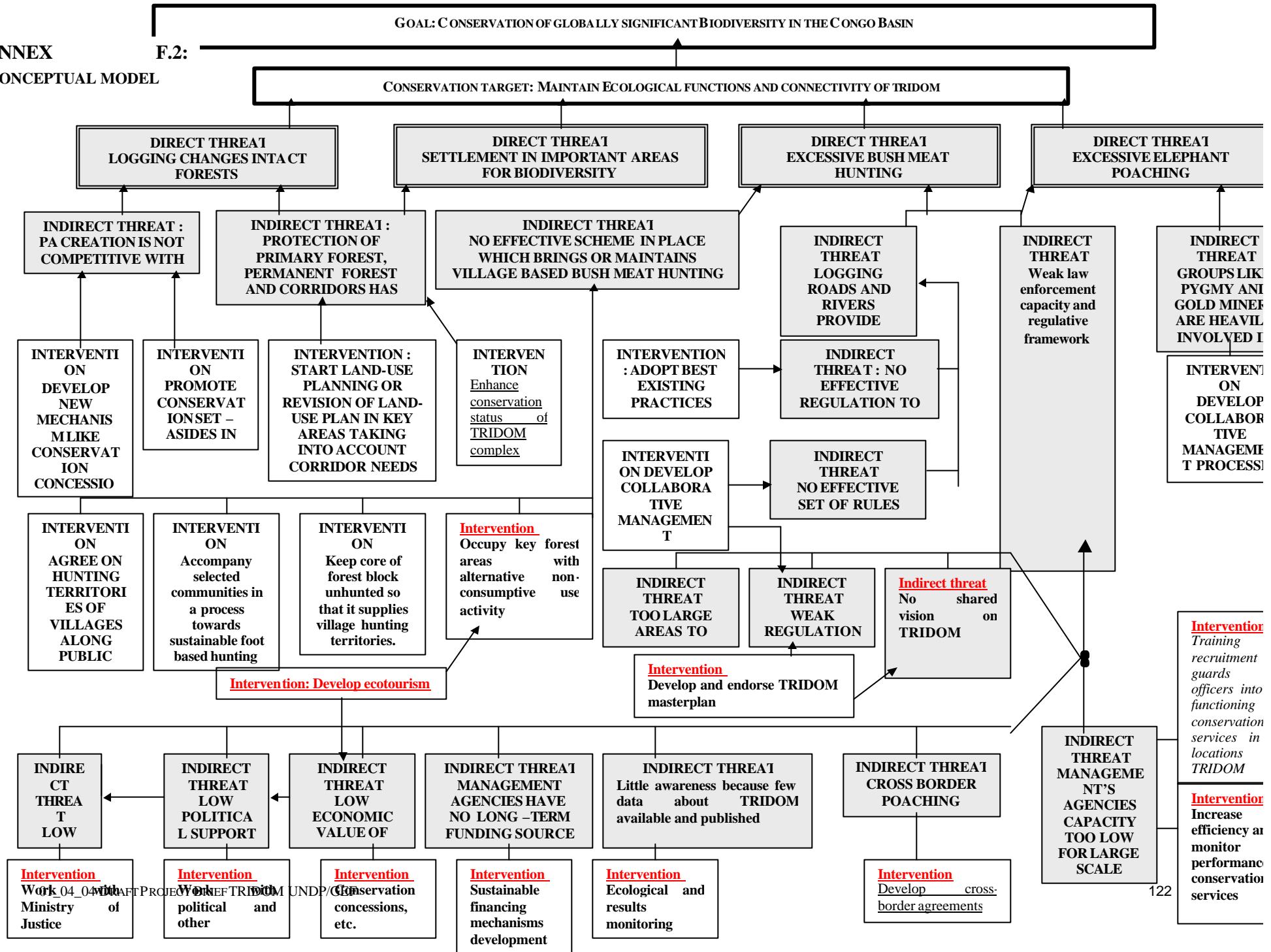
**MAIN THREAT 3: NEW SETTLEMENTS IN CRITICAL CORRIDOR AREA’S**

**Threat description:** See main text

<b>Root Causes</b>	<b>Foreseen actions to mitigate</b>
<p>1. Installation of camps is authorized everywhere outside of protected areas or gazetted permanent forest.</p> <p>2. Authorities recognize village status to hunting camps or gold camps in critical corridor areas.</p> <p>3. Chances are low that a camp is evicted so people have the time to acquire a legitimate claim on the land.</p>	<p>1. This is addressed via activities under output 1 (land-use planning), which leads to the definition of a permanent forest domain (including protected areas) where villages or permanent settlements are prohibited.</p> <p>2. This is addressed via activity 4.1 (effective law enforcement), which includes working with authorities and decision makers to obtain their support for key issues.</p> <p>3. This is addressed via activity 4.1 (law enforcement), as this makes sure that installation of large poaching camps along public roads can be swiftly tackled.</p>

ANNEX  
CONCEPTUAL MODEL

F.2:



## ANNEX G: LESSONS LEARNED AND INTEGRATION IN THE PROJECT BRIEF

Lessons learned from the Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program (CBCMP)<sup>11</sup> have been integrated in this proposal. The technical audit of this project summarized the CBCMP contribution to conservation as follows: (i) mitigation of severe threats to biodiversity of global significance, (ii) strengthening and successful testing of landscape management approaches, (iii) setting the foundations and creation of successful examples of participatory management of ecosystems. It was found that the main field problems in Central Africa are poaching, land-zoning (including completing the protected areas network) and development and application of refined regulation. It was noted that it is difficult to get good conservation results without strong involvement of MINEF.

Lesson learned in Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program	Incorporation in current Project Brief
Reinforcement of capacity of the Government agencies in charge of natural resources (MINEF) was weak. Future programs should use approaches focusing an increasing amount of their financial and technical support towards the creation of operational conservation services related to the MINEF.	Para. 64 of the brief: ‘ Another pillar of the intervention strategy is to build on-the-ground operational capacity of the Ministries in charge of forests and protected areas. On the ground capacity will be made up of competent people with authority (Ministry officers), a common vision, alliances with existing services and projects and operational means. In addition, the involvement in the process of Provincial inspections of the Ministry in the three countries should be strengthened. Operational capacity of the Ministry in charge of forests is essential to control poaching and to conduct negotiations and broker processes.’ Paragraph 86 & 87 further emphasize strengthening or creation of ‘flying squads’ with law enforcement authority and a major part of the GEF budget is proposed to go towards outputs 4 and 5 (50% of GEF resources).
The role of conservation NGO’s should be expressed in another way, through a single conservation department, supported by a close relationship between MINEF and partner, that targets conservation.	Para 115: ‘The responsibility for the financial and technical management of the country component will be shared by one person designated by the Forest, Wildlife and Protected Areas authorities and one person designated by the conservation entities working on the ground – WWF, WCS and ECOFAC.’ + see Para. 64, 86 & 87 stressing the importance of on-the-ground capacity of MINEF.
Conservation NGO’s should avoid parallel dynamics to MINEF.	Joint execution of the national components is proposed and leadership of MINEF on the ground.
TheCBCMP resulted in a rich experience, and provided learning regarding participatory management and consultation.	The project can benefit from the experience gained in Southeast Cameroon with participatory management (community hunting zones, concerted landscape management with a great variety of actors) and implementation of land-use plans.
Threats: The key issues that conservation services have to face:  (1) The absence of adequate and	The project stresses the importance to strengthen the regulatory framework and law enforcement systems (output 4 that attracts the most additional resources (35%)).

<p>locally adapted regulation that governs the access and utilization of natural resources.</p> <p>(2) Illegal and non sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	
<p>Without MINEF strongly involved, true success is hard to reach in the field:</p>	<p>The national components are jointly implemented by MINEF and one of the lead NGO's active in the country</p>
<p>The true difficulty lies not with understanding or describing the issues, but consists in building progressively a sustainable and growing capacity that could allow the implementation of the solutions to the most relevant problems.</p>	<p>The project is focused on achieving practical conservation outputs: producing land-use plans, realizing landscape master plans and attaining recognized status of TRIDOM as a conservation landscape, realizing pragmatic monitoring, building law enforcement capacity and a refined regulatory framework, controlling hunting in logging concessions, producing economic incentives for conservation and encouraging increased ownership of forest resources by local communities, and finally building sustainable financing capacity for continued operation of conservation services.</p>

**ANNEX H: REGIONAL POLICY CONTEXT (YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION - UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION N° A/RES/54/214 OF FEBRUARY 1, 2000 – SUMMARY OF PLAN DE CONVERGENCE)**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. A/res/54/214  
of 1 February, 2000.**

**NATIONS  
UNIES**

**A**



**Assemblée générale**

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A/RES/54/214  
1er février 2000

Cinquante-quatrième session  
Point 100 de l'ordre du jour

**III. RÉOLUTION ADOPTÉE PAR L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE des NATIONS UNIES**

[sur le rapport de la Deuxième Commission (A/54/588/Add.7)]

**54/214. La conservation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers  
de l'Afrique centrale**

L'Assemblée générale,

*Rappelant* la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement, tenue à Rio de Janeiro du 3 au 14 juin 1992, sa résolution 47/190 du 22 décembre 1992, relative au rapport de la Conférence, et sa résolution 47/191 du 22 décembre 1992, mettant en place les arrangements institutionnels pour le suivi de la Conférence,

*Rappelant également* sa résolution 53/188 du 15 décembre 1998, relative à la mise en œuvre et au suivi des textes issus de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement et des résultats de sa dix-neuvième session extraordinaire,

*Rappelant en outre* les travaux du Forum intergouvernemental sur les forêts menés sous l'égide de la Commission du développement durable,

*Prenant note avec satisfaction* du Sommet des chefs d'État des pays d'Afrique centrale sur la conservation et la gestion durable des forêts tropicales, tenu à Yaoundé du 12 au 17 mars 1999,

*Soucieuse* de la nécessité de conserver et de gérer durablement les écosystèmes forestiers de l'Afrique centrale, qui sont une richesse naturelle importante pour les générations présentes et à venir,

*Persuadée* que la gestion durable des ressources forestières peut beaucoup contribuer au développement économique, social et culturel des États limitrophes,

Convaincue de l'importance du rôle de la coopération sous-régionale et internationale dans la gestion des écosystèmes forestiers et de la lutte contre la désertification, dans la ligne des engagements internationaux souscrits par la communauté internationale,

Considérant que la convergence des efforts internationaux et nationaux est une condition essentielle d'un développement durable,

1. Reconnaît l'importance des forêts de l'Afrique centrale, dont les caractéristiques naturelles interviennent de façon déterminante dans l'équilibre de la biosphère de la planète tout entière;

2. Se félicite de la Déclaration adoptée par le Sommet des chefs d'État des pays d'Afrique centrale sur la conservation et la gestion durable des forêts tropicales, tenu à Yaoundé du 12 au 17 mars 1999, encourage les pays d'Afrique centrale à honorer dans toute la mesure possible les engagements énoncés dans la Déclaration et reconnaît les efforts qu'ils font à cet égard, en particulier pour harmoniser et coordonner leurs politiques en vue de la conservation et de la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de l'Afrique centrale;

3. Invite la communauté internationale à aider les pays d'Afrique centrale dans leurs efforts, notamment en leur fournissant une assistance financière et technique sur une base régionale;

4. Encourage la communauté internationale, notamment le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial et le Forum intergouvernemental sur les forêts, à tenir compte des forêts de l'Afrique centrale lors de l'examen des moyens à mettre en œuvre pour assurer la conservation et la gestion durable de tous les types de forêts;

5. *Prie* le Secrétaire général de lui rendre compte, à sa cinquante-cinquième session, de l'application de la présente résolution, dans le contexte des rapports émanant du Forum intergouvernemental sur les forêts et en tenant compte des autres rapports demandés au titre de la question intitulée «Environnement et développement durable».

87e séance plénière 22  
décembre 1999

## ANNEX I: LETTERS FROM CO-FINANCING ENTITIES

See separate documents

## ANNEX J: LIST OF REFERENCES

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