



United Nations Development Programme

Republic of Congo

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Project Title: Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo		
Country: Republic of Congo	Implementation Partner: Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (MEFDDE)	Management Arrangements: National Implementation Modality (NIM)
UNDAF/Country Programme Outcome By 2018, institutions and populations, including women, apply management policies for a sustainable environment integrating adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change		
<p>UNDP Strategic Plan Outputs: <u>Output 1.3:</u> Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste. Indicator: 1.3.1. Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level, disaggregated by partnership type</p> <p><u>Output 2.5:</u> Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation. Indicator 2.5.1: Extent to which legal or policy or institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Low	UNDP Gender Marker: 2	
Atlas Project ID/Award ID number: 00092643	Atlas Output ID/Project ID number: 00097266	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 5612	GEF ID number: 9159	
Starting date scheduled: April 2017	Expected Closing Date: March 2023	
Local Committee Meeting Approval: TBD		
<p>Brief project description: Congo is home to one of the richest, most biologically important and intact-forest ecosystems on the planet. These areas are home to a diverse range of rare and endangered mammals, insects and plants – forest elephants, chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, leopards, bongo antelope and others. The Congolese area within the Minkébé-Odzala-Dja Inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon, also known as the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area, is a key IWT hub. This area and its biodiversity are threatened by IWT, especially by bush meat and ivory poaching. Its forests are target for poachers and its roads and towns constitute a transit route for trafficked wildlife from Central African Republic (CAR), Congo Republic and Gabon. Local people accrue little of the benefits, watch their natural resources being depleted, and they face compromised security in their daily lives. They feel disempowered in the face of criminal elites leading IWT. The long-term solution proposed by the project aims to protect unique biodiversity of Congo and the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area in particular via i) a strategy for strengthening the PA network through expansion of protected areas, effective functional zoning to incorporate sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, and integrative management planning; ii) strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo; and iii) reducing poaching and</p>		

illegal trade on threatened species via CBWM, CBNRM and sustainable livelihood.		
FINANCIAL PLAN		
GEF Trust Fund <i>or LDCF or SCCF or other vertical fund</i>	USD 3,125,250	
UNDP TRAC resources	USD 1,000,000	
Cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 4,125,250	
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 4,125,250	
PARALLEL CO-FINANCING <i>(all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP)</i>		
Congo Government	USD 6,522,400	
<i>Congo Conservation Company</i>	USD 4,360,000	
Eco Oil Energie SA	USD 2,150,000	
<i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i>	USD 1,250,000	
<i>Forest industry of Ouesso</i>	USD 1,250,000	
WWF/ETIC	USD 4,150,000	
(2) Total co-financing	USD 19,682,400	
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 23,807,650	
SIGNATURES		
Signature: print name below	Agreed by Government	Date/Month/Year:
Signature: print name below	Agreed by UNDP	Date/Month/Year:

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I. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACCT:	Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique
AFD:	French Development Agency
AZ:	Agricultural Zones
IGA:	Income Generating Activities
PA:	Protected Areas
ISDA:	Associations for monitoring and Sustainable Development
WB:	World Bank
CCC:	Congo Conservation Company
CID:	Integrated Conservation Development
IWT:	Illegal Trade in Wildlife Products
CITES:	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
CL:	Local Community
CP:	Steering Committee
ETIC:	Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area
CST:	Scientific and Technical Committee
ECC:	Tri-National Committee for Planning and Execution
CTS:	Follow-Up Technical Committee Follow Tri-National Committee
CTSA:	Tri-National Committee for Supervision and Arbitration
GEF:	Global Environment Fund
GIP:	Integrated Landscape Management
IFO:	Forest Industry of Ouessou
MEFDDE:	Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP:	Non Timber Forest Product
OKNP:	Odzala-Kokoua National Park
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
PPG:	Grant Project Proposal or Project Preparatory Assistance
PZ:	Picking Zone
PCU:	Project Coordination Unit
EU:	European Union
ULP:	Project Local Unit
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCS:	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF:	World Wildlife Fund
ZA:	Agricultural areas
ZED:	Eco-Development Zones
RBT:	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
CSR:	Corporate Social Responsibility
SGL:	Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TRIDOM:	Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkébé area
VT:	Village Territory

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

i. Context and Global Importance

1. The Republic of Congo covers a total area of 342,000 km². It extends between the 5th degree of South latitude and 4th degree of North latitude, and between 11° and 19° East longitude. The country borders Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon. This geographic position gives the country an equatorial climate characterized by constant and heavy rains due to the convergence of air masses pushed by the trade winds. This climate favours rich vegetation of moist tropical dense forests with remarkable floral diversity. With an area of 20 million hectares of dense forests, the Republic of Congo alone contains up to 12% of moist tropical forests of Central Africa and 10% of the forests of the Congo Basin (Florent Ikoli, July 2011: 5). It is the world's second large rainforest covering 250 million ha across 11 countries.
2. The ACCT mission, carried out in 1985 estimated the number of Congolese flora plant species at 6,500 (Cusset, 1988; DMDB, 2014: 90). The Catalogue of vascular plants lists 4,397 Congo flora species, belonging to 198 families and 1,338 genera (SITA & MOUTSAM BOTE 1988). Diafouka (1997) identified approximately 1,229 medicinal species belonging to 100 families in the area, including: *Afromomum melegueta*, *Heinsia crinita*, *Eclipta prostrata*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Acanthospermum hispidum*, *odorata*, *Alstonia boonei*, *Voacanga africana*, *Morinda lucida*, *Morinda morondoïdes*, *Nauclea latifolia*, etc. (Bouquet 1972; Adjanohoum and, 1988; Diafouka 1997). The country has large massifs of ancient forest formations containing mahoganies, or Kalungi (*Entandrophragma utile*), which are gigantic trees reaching 50 to 60 meters high (Benjamin Lisan: Hawthorne, 1998: 2) and several hundred years old.
3. Alongside the great diversity of plants and vegetation types, Congo is home to an equally diverse array of wildlife. The fourth National Report on Biodiversity dated August 2009 reveals 200 species of terrestrial mammals ranging from primates, carnivores, rodents, and ptilodontids to ungulates. This biological diversity also includes 651 species of birds, 3 species of crocodiles, more than 10 species of turtles, and 39 amphibian species. The Hydrobiology Research Center of Mossaka identified 134 fish species belonging to 26 families and 59 genera in the country fresh waters. Congo is home to a remarkable diversity of rare species, including globally threatened large mammals; such as forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), the lowland tropical dense humid forests gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*).
4. To preserve this important natural heritage of global importance, the Republic of Congo has deployed considerable efforts resulting in particular in the development of 17 terrestrial protected areas (PAs) covering a total area of 3,991,418 ha (AFAP, 2016), or 12.7% of the national territory. This PA network represents 70.6% in achieving of Aichi Target 11 for Congo (18% of national territory covered by PAs). Internationally, particularly in the border areas, the Congo in cooperation with its neighbours – Cameroon and Gabon – makes remarkable efforts in strengthening the protection and conservation of biodiversity including several animals and plant species of global importance such as forest elephants, chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, leopards, and bongo antelope.
5. The north forest area of the Congo Basin, with the complex PA Dja-Odzala-Minkébé system is located in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon and better known under the name of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. The area has 12 PAs interconnected through an "inter-zone" (an area with low human population density and anthropogenic disturbance). This inter-zone covers a total area of 14.7 million ha, or 7.5% of the Congo Basin forests. Six of the PAs are located in Gabon, three in Congo and three in Cameroon.

The Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe cross-border complex is a biodiversity hotspot and, at the same time, the beating heart of well-structured and organized poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT).

6. The specific objective of this project is to preserve the ecological functions and connectivity of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area and ensure the long-term preservation of its rich biodiversity by strengthening national capacity to tackle IWT and supporting integrated, sustainable and participatory management of the inter-zone between the PAs. To achieve this objective, the project will put in place a series of policy and law enforcement initiatives and develop sustainable NR consumption schemes that will enable the conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. The project will also substantially contribute to strengthening the system of protected areas both nationally and regionally, by extending the PA area, improving PA management and establishing functional zoning in targeted areas. This complex of actions will not only increase the resilience of the landscape, but also, consolidate the entire system of protected areas in one sustainable and much more resilient complex according to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve model.

ii. The Challenge for Sustainable Development

7. In the northern Congo, the most important and urgent challenge for sustainable development is rapid wildlife loss including species of global importance due to poaching and habitat degradation. Despite good representation of ecosystems and the extent of the PA network, the PAs of northern Congo are still struggling to conserve the biodiversity they host. Following the closure of several forestry, mining and agriculture concessions in the country's northern forests, and decline of the international cocoa market, unemployment, underemployment, poverty and inequalities have grown in the region. The unemployment rate there reached 53% in 2012. Nearly half of the population, or 47% (2011), lives below the poverty line in rural areas with a 75% poverty rate (ECOM, 2011). The Gini index remains strong in the country reaching 47% (UNDP, 2013).
8. With poverty and precarious living conditions and in the absence of alternative options, some elites and businessmen of northern Congo exploit traditional indigenous local hunters from villages adjacent to the PAs to track, kill and carry the game for bush meat and ivory markets, mainly due to ever-increasing demand in Brazzaville, Kinshasa, and Yaoundé. Despite the daunting nature of hunting and the constant exposure of traditional hunters to insecurity, indigenous peoples (Baka) who traditionally live from hunting and gathering work as poachers. However, they receive a meagre price for the bush meat and for their services. Given low prices, traditional hunters are forced to slaughter more and more game in order to feed this illegal system and earn a living, which ultimately creates greater social and economic inequality and further degradation of the wildlife populations. The loyalty of hunters to the bush meat traders as a source of income is so strong that even if the police arrest them, the village defends the 'fauna criminals' as sons of the land (PPG data: August 2016).
9. In spite of the relatively large area covered by PAs in Congo, wildlife populations are declining from unsustainable hunting to supply the IWT. A recent report demonstrates a widespread and catastrophic decline in the numbers of forest elephants in Central Africa: over 60% have been lost, and their range has been reduced by 30% during 2002– 2011 (Maisels 2014). Poaching in Congo has escalated due to increased number of automatic weapons available from recent civil wars in the region. The poaching pressure is so strong that in a single decade 2002-2011, a vast number of pangolins (*Manis gigantean*) from Equatorial Africa (Audrey Garric: 2013: 1) was trafficked to East and Southeast Asian markets. Statistics from Souanké district in the North of PNOK show that 5 kg of giant pangolin scales have been seized in 2013 and that in the neighbouring district in Sembé, a total of 15 kg of giant pangolin scales have been seized in 2015. However, the main illegal trafficking of pangolins remains undiscovered and overseas markets are

flourishing. Current bush meat sales in the markets of Congo segment of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area are about 20 tons/per year (OKNP, 2016). A recent survey in the OKNP recorded up to 28 elephants killed by poachers this year (OKNP, 2016). Gorilla population is currently suffering from Ebola disease, which almost decimated the population in the Lossi Sanctuary (LGS, 2012-2013).

10. The loss of rainforest is an emerging issue in the Congo Basin (Scholes & Biggs 2010). These forests are some of Earth's wildest areas (Sanderson et al. 2002). They have been relatively well preserved up to now due to low population density in the area, limited accessibility, poor infrastructure and the low impact of selective logging (Burgess et al. 2006; Megevand 2013). But deforestation in the Central African region has increased in recent years, with a deforestation rate moving from 0.13% between 1990 and 2000 to 0.26% between 2000 and 2005 (Ernst et al. 2013). Even though climate change will have an increasing impact, deforestation will remain the major driver of environmental change in the region (Dawson et al. 2011). This forested eco-region 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 0.25 to 0.30 tons of carbon/ha/year from the primary forest (Lescuyer, 2000).

11. Recent expansion of the road network by logging companies allows easy access to previously remote forest sectors for poaching and transportation of illegal wildlife and forest products out to the markets such as in the Ngombe, Tala-Tala and Jua-Ikie Forest Management Units (UFAs) (PPG unpublished data from stakeholders meetings, 2016). Easy access from North Congo forests to major urban areas (Brazzaville, Kinshasa, Mbandaka, Yaoundé, Douala, Bangui) by roads and river has exacerbated this problem. Commercial logging in the north of the country has affected the forest cover, but the main impact of commercial logging is associated with high levels of poaching as formerly inaccessible forest tracts open up by logging roads in the timber concessions.

12. Terrestrial biodiversity in northern Congo is also threatened by land use change. The establishment of palm oil concessions in the North threatens to turn large tracts of land into hostile areas for most medium- to large-sized mammals, because they will either be unable to survive in oil palm monoculture or because they pose a threat to crops and will be pursued by plantation managers. Maintaining connectivity between the remaining natural forest tracts will thus be an utmost urgency for preserving the state of large mammals in the region over the longer term. By contrast, shifting cultivation has a relatively low impact because of the Congo's low population density, especially in the north of the country where new built roads attract many village settlements along the road both sides with new sedentary behaviours (PPG, unpublished data, 2016).

13. Relevance of the challenge to national development priorities: Mass destruction of wildlife through criminal coalition of traditional hunters, poachers and traders, facing weak counteractions from government agencies, will lead in a very short term to devastating effects on the populations of commercially valuable species, decline of local economy, and loss of resources and ecosystem services upon which the local communities depend on. Besides the increase of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion generated by this illegal system, the destruction of the wildlife and habitat will exacerbate the critical economic, food and safety situation in the northern Congo. Poaching in the Congo has intensified due to the increase in the number of automatic weapons available following the recent civil wars in the region. For example, in one of the settlements 60 km southeast of the Ntoukou-Pikounda National Park, 63 automatic rifles were kept by the local population of ~1000 people (data collected by the PPG team). According to the WB this situation is typical for the Northern Congo (World Bank field survey 2016). Conflicting wildlife legislation may be an impediment to fighting cross border wildlife crime in many African countries, including in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area countries. There is, therefore, need for improvement of wildlife

legislation in the countries. This project will support this legislative initiative in Congo along with international cooperation between Congo, Cameroon and Gabon to tackle IWT.

14. Crisis situation with IWT and extreme poverty remains among the highest priorities of the current Congo's development plan (2012-2016) that focuses on job creation and inclusive growth for the benefit local people including women, youth and vulnerable groups (DSCERP 2012-2016:3). Under the current Constitution of the Republic of Congo, natural resources including forests are the state property. Although the Congolese Forest Code still separates national forest estates from private forest estates, it maintains a basic role of defining, implementing, and enforcing forest policy, and preserving forest stands. In addition, the country joined FLEGT and has developed the national program of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The key forestry legislation in the Republic of the Congo is the Forest Code, which was endorsed in 2000 under the Law # 16-2000. This policy, and its subsequent amendments, sets out the framework for governing wildlife and forest sector in the Republic of the Congo together with other legislation. The purpose of this legal arsenal is to reinforce existing provisions geared toward protecting and conserving wild flora and fauna, and effective regulations of environmentally dangerous operations and activities. Thus, the proposed project will ensure effective implementation of the key laws to ensure protection of wildlife and forest resources in Congo.

15. At the sub-regional level, there is the Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa and the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) (2005). COMIFAC is an intergovernmental organization established between several Central African Countries. Its goal is to sustainably manage the forests of Central Africa and to protect the rights of people that rely on those forest resources. By establishing this inter-governmental body, COMIFAC governments are trying to increase awareness of the important ecological role forests play in the region. In 2005, COMIFAC developed a Convergence Plan for Central African countries to reach these conservation management goals. The wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC is a partner to the Commission (WRI, 2014). The proposed UNDP-GEF project in Congo will facilitate international cooperation between Congo, Gabon and Cameroon and will ensure implementation of the country obligations under COMIFAC in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. **Although it is clear that COMIFAC endures weaknesses at the political level, we emphasise that the capacity of COMIFAC will be strengthened through the revitalization (in progress) of the associated Organization for Conservation of Wildlife in Central Africa (OCFSA). By pooling the efforts of the inter-linked GEF Gabon, Congo and Cameroon projects, OCFSA / COMIFAC will be enabled to coordinate and implement core activities to combat cross-border poaching on the basis of the tools already put in place by the GEF TRIDOM project: The TRIDOM Brigade and Post located at the intersection of the borders of the three countries; the Memorandum of Understanding Combating Anti-Poaching for joint patrols of 20 km of each common border and cross-border legal proceedings coordinated by the judges of the three countries with the support of INTERPOL; and the management of intelligence on the movement of large poaching targets with the support of village communities of village lands adjacent to poaching hotspots.**

16. Despite the evidence that traditional forms of forest management by indigenous people have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity in the region, forest-dependent communities have often been perceived as threats rather than partners in conservation. As a result, hundreds of local communities have faced eviction or have been banned from accessing customary lands and use of forest resources, which today fall within conservation areas. Anti-poaching, often brutally enforced by eco-guards, have unfairly penalized traditional hunting and gathering activities while offering very little in terms of compensation or alternative livelihood activities. Until recently, remote and disenfranchised communities have lacked proper forms of representation or legal protection. Thus, one of the project objectives is to restore access and ownership of forest and wildlife resources for local and indigenous communities.

17.Relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals: North Congo segment of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area is still home to an abundant biodiversity, but despite this wealth, the average Congolese lives in poverty because of lack of alternative options to poaching and unsustainable nature resources consumption practices in the region. Increasing poaching and IWT leading to poverty and inequality of local communities may have adverse impacts on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 12 Responsible Production and Consumption, and SDG 15 Life on Land. Thus, the project aims to reverse this negative trend and contribute to achievement of the SDGs via strengthening wildlife crime enforcement, improving PA management and involving local communities in sustainable livelihood and alternative to poaching income generation.

Threats, root causes, and barriers

18. International and domestic demand for timber and minerals, high demand and prices for wildlife products, extreme poverty of local communities, rapid population growth, lack of alternative options to unsustainable NRM practices, exclusive community based biological resources tenure systems; lack of community involvement in PAs management, government corruption, and low public awareness on the negative effect of IWT and forest degradation are the main root causes of the threats (poaching, IWT, unsustainable logging and agriculture) to Congolese wildlife and entire biodiversity. For effective reduction of poaching and IWT and reverse habitat degradation, the following barriers must be removed: (See Fig. 1):

- *Lack of community ownership of wildlife and other biological resources and low involvement in conservation.* The Congo traditional governance era on biological resources (up to the middle of 20th century) used to set for informal community based ownership rights on forest and wildlife resources for each local community known and accepted by all communities. But last few decades vast majority of the forest in Congo has been allocated as logging concessions or as strictly protected areas. Thus, today 74% of all Congo forests are under logging concessions (often managed by foreign logging companies), 20.5% - covered by Protected Areas, and 0% - formally allocated to local communities (Eisen et al., 2014). As a result of this change of ownership, started an abandon the local rules and regulations and consequently led to wide spread illegal logging, poaching, and slash and burn agriculture. Vast majority of protected areas in the Republic of Congo were established without taking into account the customary rights to land or the historical, cultural or socio-economic realities that have shaped these areas and ecosystems over millennia of habitation and use by indigenous forest peoples. Available reports indicate that the creation of North Congo PAs resulted in partial or complete relocation or displacement of local and indigenous communities living in the area prior to the parks establishment. The full effects of displacement are probably impossible to assess, but these populations, whose livelihoods depend largely or entirely on natural resources and the environment, have had to face significant challenges in coping with the change and adapting to new territories and restricted livelihoods. Several protected areas are reported to aggravate conflictual situations related to forest resource use, particularly between Bantu farmers and indigenous hunter-gatherers, as restrictions to access create further pressure on the surrounding areas. Many communities also report abuse and human rights violations, particularly by the park rangers. Indigenous communities feel marginalized by the PAs. They have no rights over the lands they depend on and have virtually no means of political representation, voice, or participation in the NRM. Their subsistence way of living and using forest resources has contributed to forest protection (and possibly even enrichment) for centuries (RFUK, November 2016), but now it is increasingly difficult to maintain this livelihood. However, local people can become owners of private

forests if they are located on land owned by them, or owners of private forest plantations if these forests were planted on land owned by the State (cf. art. 33 34, 35 16-2000 of 20 November 2000 on the Forest Code). In addition, Article 31 of Law No. 10-2004 of 26 March 2004 laying down the general principles applicable to federal land and plan proclaims the recognition of customary land rights for people occupying the land for 30 years. Unfortunately, this recognition is subjected to timely and costly fiscal and technical conditions. These conditions can rarely be met by local communities or members of indigenous people without capacity building or external support.

- *Lack of robust enabling framework (policies and legislation) for IWT control.* Currently National IWT Strategy to consider wildlife crime as a serious national threat and set up main goals, objectives, means and plans to fight poaching and illegal wildlife trade is missing in Congo. Some crucial changes are necessary in the national legislation to provide a robust legal framework for effective prosecution of poachers and IW traders (currently no more than 5% of arrested poachers and traders are prosecuted in the country). Successful conservation of biodiversity in the Congo National Parks needs increased level of punishment for illegal activities from the one hand and much more wide involvement of local communities in the park management and CBNRM from the other hand. These regulations need to be supported by relevant legislative changes of PA regulations.
- *Insufficient capacity of law enforcement agencies and PAs to protect biodiversity and combat IWT.* The failure to conserve biodiversity in Congo National Parks may also be attributed to low capacities of the national PA system. Although enforcement of policy and laws shows one of the strongest relationships to management effectiveness, the empirical assessment carried out by the PPG team in the National Parks visited showed that laws and policies were not effectively enforced. One of the key reasons for that is unskilled park staff. In addition to limited skills, the park employees earn low salaries. Corruption among community leaders and park rangers is another factor that has been highlighted in many reports as indirectly resulting in failure to conserve biodiversity in the PAs. Beside corruption in the IWT law enforcement processes, the overall underlying cause low enforcement capacity for IWT still remains a lack of technical knowledge, skills and equipment to control IWT at the national and local level agencies. From January to September 2016, up to 98 poachers had been caught in the OKNP of which 32 judged and condemned and only 5 had been jailed. Law enforcement agents lack capacities to make robust and unbreakable enforcement cases to resist to poachers' lawyers (OKNP Annual Report 2016 and ETIC, Annual Report 2016). Due to lack of appropriate equipment one of the most important North Congo's PAs – OKNP - only 44% of its area can be covered by regular patrols (Annual Report 2016, for both OKNP and ETIC). At the same time, the national justice and law enforcement system of Congo lacks up to date information on IWT and advanced tools to combat it.
- *Limited transboundary cooperation on protection of biodiversity and IWT control.* National IWT framework should be supported by international agreements between Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, and Central African Republic to strengthen international cooperation to tackle IWT in the region. Overall, Congo has important trans-boundary conservation areas, such as the Sangha River Tri-National Protected Area with a total area of 2.8 million ha at the border of Congo, Central African Republic, and Cameroon and Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary PA complex at the borders of Congo, Cameroon, and Gabon. These transboundary areas are homes to globally significant populations of forest elephants and gorillas. Despite the region's highest elephant densities, these areas still do not have properly secured biological corridors for wildlife seasonal migration and joint transboundary law enforcement patrols. Recently the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) encouraged Parties to make full use of the ICCWC indicator framework that should be facilitated and supported by effective transboundary cooperation to control IWT.

- *Low awareness of consumers on the negative impact of bush meat demand.* Bush meat hunting is widespread in the Republic of Congo. Although forest dwelling peoples have relied and continue to rely on animal protein as part of their diet, commercial trade of wildlife species takes a significant toll on wildlife populations and overall ecological integrity of North Congo rainforest ecosystems. The most commonly hunted species in North Congo forests are small ungulates (duikers, a type of antelope), monkeys, and rodents (porcupines), usually trapped with wire and snares. However, new hunters with guns increasingly target large species such as forest elephants and apes (PPG, unpublished data: 2016) leading to rapid population declines. The overall extraction of bush-meat from OKNP is very high (up to 40 tons per year) due to the high market demand from Congo's big cities (OKNP, annual report 2016).

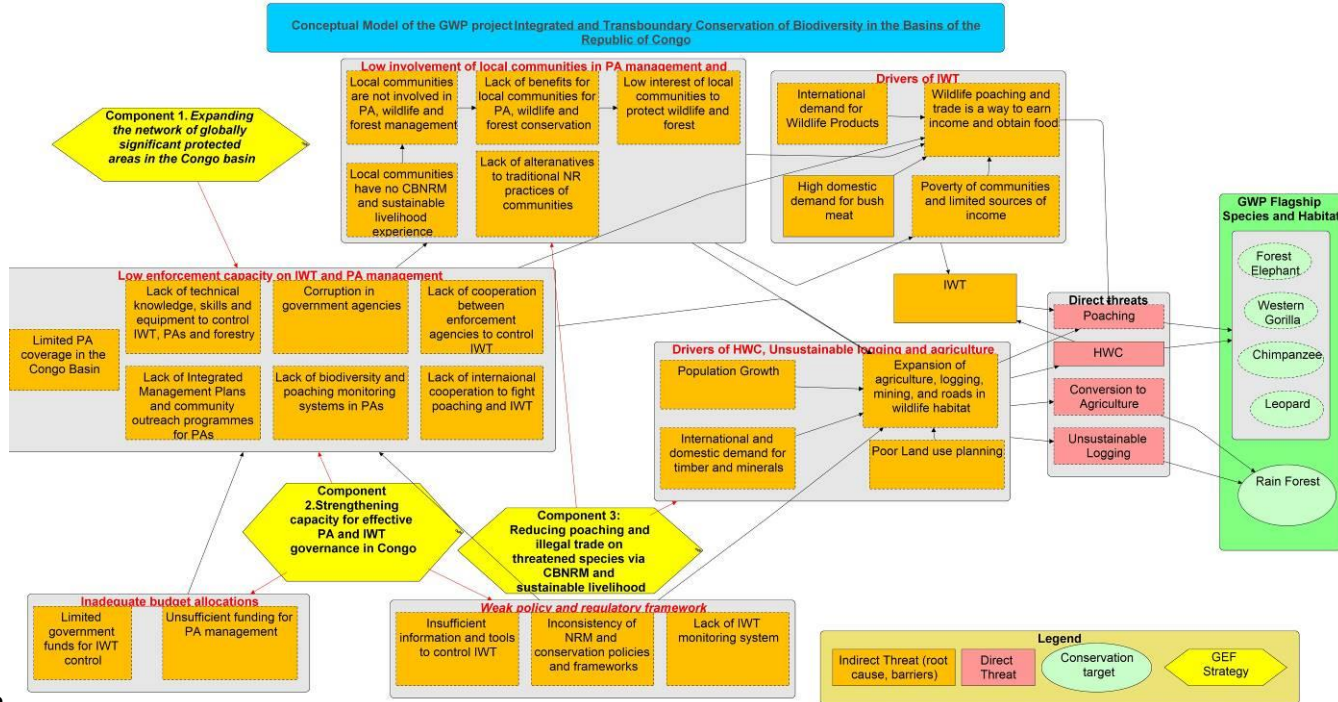


Figure 1. Threats, root causes, and barriers to effectively address poaching, IWT and unsustainable natural resources consumption in the Republic of Congo and suggested UNDP/GEF strategies.

III. STRATEGY

19. The Objective of the proposed project is to strengthen **the conservation of globally threatened species in the basins of the Republic of Congo by improving biodiversity enforcement.** Thus, the theory of change (TOC) of this project is designed to change the current situation of the unprecedented massacre of fauna of global importance and destruction of key habitats by building strong national capacity to fight IWT, and promote collaboration and cooperation between local communities and PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. To make it possible the project will implement four key interlinked strategies (Components) (Fig 1.):

20. **Component 1. Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo basin.** This component is designed to extend PA coverage in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area, establish appropriate functional zoning using UNESCO Biosphere Reserve model, and develop integrated management plans (IMPs) for target PAs and the surrounding lands of local communities. Implementation of the IMPs will strengthen law enforcement and wildlife monitoring in the PAs, and create the basis for a

so-called socioeconomic shield around the PAs via restoration of community access rights and ownership of biological resources around the PAs along with the traditional set of rules and regulations for sustainable use of wildlife, other biological resources and direct profits from these resources as alternatives to poaching (Component 3). The area adjacent to the core PA areas will include (i) Picking Zones for sustainable management and use of wildlife and forest resources; and (ii) Agricultural/Habitation Zones that will allow a variety of development activities in accordance with community local plans integrated with the IMPs, including CBWM and wildlife oriented ecotourism. The PA zoning and IMPs will provide an overall framework for the planning of the sustainable CBWM and inclusive economic growth at the local level with recognition of community customary rights on wildlife and forest resources. Practically speaking the project will catalyse implementation of the Article 31 of Law No. 10-2004 of 26 March 2004 that proclaims the recognition of customary land rights for people occupying the land in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. Initial implementation of the IMPs will be supported by the project under Component 1 (strengthening law enforcement capacity and wildlife management at the PAs) and Component 3 (development of CBWM, SLM, and SFM in the buffer and sustainable development zones of the PAs). Special trainings and equipment will be provided to the PA staff to increase their capacity in law enforcement and surveillance in cooperation with local people as well as to organize robust monitoring framework for elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees and other endangered species in the area. Under Component 1, the main activities will be concentrated in the core and buffer zones of the PAs that contain viable populations of the species and almost undisturbed ecosystems. In addition to the current government eco-guards, the project will work with village anti-poaching squads' volunteers called Eco-monitors to strengthen protection of the core zones from poaching. Overall, the functional zoning of the PAs supported by IMPs will introduce Biosphere Reserves management principles in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area aiming at three goals: conservation of genetic resources, species, and ecosystems (Component 1); scientific research and monitoring (Component 1); and promoting sustainable development of communities in the surrounding region (Component 3). Numerous examples of Biosphere Reserves all around the world have demonstrated their sustainability and effectiveness for biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/biosphere-reserves-in-practice/>).

21.Component 2. Strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo.

This component will address law enforcement capacity for IWT and PA management in Congo, in particular the lack of clear strategies, technical knowledge, skills, tools and equipment to control IWT at the national and local level authorities. The project will facilitate review and update of the National IWT Strategy and improve legal regulations for prosecution of poachers and IW traders. The project will contribute to the establishment and operationalization of the National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit (NWCEU) and improvement of collaboration between enforcement agencies, NGOs and the private sector to tackle IWT. The project will strengthen the capacity of national training centres for wildlife crime enforcement and will establish a detection dog brigade in the project area to increase effectiveness of anti-poaching control.

22.The project will catalyse implementation of the Congo commitments within the CITES via improvement of National IWT enforcement strategy (Output 2.1.); establishment of National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit to control poaching and IWT in the country (Output 2.2), strengthening border and domestic check points with sniffer dogs trained to detect mainly ivory, bush meat, pangolin scales and wildlife trophies (Output 2.5); capacity building of Congo Judicial Monitoring Joint Committee to monitor national IWT law enforcement implementation and effectiveness as well as law enforcement obstruction and corruption (Output 2.3). The project will increase overall effectiveness of law enforcement regarding poaching and IWT and control on the national CITES implementation. Additionally, during its implementation phase, the project will build cooperation with the African Development Bank and other donors for leveraging of

additional resources to establish IWT check points with modern equipment to detect wildlife illegal trafficking along all the main roads and at the border crossings.

Cross-border cooperation will be supported through, inter alia:

- Capacity building of the existing cross-border post with the project's canine brigade;
- Mixed patrols between Congo and Cameroon with the arrest and prosecution of poachers in the TRIDOM area. An anti-poaching mechanism was established during the GEF TRIDOM 2008-2015 project, comprising a tri-national encampment for joint patrol teams, a protocol agreement on anti-cross-border poaching in the 20km cross-border patrol band on each side of the border, methodologies and conditions for sharing cross-border arrest and prosecution information for poachers, etc.
- The sharing of the experiences and lessons learned from the Congo and Cameroon projects, e.g. the role of the canine brigade in the fight against trafficking and the illegal trade in wildlife products.
- The sharing of experiences and lessons in setting up and operating the 'socio-economic shield' through community controls against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products. This includes the integration of 'intelligence' into the village plan;
- Capacity building of COMIFAC's armed division in the implementation of the national action plan on ivory through effective synergy between the Congo and Cameroon projects.
- Cross-border intelligence management, coordinated by the OCFSA / COMIFAC, which will be reinforced by a coordinator of cross-border activities, which will be assured through a pooling of the financial resources of the two brother projects.

23. Component 3: Reducing poaching and illegal trade on threatened species via CBNRM and sustainable livelihood. This component is strongly linked to the Component 1 and will address the lack of capacity of local communities to develop sustainable livelihood based in the target PAs on the basis of functional zones and developed IMPs. Under this Component, local communities will be effectively involved in development of CBWM, SLM, SFM, other alternative to poaching sources of income, and collaboration with PAs to establish effective stronghold against poaching and IWT in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area's inter-zone (so-called socio-economic shield). The project will work with multiple local communities to re-establish their rights on wildlife and forest resources strengthen and increase their capacity in CBWM and development of alternative to poaching options for livelihood such as wildlife oriented ecotourism, agro-forestry, sustainable agriculture, and honey production. Moreover, the project will provide local communities with access to renewable energy to decrease dependence on firewood and charcoal production. Special small grant and micro-loan programmes will be implemented in the project area to provide local people with funding to start CBWM, SLM, SFM, and small alternative business. Larger pilot and demonstration projects on CBNRM and alternative livelihood in the area will be developed and supported under the project supervision and assistance.

24. Based on the lessons learned from other CBWM projects in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area the project will use following strategies to increase value of wildlife for local communities: (1) re-establishment of community rights and ownership on wildlife and other biological resources in the buffer and sustainable development zones of 3 targeted PAs via involvement them as key partners in development and implementation of IMPs and relevant agreements with the PAs and relevant government agencies; (2) promotion of Community Based Sustainable Game and Bushmeat Hunting in accordance with with the IMPs (In this case local communities will have fair share from game hunting revenues and legal income from selling legal and certified bushmeat on the local markets); and (3) development of Community Based Ecotourism oriented to watching of wildlife including endangered species as additional flow of income that add value to the wildlife in the project area (in cooperation with Congo Conservation Company oriented to eco-tourism development in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area). Given these cumulative profits that are equal or probably higher than the highly risky under increased law enforcement poaching rewards, each target community in the project area is likely to

shift from poaching to CBWM and active protection of the source of their legal income (wildlife). All these three mechanisms together will provide local communities with legal rights and tools to manage wildlife, manifest high economic value of wildlife to the communities and give good reasons to protect it from poaching. To make this system working the project will invest considerable resources in the capacity building of local communities (Component 3) to ensure that local communities will have sufficient and stable flow of revenue, good community level governance and equity among community members, and sustainability of the system, based on the best examples of CBNRM in Kenya, South Africa, and Tanzania. In this situation any poacher and seller of illegal bushmeat on the local market will be seen by local communities as someone coming to steal their own property and unlawful competitors. Since the villagers all know each other the community-based surveillance and control on poaching and IWT will be relatively easy to establish with assistance of trained local ecomonitors and PA staff.

25. The project is also going to increase local communities capacity to produce sustainably cereals, milk, fish, honey, local forest fruits, butter and cheese that have significant value on the local and national markets. These types of activities can provide many additional permanent and seasonal jobs especially for women. Development of honey production through the bee farming around the villages will also contribute to mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts in the area, because the bees will keep elephants away from the village fields. **The strong market demand of the major TRIDOM cities, including Brazzaville, Yaoundé, Libreville, Sagmélina, Ouesso, Makokou and the towns that have developed around the extractive concessions, remain a preoccupation of the project. The reduction of this demand will be taken into account by the project through the SFICE program on Awareness, Training, Information and Environmental Communication. This education will be reinforced by actions to promote the substitution of bushmeat for sheep, goat and swine operations alongside fish farming, aquaculture and beekeeping. This will be supported by the community development fund, which is fed by local development support funds resulting from a non-binding contribution from the timber companies in the TRIDOM Congo segment, which pay 200 CFA francs per cubic meter of wood marketed. The promotion of these activities to support the inclusive creation of jobs and wealth is envisaged through the setting up of revolving microcredit lines on these Community funds.**

26. The pilot projects on CBWM, SLM and SFM will also serve as learning centres for local people to develop sustainable livelihoods. All activities under Component 3 will be tightly coordinated with the PA administrations as a way to involve local communities in the PA management.

27. As a part of the strategy, the project will work with local private logging and agro-forestry companies (mining projects are currently not active in the area due to the recent fall in iron ore prices) to introduce the best practices for sustainable NRM in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area and build cooperation between private sector, PAs and local communities for sustainable NRM. The project private sector partners and co-financers are following:

- Congo Conservation Company (tourist company oriented to wildlife tourism). This company is one of the key stakeholders for the PA zoning and development of Integrated Management Plan (Outputs 1.2-1.3) and the key partner for involvement of local and indigenous communities in wildlife oriented tourism (Output 3.1)

African Parks Network Given the importance of its mission in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park (PNOK), African Parks will play a central role in management both in the Central Protection Area and in the periphery. In addition to its technical role and its proven expertise in the management of Parks, the financial contribution of African Parks is significant. As part of the project, this contribution was reflected in the Government's in-kind contribution to African Parks through a partnership agreement. Since 2010, the Government of the Congo and African Parks Network have signed a public-private partnership agreement setting up the Odzala-Kokoua Foundation for a renewable 50-year term. The Board of Directors is chaired by the Government of the Congo, while the Park Management Unit is headed by an expert pre-selected by a panel set up by the Forestry Administration and the African Parks Network. The PNOK has a

clear business plan. All funding for the Odzala-Kokoua National Park is transmitted through the African Parks Network account to directly serve the management of the Park. Thus, within the framework of the regional indicator program of the 11th EDF of the European Union, an envelope of nearly USD 4 million is allocated to the African Parks Network for PNOK, and taken into account in the co-financing letter in Government in which beneficiary. Co-financing of the PNOK amounts to nearly four (4) million USD, 90% of the Regional Indicative Program (PIR) of the 11th EDF of the European Union and is mainly for management, community development, and monitoring and evaluation within the Central Protected Area and in its periphery.

- Eco-Oil Energie SA (palm oil producer). This company is one the key stakeholders for the PA zoning and development of Integrated Management Plan (Outputs 1.2-1.3) and the key partner for involvement of local and indigenous communities in small scale oil palm plantations on the degraded lands (Output 3.1-3.3) as well as in the development of sustainable oil palm plantation practices based on improved RSPO principles and corporate conservation programmes with involvement of local and indigenous communities (Output 3.5). Eco-Oil Industrie's actions traditionally focused on clearing large single-acreage areas for conversion to industrial oil palm plantations. But their focus is undergoing a transition to small-scale family farms to minimize production costs. In the family-run palm oil plantations, agroforestry will be promoted to allow oil palm to cohabit with many other fruit tree species that are traditionally preserved for their economic and cultural values, as well as their multiple uses. As a result, the villagers are unlikely to replace biodiversity-rich areas with more palm trees as they can profit from new commercial options offered by the exploitation of non-wood forest products through the gathering and processing of seeds from the fruits of *irvengia gabonensis* and *pentacletra macrophylla*. Further, village plantations are located in areas of land managed around the adjacent Protected Areas, and clearing is particularly well controlled with fines. Community development is also included in the management plans for forest concessions and protected areas. Closely monitored, the plans establish clear management priorities and objectives are routinely reviewed. The new GEF project will reinforce existing processes. The PMU and Project Board will ensure focused monitoring of this issue to mitigate unintended negative impacts, while village Ecomonitors will also promote sustainable use and management of biological resources. It is important to note that the industrial development policy in the Congo obliges the concessions to adopt the management plans and ensure certification and traceability of natural resources (wood, mines and oil palm, etc.) and will be closely monitored by the project.

- African Parks Network Given the importance of its mission in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park (PNOK), African Parks will play a central role in management both in the Central Protection Area and in the periphery. In addition to its technical role and its proven expertise in the management of Parks, the financial contribution of African Parks is significant. As part of the project, this contribution was reflected in the Government's in-kind contribution to African Parks through a partnership agreement. Since 2010, the Government of the Congo and African Parks Network have signed a public-private partnership agreement setting up the Odzala-Kokoua Foundation for a renewable 50-year term. The Board of Directors is chaired by the Government of the Congo, while the Park Management Unit is headed by an expert pre-selected by a panel set up by the Forestry Administration and the African Parks Network. The PNOK has a clear business plan. All funding for the Odzala-Kokoua National Park is transmitted through the African Parks Network account to directly serve the management of the Park. Thus, within the framework of the regional indicator program of the 11th EDF of the European Union, an envelope of nearly USD 4 million is allocated to the African Parks Network for PNOK, and taken into account in the co-financing letter in Government in which beneficiary. Co-financing of the PNOK amounts to nearly four (4) million USD, 90% of the Regional Indicative Program (PIR) of the 11th EDF of the European Union and is mainly for management, community development, and monitoring and evaluation within the Central Protected Area and in its periphery.
- Industrie Forestière de Ouessou (logging company). This company is one the key stakeholders for the PA zoning and development of Integrated Management Plan (Outputs 1.2-1.3) and the key partner for

involvement of local and indigenous communities in SFM (Output 3.1-3.3) as well as in the development of sustainable logging practices and corporate conservation programmes with involvement of local and indigenous communities (Output 3.5). All three companies will provide funds for micro-loans in the framework of the project co-financing (Output 3.2).

- The industrial development policy in the Congo obliges the concessionaires to adopt the management plans and, at best, enroll in the certification and traceability of natural resources (wood, mines and oil palm ...). Indeed, the micro-zoning resulting from this development provides for the existence of several management series with management plans, including the community development series. Thus, the monitoring of the implementation of these management plans has a joint team responsible for the annual review of the activities, referring to the rules prescribed in relation to the general objective, expected impacts, indicators, The level of achievement of the targets, the factors of success, the challenges and the lessons learned.

28.Component 4: Gender mainstreaming, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management. This component will improve the project overall performance through adaptive management and participatory M&E system. Under this Component the project will share best practices and lessons learnt among multiple stakeholders at local, national and international levels including Global Wildlife Programme and South-South cooperation.

29.Thus, the project will increase protection of key ecosystems and habitat of endangered species via improvement of PA network and management, build strong national capacity to fight poaching and IWT, and provide local communities with sustainable alternatives to poaching and mechanisms for CBNRM. These strategies will increase the effectiveness of IWT enforcement and will lead to increased prosecution for IWT and poaching as well as active involvement of local people in biodiversity conservation. Besides, the project will allow local communities to generate sustainable and legal income and decrease their dependence on poaching. Suggested approaches are likely to lead to the reduction of poaching and unsustainable natural resource harvesting in the project area and eventually to the restoration of the population of endangered species and the conservation of their key habitat (rain forest) (see Table 1 and Fig. 3). The suggested strategies and theory of change were adopted during village and inter-village meetings, meetings with Local Authorities in Ouessou and the launching workshop of PPG's activities in Brazzaville, and confirmed by the participatory planning workshop with representatives of all stakeholders including local communities, law enforcement agencies, TFPs, private sector, NGOs.

Project Areas:

30. Total project area takes 2,667,160 ha of the Congo Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area's segment. The entire Congo' segment has population about 31,000 people only (http://carpe.umd.edu/Documents/2006/Dja_SOF2006.pdf). The entire population of the project area does not exceed 12,000 people (population density about 0.5 people/km²) (see GWP GEF Tracking Tool). PAs cover 52% of the project area (Fig. 2); about 45% are under logging and agro-forestry concessions.

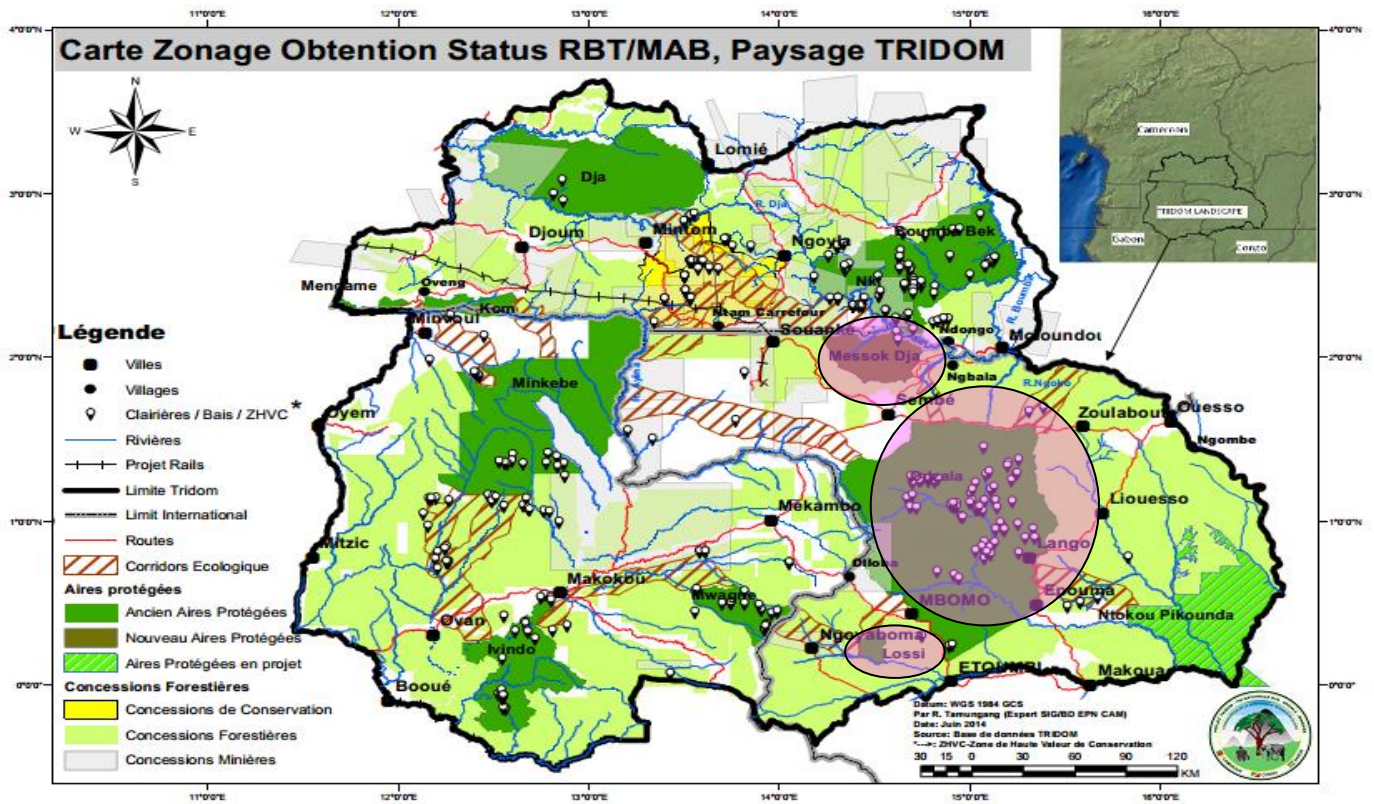


Fig. 2. Project Area. The 3 target PAs are highlighted in the map with purple circles: Odzala-Kokoua National Park, 1,354,600 ha; Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, 35,000 ha; and proposed Messok Dja National Park, 144,000 ha. These Protected Areas were selected as the target sites because they are highly representative of the socio-economic situation, rich biodiversity and threats in the entire Congo Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area segment and to avoid duplication with WB-GEF 6 project “Strengthening the management of wildlife and improving livelihoods in northern Republic of Congo”, which focuses on Ntokou-Pikounda National Park.

Table 1. Project Theory of Change (see Fig. 3 for details)

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts and GEBs	Assumptions
Component 1 <i>Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo basin</i>			
<p>The project will support development of proposal for establishment of the Messok Dja National Park covering 144,000 ha of high quality wildlife habitat in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Output 1.1.). Additionally functional zones (buffer and sustainable development zones) and biological corridors for three target PAs will be planned and officially established (Output 1.2). Integrated Management Plans will be developed for each PA (Output 1.3) with a special focus on community ownership of wildlife and CBWM and supported for the implementation, including trainings for the PA staff on law enforcement and biodiversity management, and anti-poaching activities in the PAs (Output 1.4)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Component will lead to extension of the PA coverage, improved management, and protection of the PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Outcome 1) including interests and values of local communities, especially on wildlife ownership and management. Improved PA management and protection will lead to increased number of poacher and trader arrests, prosecution and sentences in the project area (Objective Outcome) as well as increased area of rain forest ecosystems under protection and sustainable management (Objective Outcome). Biosphere Reserve functional zoning will allow integration of local communities in the PA management and CBWM, SLM and SFM with increased benefits for local communities from sustainable livelihood (Objective Outcome)</p>	<p>In the result of increased poacher and trader arrests, prosecution and sentences; increased protection of wildlife habitat; and increased benefits for local communities for biodiversity conservation and CBWM the level of IWT and poaching as well as rain forest degradation due to unsustainable logging and agriculture will decrease (Mid-Term Impact) as well as mortality of wildlife. It will allow wildlife populations to stabilize and grow (Long-Term Impact).</p>	<p>Extension of PA network and functional zoning is fully supported by the Government</p> <p>PAs have enough funding from national budget and donors to implement IMPs and conduct anti-poaching operations</p> <p>Local communities see IMPs and CBWM, SLM and SFM as a way to increase their ownership of wildlife habitat, provide sustainable income for families and increased security</p>
Component 2 <i>Strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo</i>			

Table 1. Project Theory of Change (see Fig. 3 for details)

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts and GEBs	Assumptions
<p>The project will support development and implementation of National IWT Strategy. It will establish NWCEU and support its development and inter-agency collaboration to strengthen national capacity to fight IWT (training and equipment) (Outputs 2.1, 2.2). Additionally capacity of national IWT Training Center will be increased (Output 2.4) to provide highly qualified officers for law enforcement. Obvious gaps in the national IWT legislation will be eliminated (Outputs 2.3). Special detection dog brigades will be established (Output 2.5) to find IWT products and arms at control posts</p>	<p>National IWT Strategy will provide necessary policy framework and political will to combat IWT on the national level. Fully functional National WCEU and strong interagency collaboration, effective training of law enforcement officers, strong IWT legislation, detection dog brigades will allow to considerably increase capacity of law enforcement agencies to fight IWT (Outcome 1) and prosecute more poachers and IW traders (Objective Outcome)</p>	<p>As the result of increased poacher and trader arrests, prosecution and sentences, the level of IWT and poaching will decrease (Mid-Term Impact) as well as mortality of wildlife. It will allow wildlife populations to stabilize and grow (Long-Term Impact).</p>	<p>Government will approve the National IWT Strategy and support its implementation with appropriate funding</p> <p>Government will establish National Wildlife Enforcement Crime Unit with sufficient staff and funding</p> <p>Inter-agency collaboration will be mutually beneficial for all participating enforcement bodies</p> <p>LE Officers will apply advanced law enforcement techniques and in their everyday work and have incentives from Government increase results of enforcement activities</p> <p>Political situation allows development of international collaboration on IWT combat</p>
<p>Component 3 Reducing poaching and illegal trade in threatened species via CBNRM and sustainable livelihood</p>			
<p>The project will provide local communities with mechanisms, finances, and trainings to develop CBWM, SLM and SFM, sustainable small business in the appropriate PA zones (Outputs 3.1 – 3.4). Additionally, the project will develop collaboration with logging and</p>	<p>Communities will develop sustainable forms of CBWM, SLM and SFM in the appropriate zones of the PAs and will increase their ownership of wildlife and other natural resources (Outcome 3). It will lead to the increased community revenues and benefits</p>	<p>Giving more benefits from sustainable wildlife management and CBNRM communities will decrease their dependence on poaching as a source of income (Mid-Term Impact), increase their interest on wildlife management as a</p>	<p>Benefits from CBNRM, SLM and SFM are comparable or higher with benefits of IWT</p> <p>The benefits are seen as being received directly by and shared</p>

Table 1. Project Theory of Change (see Fig. 3 for details)

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts and GEBs	Assumptions
<p>agro-forestry companies in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area to assist them in improving their environmental standards, and develop and implement corporate conservation programmes in accordance with requirements of environmentally sensitive western markets for selling their products. (Output 3.5)</p>	<p>from sustainable wildlife and other natural resource use (Objective Outcome).</p>	<p>source of sustainable income, and will start to protect it from depletion. Other reason to decrease poaching will be increased number of successful arrests and prosecutions of poachers by enforcement agencies (Objective Outcome). Under sustainable community management and decreased poaching wildlife populations will restore (GEB)</p>	<p>fairly among rural communities</p> <p>Law enforcement is strong enough to deter local people from poaching</p>
<p>Component 4: Gender mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and M&E</p>			
<p>The project will encourage national and international stakeholders to participate in the project M&E (Output 4.1) and will systemize and share lessons learned from the implementation (Output 4.2). Special measures under this Component will be developed to promote gender mainstreaming in the project implementation and actively involve women to participate in the project activities.</p>	<p>Participatory approach in M&E and strong lesson learning system will allow effective Adaptive Management of law enforcement and community based conservation. Successful techniques will be implemented at national and international level by other projects (Outcome 4) leading to increase of law enforcement and CBNRM effectiveness (Objective Outcomes)</p>	<p>Thus, effect of the project will be strengthened and multiplied leading to decrease of poaching and IWT (Mid-Term Impact) and restoration of wildlife (Long-Term Impact) in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area, nationally and internationally</p>	<p>Other stakeholders have interest to learn from lessons and successful practices developed by the project, including gender mainstreaming practices</p>

31. To respond to the growing wildlife crisis and international call for action, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2015 launched the Global Wildlife Program (GWP). Led by the World Bank, the GWP is a \$131 million grant program designed to address wildlife crime across 19 countries in Africa and Asia. The GWP serves as a platform for international coordination, knowledge exchange, and delivering action on the ground. The GWP builds and strengthens partnerships by supporting collaboration amongst national projects, captures and disseminates lessons learned, and coordinates with implementing agencies and international donors to combat IWT globally. National projects within the GWP form an integral part of a community of practice that promotes the sharing of best practices and technical resources. Congo is a national project under the GWP and during the first year of implementation of the global program, Congo already benefited from participation in two in person knowledge exchange events that were held in Kenya and Vietnam. These events brought the GWP countries together to exchange experiences on various anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, and demand reduction issues. During project execution, Congo will also have access to the documentation and materials produced during other virtual- and in-person meetings of relevance to the activities to be carried out in country, especially those on Community Based Poaching Prevention and Control as well, IWT Law Enforcement, and Public-Private Partnership Building Funding Networks." Congo is committed to engaging with GWP partners on joint efforts that will help with the project implementation, including issues related to human wildlife conflict and other technical areas.

32. The project's Theory of Change (ToC) is embedded within the overall ToC underlying the GWP. The project will directly contribute to three GWP Components and 5 Outcomes (Table 2).

Table 2. Alignment of the project with GWP Components and Outcomes

Project Components	Relevant GWP Components and Outcomes	Relevant GWP Targets and Indicators
<p>Component 1 Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo basin</p>	<p>Component 1. <i>Reduce Poaching and Improve Community Benefits and Co-management</i> Outcome 1: <i>Reduction in elephants, rhinos, and big cat poaching rates</i></p> <p>Outcome 3: <i>Increase in integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services and sustain wildlife by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men</i></p>	<p>1.1: Reduction in poaching rates of target species at program sites. 1.2: Number of poaching-related arrests derived from enforcement operations at program sites (increase at first, then decrease over time) 1.3: Number of investigations/patrols at program sites that result in poaching-related arrests (increase at first, then decrease over time) 1.4: Increase in the proportion of poaching-related arrests that result in prosecution 1.5: Increase in protected areas management effectiveness (METT) score for program sites 3.1: Increase in the number of policies, plans, and regulatory frameworks that support low GHG development (compared to baseline levels at start of project)</p>

		<p>3.2: Increase in area of forest resources restored in the landscape, stratified by forest management actors (compared to baseline levels at start of project)</p> <p>3.3: Increase in community benefits generated for managing forest ecosystems and restoration plans</p>
<p>Component 2 <i>Strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo</i></p>	<p>Component 1. Reduce Poaching and Improve Community Benefits and Co-management Outcome 1: <i>Reduction in elephants, rhinos, and big cat poaching rates</i></p> <p>Component 2. Reduce Wildlife Trafficking Outcome 4: <i>Enhanced institutional capacity to fight trans-national organized wildlife crime by supporting initiatives that target enforcement along the entire illegal supply chain of threatened wildlife and products</i></p>	<p>1.1: Reduction in poaching rates of target species at program sites.</p> <p>1.2: Number of poaching-related arrests derived from enforcement operations at program sites (increase at first, then decrease over time)</p> <p>1.3: Number of investigations/patrols at program sites that result in poaching-related arrests (increase at first, then decrease over time)</p> <p>1.4: Increase in the proportion of poaching-related arrests that result in prosecution</p> <p>4.1: Increase in number of dedicated wildlife law enforcement coordination mechanisms at program sites</p> <p>4.2: Increase in number of joint enforcement operations at program sites that involve evidence from, or investigations, in multiple jurisdictions or by multiple agencies</p> <p>4.3: Increase in use of intelligence-focused guided enforcement operations at program sites</p> <p>4.4: Increase in random routine inspections at program sites</p> <p>4.5: Increase in proportion of arrest, prosecution, and conviction rates relative to seizures</p>
<p>Component 3 <i>Reducing poaching and illegal trade in threatened species via CBNRM and sustainable</i></p>	<p>Component 1. Reduce Poaching and Improve Community Benefits and Co-management Outcome 2: <i>Increased community engagement to live with, manage, and benefit from wildlife</i></p>	<p>2.1: Decrease in human-wildlife conflict (HWC) as measured by incident reports</p> <p>2.2: Increase in benefits received by communities from sustainable (community-based) natural resource</p>

<i>livelihood</i>		management activities and enterprises
Component 4. <i>Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and M&E</i>	Component 4. Knowledge, Policy Dialogue and Coordination Outcome 6: <i>Improved coordination among program stakeholders and other partners, including donors</i>	6.2: Program monitoring system successfully developed and deployed 6.3: Establishment of a knowledge exchange platform to support program stakeholders

33. The project design was developed based on the lessons learnt from other projects, such as: TRIDOM phase 1 UNDP-GEF Sub-regional initiative project (2008-2014); FAO project on Sustainable Wildlife Management and Conservation in the TRIDOM Sub-Region and the Bush Meat Sector in Central Africa (2010-2016); the USAID/USFS-IP project Support to the Application of the Law on Wildlife (PALF) (2010-2015); the Ecosystem Management Project of the East Peripherals OKNP implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society under support from IFO and USAID/CARPE started in 2011; WWF Space TRIDOM Inter Zone Congo Project (ETIC) started in 2010; project of Odzala-Kokoua Foundation in OKNP, and other conservation and sustainable livelihood initiatives in Congo and Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area area in particular. The project draws on the experience and lessons of former projects in order to maximize the scope for success, both at the formulation and implementation level. At the formulation level, the project focuses on the biological corridors concept as expressed in the TRIDOM 1 project but extends the buffer zone concept. In this context, the project strategy aims at including these biological corridors used for trans-boundary seasonal migration into the buffer zones as well as “conservation series” (areas allocated for a particular use, in this case, the protection of high biological diversity) of private extractive companies. Although these entities were provided for in the management plans of the extractive companies, there were never integrated into the conversation mechanisms of PAs.

34. Based on this observation, the project focuses on integrating these “conservation series” into buffer zones in order to improve the spatial planning of these buffer zones for the sustainable use of biological resources, especially wildlife. This initiative is part of a strategy to reduce pressure on core conservation areas. The TRIDOM 1 project evaluation report has shown that the participation of the local population in the CBNRM and PA management is still low. Therefore, in order to address these deficiencies, the project focuses on the concept of restoring community ownership on wildlife and forest resources of these buffer zones that comprise adjacent Village Territories (VT) in order to create incentives for the population to prevent poaching in both the Picking Zone (PZ) and the Agricultural and Habitation Zone (AHZ) (Component 3).

35. The project recognizes the importance of integrating extractive industries into the conservation mechanism. The project also takes into account the fact that TRIDOM 1 project did not build strong partnerships with these entities. Therefore, the project will build strong co-financing partnerships with these entities to promote effective synergies. Besides, the project will launch activities related to the conservation of the environment in agro-forestry and logging concessions. Moreover, the project will ensure that extractive industries have at their disposal the best sustainable exploitation techniques and technologies that complies with environmental standards. This will be assessed through environmental and social impact assessment studies.

36. With regards to the selection of income-generating activities as alternative solutions to poaching, the project has drawn on the experience of the wild meat project that left the population free to choose the income-generating activities they want to pursue. The population will thus choose the activities following their

areas of interest and experience. The project will strengthen coaching and training mechanisms on the technical, technological and managerial level, focusing on food-gathering areas, agricultural zones and habitats. Indeed, it appears that imposed activities are always abandoned. Therefore, the project will implement alternative solutions to poaching based on the concept of microcredit revolving.

37. With regards to the lessons learned from the WWF Espace TRIDOM inter-zone Congo (ETIC) project, it appears that patrols alone cannot stop poaching of large mammals, such as elephants. Therefore, the project will implement a continuous monitoring strategy of hotspots using ecoguards and ecomonitors to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols. These hotspots are areas of high concentration of large mammals. Protecting these hotspots with continuous monitoring will help deterring poachers and promote eco-tourism in the PAs' surroundings.

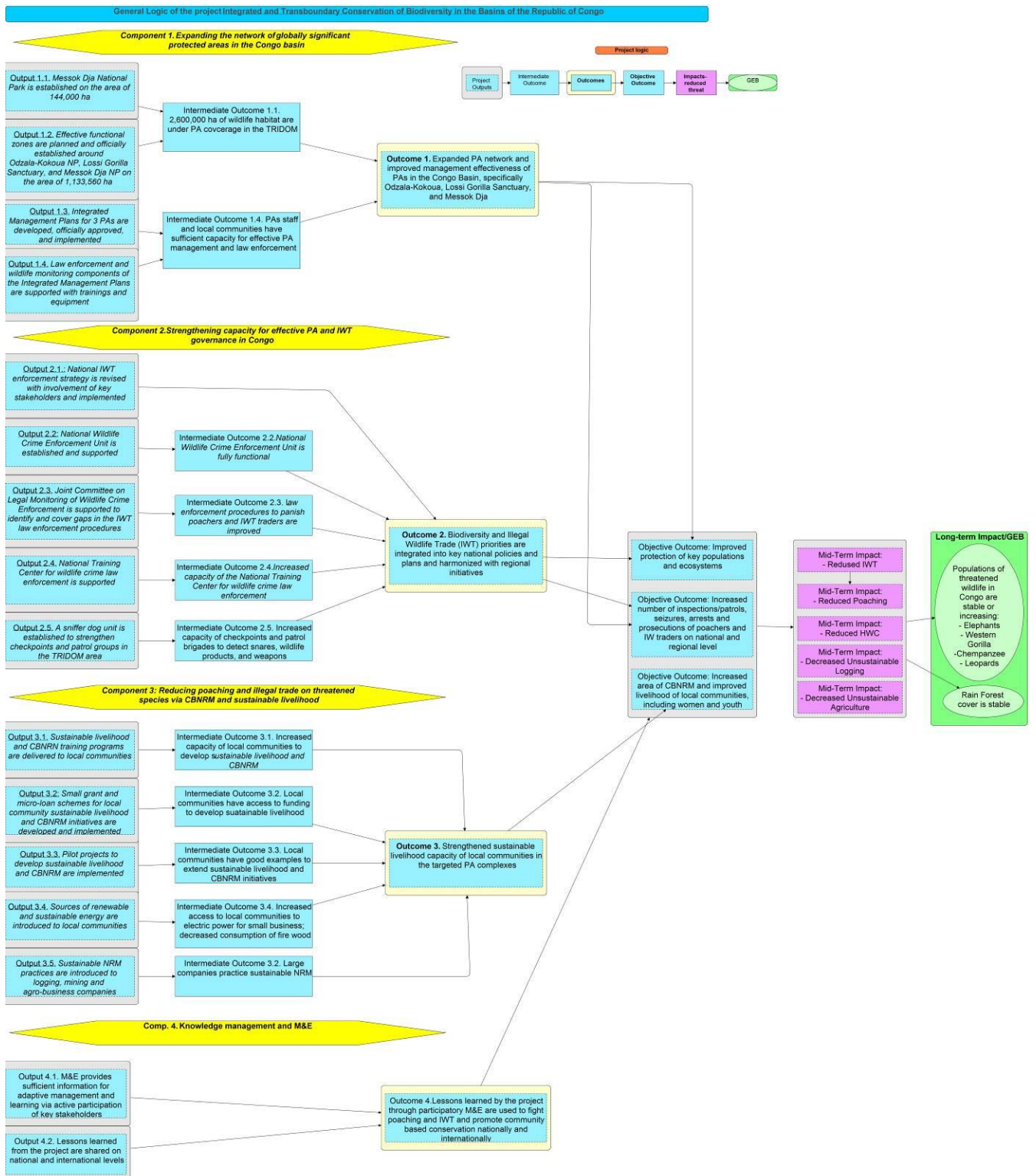


Fig. 3. Project Theory of Change (see Fig. 1 for the barriers addressed by the project and Table 1 for the assumptions)

IV. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

i. Expected results (see Fig. 3)

38. The proposed project has been designed to achieve the following Long-Term Impact (or GEB): Populations of threatened wildlife and their habitat (rain forest) in Congo are stable or increasing. Forest Elephant and Western Gorilla were selected as the project flagship species to measure success of the program over the long term (10-15 years). It is expected that populations of these species in the project area will remain stable or increase by 5% by the project completion (no population loss): forest elephant – 20,000 inds.; Western Gorilla – 26,000 inds. (2016). As a result of expansion of PAs, forest conservation, SFM and habitat restoration emission of ~11,380,000 tCO₂e_q will be mitigated in the project area over a 10-year period including the 6-year period of the project.

39. The Project Long-Term Impacts are going to be achieved through the decrease of key threats to the wildlife and rain forest showed as Mid-Term Impacts (5-10 years) in the ToC diagram: Decreased IWT, Reduced Poaching, Decreased Human-Wildlife Conflicts, Decreased unsustainable Logging, and Decreased unsustainable Agriculture. It is expected that number of poached elephants in the project area will decrease at least by 70% at the project completion (baseline – 28 elephants killed by poachers in 2016).

40. Threat reductions for the endangered wildlife and its habitat will be achieved through the achievement of the following Objective Outcomes:

- 1) *Improved protection of key populations and ecosystems.* Overall PA coverage (including PA buffer and development zones) in the project area is expected to increase by 74% (from 1,533,600 (2016) to 2,667,190 ha by the end of the project);
- 2) *Increased number of inspections/patrols, seizures, arrests and prosecutions of poachers and IW traders at national and regional level.* The overall annual number of inspections/patrolling in the project area will increase by 40% (from 420 to 588 at the end of project); annual number of seizures – by 45% (from 102 to 148); annual number of arrests - by 40% (from 98 to 137); annual number of successful prosecutions on poaching and IWT – by 75% (from 32 to 56).
- 3) *Increased area of CBWM, SFM and SLM, and improved livelihood of local communities.* The expected total number of local people benefiting from the CBNRM, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and small business development in the project area is 8,000 (67% of the entire population in the project area), including 3000 people with access to renewable energy via solar panels (baseline – 115 people).

41. To achieve the above stated Objective Outcomes, four project Outcomes will be achieved during the project lifetime:

42. **Outcome 1.** Expanded PA network and improved management effectiveness of PAs in the Congo Basin, specifically Odzala-Kokoua, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja, an area of 2,667,160 ha. Following results will be achieved under this Outcome:

- Messok Dja National Park is established on the area of 144,000 ha;
- Effective functional zoning for the PA complexes with total area 2,667,160 ha;
- 3 IMPs are implemented over the area of 2,667,160 ha;
- Management effectiveness increased by 70% in average for Odzala-Kokoua National Park and Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary.

43. Outcome 2. Biodiversity and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) priorities are integrated into key national policies and plans and harmonized with regional initiatives. Following results will be achieved under this Outcome:

- National IWT Strategy is updated and implemented with participation of key stakeholders;
- National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit is established and functional (has clearly defined mandate, staff, equipment, and funding);
- Updated legislation allows to prosecute successfully 75% of arrested IW traders and poachers;
- 100% increase in training capacity of the National Training Center for wildlife crime law enforcement;
- 1 detection dog brigade is established and operational in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area;

44. Outcome 3. Strengthened sustainable livelihood capacity of local communities in the targeted PA complexes, as indicated by the following:

- 1,133,560 ha of habitat under CBWM, SLM and SFM in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area;
- 1000 new sustainable biodiversity friendly jobs (8% of the entire population in the project area) are established for local communities;
- 50 hotspots in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area are under community anti-poaching monitoring;

45. Outcome 4. Lessons learned through a participatory M&E approach, including gender mainstreaming practices, are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community-based conservation at the national and international level:

- At least 10 project lessons are used by other projects and PAs;
- Up to 1,000 people participate in the project M&E and adaptive management

46. The following Outputs will be delivered by the project in order to achieve the expected Outcomes:

Component 1: Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo Basin

47. Outcome 1. Expanded PA network and improved management effectiveness of PAs in the Congo Basin, specifically Odzala-Kokoua, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja, an area of 2,667,160 ha

48. Output 1.1. Messok Dja National Park is established on the area of 144,000 ha

The project will facilitate the preparation of proposals to increase the size of the PA network in the forests of North Congo through the establishment of a national park on the massif of Messok–Dja (144,000 hectares). This area has large numbers of elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees. The proposal for the National Park will be discussed and agreed with local communities and submitted for approval to the Ministry of Environment. After approval by the Ministry of Environment, the National Park will be officially established and supported with training and equipment.

49. Output 1.2. Effective functional zones are planned and officially established around Odzala-Kokoua NP, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja NP on the area of 1,133,560 ha

The other way to extend PA network will be the establishment of PA buffer and sustainable development zones around Odzala-Kokoua, Lossi Gorillas Sanctuary, and Messok-Dja National Park on the area of 1,133,560 ha. The project will facilitate zoning of the PAs in accordance with the Biosphere Reserve concept: a central protected area (core zone – original PA area), a buffer zone (or Picking Zone), and sustainable development zone (or Agricultural /residential zone). The zoning will help to realize in full community rights on wildlife and other

forest resources via allocation forest lands for community ownership and development of CBWM, SLM and SFM practices allowed in the buffer and sustainable development zones (in accordance with Article 31 of Law No. 10-2004 of 26 March 2004). Thus, each local community will have officially designated area for CBWM, SFM and SLM confirmed by relevant agreements with other stakeholders. Functional zoning, CBWM and other sustainable NRM practices will establish so-called socioeconomic shield around the PAs preventing poaching. All three selected PAs including OKNP, LGS, and Messok-Dja (once gazetted) will have functional zones. After official approval of the zoning the total area of the PA network in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area will increase up to 2,667,160 ha. Functional zones will be managed based on the agreements with local communities and other stakeholders. The access right to wildlife and other forest resources will be granted to local communities based on the management agreements and regimes of the zones.

50. Output 1.3. Integrated Management Plans for 3 PAs are developed, officially approved, and implemented

The project will support the development of Integrated Management Plans for three PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe segment of Congo: Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary and proposed Messok-Dja National Park (after official establishment). The IMPs will include development of the PA, including plans for necessary funding, staff, infrastructure, equipment, establishment of law enforcement groups and inter-agency collaboration in IWT combat; part of the plan will be devoted to development of wildlife and ecosystem monitoring system; the third part will include collaboration with local communities on the PA management, anti-poaching and sustainable use of wildlife and other natural resources in the PA functional zones. Each of the Village Territories surrounding the PA's core zone will have its own local Management Plan for Sustainable Development integrated with the IMP, including sustainable use of wildlife, forest resources and biodiversity-friendly initiatives (e.g., sustainable game and bushmeat hunting, ecotourism, harvest of forest fruits, honey production, aquaculture and multiple use tree plantations in degraded forest). Relevant agreements on sustainable forest and wildlife management will be developed and signed between local communities, PAs, forest concessions and relevant government agencies based on the customary rights of local people on forest and wildlife. A set of local rules and regulations will be integrated in the IMPs using local traditional knowledge on sustainable use of wildlife and other biological resources. The community NRM rules and regulations will ban any unsustainable use of wildlife and forests such as harvesting of non-ripe fruits, poaching traps, hunting in closed seasons, and unsustainable logging. Overall, the IMPs along with functional zones will create management basis for strengthening PA law enforcement (Output 1.3) and implementation CBNRM, SLM, and SFM under Component 3. Developed IMPs will be officially agreed with key stakeholders and approved by the Ministry of Environment.

51. Output 1.4. Law enforcement and wildlife monitoring components of the Integrated Management Plans are supported with trainings and equipment.

Under this output implementation of the two parts of the IMPs (PA management and law enforcement, and wildlife monitoring) in the 3 target PAs will be supported. It will include appropriate training for the PA staff and selected members of local communities (ecomonitors) on law enforcement and PA management, including inter-agency collaboration and development of community-based intelligence network. Anti-poaching groups in the PAs will be provided with necessary equipment and anti-poaching technology (e.g. poacher detectors). Relevant PA staff will be trained in wildlife monitoring with camera-traps. At the same time camera-traps will help to register poachers' presence in the PAs. These measures will be complementary to the ongoing actions for the monitoring of elephants undertaken by WWF/ETIC, focusing on the most significant hotspots in terms of high concentration of large mammals and other modern tools (like occupancy, sampling for DNA analysis, GPS collars). Initial anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring operations of the PAs will be supported in accordance with the IMPs. Third part of the IMPs devoted to CBNRM, SLM and SFM will be supported under the project Component 3.

Component 2: Strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo

52. Outcome 2. Biodiversity and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) priorities are integrated into key national policies and plans and harmonized with regional initiatives

53. Output 2.1. National IWT enforcement strategy is revised with involvement of key stakeholders and implemented

The project will support detailed review of the existing National IWT enforcement strategy, which was drafted by the MEFDDE without much input from other agencies and stakeholders. Thus, the current version of the strategy cannot provide sound policy basis for cooperation of government agencies, NGOs and private sector in the joint efforts to combat IWT in the country. The project will establish a special Working Group to review the strategy and support stakeholder round table discussion of the document with an aim to improve the document functionality and increase stakeholder ownership and involvement in IWT controls. Updated draft of the Strategy will be submitted to the Government for approval. After approval by the Government, the revised strategy will support the national implementation of CITES, other international agreements and national programmes for wildlife crime suppression, including inter-agency collaboration and involvement of public in IWT combat.

54. Output 2.2. National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit (NWCEU) is established and supported with trainings and equipment.

Establishment of Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit was recommended by the ICCWC report. The project will assist in the development of proposals for NWCEU establishment and facilitate their discussion with enforcement agencies as well as official approval of the NWCEU establishment by the Government. The project will also support the process of the Unit establishment. The Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment will host and manage the Unit. After the Unit is established the project will provide its staff with training and necessary equipment to fight IWT. The Unit will be comprised of about twenty officers belonging to the following main government entities: Water and Forestry Department, judicial police, public security, justice, customs, gendarmerie, army and ecoguards. The NWCEU may also include national and international NGOs to ensure greater transparency of the national IWT efforts. The project will support the development and implementation of mandatory training programmes for the NWCEU on IWT legislation and legal procedures to build prosecution cases against poachers and IW traders; advanced law enforcement techniques and technology and surveillance. The trainings will be given to all members of the Unit in charge of anti-poaching monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and at all levels of responsibility. Special equipment will be provided to the Task Force (e.g., GPS navigators, digital cameras, satellite trackers, field gear, and means of communication).

55. Output 2.3. Joint Committee on Legal Monitoring of Wildlife Crime Enforcement is supported to identify and cover gaps in the IWT law enforcement procedures

The role of the judicial Monitoring Joint Committee is crucial to monitor national IWT law enforcement implementation and effectiveness as well as law enforcement obstruction and corruption. Currently the capacity of the Committee is low and it does not monitor IWT effectively. The project will support appropriate training for and regular meetings of the Committee to identify and remove any bottlenecks in the operational chain of enforcement (investigation, detention and arrest) and litigation (charging, prosecution and sentencing) procedures to reduce the current gaps between the number of arrests and the number of successful prosecutions (from 5% in the baseline to 75% of arrests successfully prosecuted). Proposals to address corruption and law enforcement effectiveness will be developed, discussed with law enforcement agencies and approved by the Government. This output compliments and supports the WB-GEF proposal in regards to

Legislative Review and support for the establishment of a Specialized Environmental Chamber within the Congolese courts to hear wildlife and environmental cases.

56. Output 2.4. National Training Center for wildlife crime law enforcement is supported

A Permanent Training Centre on wildlife crime enforcement has been established at Lébangó near OKNP, but the Center's current capacity to train law enforcement officers (PA agents, Police, Gendarmerie, Custom Services, Military and Defence, Judiciary court and Prosecutors) does not exceed 90 persons a year. To increase the Center capacity to train up to 180 officers a year, the project will invest in additional infrastructures, training equipment, development of mandatory training programmes and curriculum, and training of the Center staff. The project will specially support trainings of the PA staff and law enforcement agencies in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area to increase positive impact on wildlife conservation in the project area. The project will invest in the extension of the center building (enlargement of dormitory and training rooms), additional equipment (beds for dormitory rooms, mosquito nets, computers, GPS navigators, trail cameras, radios, training attributes). Following mandatory training programs will be developed and officially approved by the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment: wildlife crime law enforcement surveillance, use of technology and interactive tools to control wildlife crime, wildlife crime legislation and its application, wildlife crime criminal investigation and prosecution, strategy and tactic of anti-poaching, etc. The project will train the center staff to effectively deliver the mandatory training programmes and support initial trainings of the National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit and ranger staff of 3 target PAs.

57. Output 2.5. A detection dog unit is established to strengthen checkpoints and patrol groups in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area

58. Detection dog units have proven to be highly effective for increasing capacity of anti-poaching brigades throughout Africa. They have been successfully utilized in East and Southern Africa, including Gabon and Cameroon. Properly managed and trained, canine units can greatly increase the areas covered by patrols as well as the quantity of snares, bush meat, and firearms confiscated from poachers. Poachers and traders in possession of contraband firearms and ammunition can be detected and apprehended before they have had a chance to kill wildlife. Canine detection units can also greatly enhance the effectiveness of stationary inspection points such as border crossings and road checking points. The ICCWC report specifically recommends that canine units be established and used in the fight against organized wildlife and forest crime. The project will support the establishment of 1 canine unit in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area with 3-4 dogs and handlers to detect wildlife products and weapons. Project support will include construction of appropriate facilities, purchase of transportation equipment and trainings for the brigade. Operations of the brigade after establishment will be supported by MEFDD and ANFAP in cooperation with Joe Aspinall Foundation.

59. This Output is complimentary with a similar WB-GEF funded proposal that recommends locating a canine unit within an existing eco-guard unit in the TNS area. Implementation can take advantage of this parallel activity potentially reducing initial research and start-up costs. Implementation can also take advantage of insights and lessons learned from the 2012 study "Assessing the Feasibility of Using Detection Dog Teams to Help Reduce and Detect Ivory and Bush meat Traffic in Gabon," conducted by the WCS, in conjunction Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) and the Gabonese National Park Agency (Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN), the Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF). In 2013 the trained detection teams went "live" and up to date reported very good results.

Component 3: Reducing poaching and illegal trade in threatened species at site levels via CBNRM and sustainable livelihood

60. Outcome 3. Strengthened sustainable livelihood capacity of local communities in the targeted PA complexes. To achieve this Outcome, the project will achieve the following outputs:

61. Output 3.1. Sustainable livelihood and CBWM, SLM, and SFM training programs are delivered to local communities. A training and communication program on sustainable livelihoods with special focus on sustainable CBWM (including transparent community governance and equity, and mechanisms to ensure sufficient revenue flow and its fair distribution among community members, based on the best examples from Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa) will be developed and implemented by the project to show local communities that wildlife have considerable legal economic value and effective alternative options to poaching and IWT exist and can provide them with more robust, legal, and sustainable profits. Programmes on CBWM (including sustainable game and bushmeat hunting), forest fruit harvesting and processing, honey and milk production, caterpillars collecting, aquaculture and fish processing will be developed for the PZ in accordance with the third parts of the IMPs (Component 1). Special training programme on wildlife oriented tourism will be developed and suggested to former poachers in the project area in cooperation with the Congo Conservation Company that has significant experience in ecotourism in Congo (<http://www.odzala.com/>): traditional local hunters will be trained to serve as guides, souvenir makers and entertainers for tourists given their unique tracking skills, knowledge of wildlife and amazing cultural traditions. Training programmes on sustainable agriculture, poultry production, eggs and milk processing will be developed for the AZ. The project will organize villagers into sustainable development groups and will provide them with intensive trainings for the development of CBWM, SLM, SFM, and small business with involvement women, youth and indigenous groups. The project is going to train ~2,000 local people (17% of the entire population in the project area) in total.

62. Output 3.2. Small grant programme and micro-loan schemes for local community sustainable livelihood and CBNRM initiatives are developed and implemented. The Project will establish small grant programme for local communities to support CBWM, SLM and SFM initiatives that will be administered by the PMU in cooperation with the GEF Small Grant Programme (appropriate LOA will be signed at the project inception). Also the project will establish micro-loan facilities for local communities (more sustainable source of funding for local initiatives) on the base of local NGO and will provide financial resources for their operations from co-financing of private sector companies operating in the project area (Congo Conservation Company, Eco-Oil Energie SA and Forest Industry of Ouessou). Up to 250 grants and 500 micro-loans will be delivered to local people to develop CBWM, SLM, SFM, and small business initiatives. Beneficiaries of the grant and micro-loan programmes will include former poachers among indigenous people and women. Priority for awarding grants and micro-loans will be given to the projects proposing CBWM, SFM, and use of degraded lands for small scale oil palm plantations. A transparent committee for the selection of eligible micro projects compatible with the implementation of the IMPs (developed under Component 1) will be set up in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. Best community initiatives will receive small grants or loans (with an annual interest rate of 5-8% only). The micro-loan funding will be available to a larger number of beneficiaries on the long run after the project completion. Micro-credit financing can be 25,000 - 250,000 CFA for individual loans. In order to simplify procedures and link micro-credit to beneficiaries, the headquarters of micro-loan fund will be located at Mbomo (OKNP) with two chapters in Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary and proposed Messok-Dja National Park area.

63. Output 3.3. Pilot projects to develop sustainable livelihood and CBWM are implemented. The project will assist local communities in developing larger demonstration projects for sustainable livelihood and CBWM, SLM, SFM and habitat restoration in accordance with the IMPs: 250,000 - 2,500,000 CFA for well-structured,

organized groups that are known to promote equipment expenditures, meaning capital expenditures. Each demonstration project will have a detailed business plan, equipment and start funding (250,000 - 2,500,000 CFA) and initial group of community members (10-100 people) to ensure its implementation. Special attention will be devoted to sustainable wildlife management projects, including community-based trophy and bushmeat hunting, and certification of the sustainable wildlife production for selling on local and national markets. Another priority will be development of small scale community oil palm plantation on degraded lands to avoid clearing of rain forests. The demonstration projects will be used as learning centers for local people interested in developing CBWM, SLM, SFM and other alternative income sources other than poaching and illegal wildlife trade. At least 10 pilot projects sites will be implemented during the first year of project implementation.

64. Output 3.4. Sources of renewable and sustainable energy are introduced to local communities. The project will equip 30 villages with solar panels for lightning and running small businesses. Solar fridges equipment will be installed to promote local businesses to freeze livestock meat, fish, and fruits in order to reduce pressure on the wildlife habitat and store production before it can be delivered to local markets. The project will train local artisans and coach them on sustainable manufacturing of wood and charcoal as a source of income. The number of people trained will be identified during the first quarter of the project implementation.

65. Output 3.5. Sustainable NRM practices are introduced to logging and agro-business companies. The project will provide assistance to the private sector to integrate and implement environmental standards for NRM certification (RSPO and FSC), corporate conservation programmes (moratorium agreements to protect high conservation value forests), and incentive mechanisms (international carbon payments via REDD) in their activities. It should be mentioned that currently about ~1,000,000 ha of forests in the project area are under FCS certification, but the logging companies have low capacity to implement FSC principles and manage forest sustainably. Special attention will be devoted to involving local and indigenous communities in the wildlife and forest management on the concession lands and public monitoring of the private sector activities in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (via community-company agreements and trainings). The techniques for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments will be promoted among the companies in order to develop better techniques and technologies for logging and transportation of wood as well as sustainable oil palm plantation based on improved RSPO criteria to ensure conservation of wild habitat and sustainable benefits for local communities. Particularly, the project will cooperate with the companies to prevent access of poachers to wildlife rich areas via logging roads and develop moratorium agreements on logging in the most biodiversity rich and important for indigenous communities areas. These activities will be implemented in cooperation with WWF, WCS, ULAB Committee and Forest Service Department.

66. Component 4: Gender Mainstreaming, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management

This component focuses on improving project performance through adaptive management in achieving of three Outcomes above. Under this strategy the project will focus on initiating a participatory M&E approach and integrating and disseminating the project lessons learned among GWP child projects and other international initiatives.

Outcome 4. Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E, including gender mainstreaming practices, are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community-based conservation at the national and international levels.

67. Output 4.1. M&E provides sufficient information for gender mainstreaming, adaptive management and learning via active participation of key stakeholders. The project will encourage stakeholders at all levels to participate in the project M&E and adaptive management. Particularly the project will organize regular community meetings for participatory monitoring and evaluation to receive community feedback and improve

project performance. The project Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee including all the rural development and environment agency will be involved along with rural development research institutes in the project M&E. Regular meeting will be organized with on-going projects of other organizations to discuss the project results, collaboration and avoid intersections in the activities. The project will actively involve women and women organizations in the M&E process and will implement gender disaggregation for the monitoring and evaluation data (see details in the Gender Mainstreaming section).

68. Output 4.2. Lessons learned from the project, including gender mainstreaming, are shared at national and international levels.

69. The project will systemize and disseminate key lessons learned for the benefit of other projects and programs at regional, national, cross-border and global levels based on appropriate media means (e.g., national and foreign media, scientific journals and scientific networks, community forums, theatre groups, etc.). The strategy of this project is to maintain synergistic relationships between its various components, not only thematically but also through a mutual enrichment between the three project intervention sites. At the transboundary level the project will support exchange visits with the neighbouring countries in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segments (Cameroon and Gabon) and other countries in the GWP framework to share experience on IWT combat and CBNRM development.

70. One more particular objective of this Output is to facilitate gender mainstreaming through all the project components and promote active women participation in the project activities. In response to very low women participation in the project development the project will incorporate gender considerations in the implementation procedures in a number of different ways:

- a. Empower women by involving them in IWT intelligence networks, in the shaping of attitudes and in law enforcement processes.
- b. Strong focus on gender within Component 3 with an emphasis on providing microcredit loans to female led households, and/or to households that apply for loans with activities that have an emphasis on female-led activities (e.g., collection of fuelwoods and/or NTF products).
- c. All awareness raising activities will specifically target women and encourage them to take responsibilities including for engagement with the authorities with respect to natural resource management, illegal killing of wildlife and illegal trafficking in wildlife products and live animals.
- d. Where possible and where they exist, women's organisations will be targeted for involvement in the project adaptive management and capacity development (see details in the Gender Mainstreaming section).

The proposed project activities under each Output are listed in the detailed Multi Year Work plan (Annex A).

i. Partnerships

71. The project will actively collaborate with a number of on-going projects and programs to leverage funding, avoid thematic intersections and double-funding, share lessons learned and increase overall positive impact on wildlife and forest conservation in Congo (Table 3).

Table 3. Collaboration with other projects and programmes in Congo include mainly:

Project name and implementation period	Geographic and thematic focus	Areas of collaboration
WB/GEF project “Strengthening the management of wildlife and improving livelihoods in northern Republic of Congo” (2017-2021)	Ntokou-Pikounda PA and surrounding area. Sustainable Forest management, strengthening anti-poaching capacity at national and local level, development of sustainable livelihood options for local communities in the Ntokou-Pikounda project area	The projects are designed to avoid duplication in the geographic and thematic areas and be complementary in the implementation of the Component 1-3 of the UNDP/GEF Project. MEFDDE will chair SC for both projects and will manage their collaboration
AFD/FFEM Project “Landscapes management in the Northern Congo” (2017-2021) with implementation by the Ministry of Environment	Northern area of Congo (Sangha and Likouala district). Fight against poverty with funding from France	Exchange of experience and coordination of activities on design of IMPs and local land development plans, community management of biological resources, creation of green jobs (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
PIR/EU Project “Odzala-Kokoua National Park management” (2017-2020) with implementation by the Ministry of Environment	OKNP management with infrastructure and equipment improvement; OKNP periphery management	Exchange of experience and coordination of activities on: improvement of PA efficiency in biodiversity conservation (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3); anti-poaching (Outputs 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3); CBNRM in the PAs (Outputs 3.11, 3.2, and 3.3)
PIN/EU Project “Local development” (2017-2021) implemented by the Ministry of Local Government	Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segment of Congo, with a focus on sustainable development at the PAs periphery	Exchange of experience and coordination of activities on design of IMPs and local land development plans, community management of biological resources, creation of green jobs (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
FAO/GEF Project “Wildlife and bush meat sustainable management in Central Africa” (2010-2016)	Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segment of North Congo, Forestry Unit of Ngombe Wildlife management in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area	Use of the lessons learned by the FAO/GEF Project in the design and implementation of Components 2 and 3 of the UNDP/GEF project

Project name and implementation period	Geographic and thematic focus	Areas of collaboration
WCS/IFO/USAID/CARPE Odzala-Kokoua National Park Adjacent Ecosystems Management Programme focusing on the Eastern part of the National Park implemented in collaboration with the Government of Congo and Ouessou forestry company 2006 - 2031	OKNP periphery, promotion of development alternative options to unsustainable NRM	Exchange of experience and coordination of activities on promotion of sustainable development alternative options, jobs creation, sustainable use of biological resources at the PAs periphery (Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
GIZ on-going initiative "Ready for Climate Finance" in Central Africa	The approach outlines key elements of climate finance readiness, describes capacity development options and summarizes GIZ experiences. The updated version takes account of recent developments in international climate finance, particularly in the context of GCF and practical experience gained in GIZ's climate finance projects.	Collaboration and exchange of experience for implementation of the project Component 3, Output 3.5 to introduce sustainable NRM standards and carbon payment mechanism to logging and agricultural companies in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area
Joe Aspinall Foundation on-going project to establish detection dog brigades in Congo	Establishment of detection dog brigades in Brazzaville and Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area to increase effectiveness of law enforcement activities on poaching and IWT	Collaboration and leveraging resources to establishment of detection dog brigade in the project area (Output 2.5)
Congo Conservation Company project (2011-2036) funded by German private funds	Development of eco-tourism in OKNP and Ngaga periphery in Kelle Mbomo UFA	Exchange of experience and coordination of activities on promotion of sustainable development alternative options, jobs creation, sustainable use of biological resources at the PAs periphery (Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
Global Partnership for the Conservation of Fauna and Wildlife Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (GWP) 2016-2024	Reduction of IWT, wildlife trafficking and demand for wildlife products in Africa and Asia	Exchange of lessons and experience with other GWP child projects under the Component 4.

iii. Stakeholder engagement

72. Stakeholder consultations have been the key and successful part of the work undertaken during PPG activities in Brazzaville and Ouessou. Three national workshops were organized involving the village leaders, administrative authorities, elected representatives, different concerned ministries, other projects working in the area, NGO's, donor representatives, etc. The PPG Consultants also had separate meetings with local communities, authorities and government officials responsible for forests and protected areas. Overall, about 400 people were consulted during the project development. The project has paid and will pay special attention to applying the UNDP guiding principles regarding indigenous peoples, i.e. pygmies, as outlined in the document "UNDP and Indigenous People – A Policy of Engagement" (2001). In particular, the project will aim to (i)

encourage active participation of pygmies in the decision-making process regarding their natural resources, during the PA zoning and IMP development, and (ii) ensure the recognition and realization of the indigenous tribes' rights, systems and knowledge, especially in terms of natural resources ownership and management via catalysing implementation of the Article 31 of Law No. 10-2004 of 26 March 2004. Key groups of stakeholders are shown in the Table 4.

Table 4. Key Stakeholders and their roles in the UNDP/GEF project in Congo (see other details in the relevant Annex - Stakeholder Engagement Plan)

Stakeholder/Project Partner	Interest, mandate, and resources available	Potential role in Project
<p>International development and non-government organizations (WORLD BANK, UNDP, USAID, AFD, FAO, WWF, WCS, GIZ, UNODC) (see also Table 3)</p>	<p>International development and non-government organizations are critical facilitators and funders of sustainable development and conservation projects in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. They work for achievement of relevant SD goals, including poverty alleviation, biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation, land degradation, sustainable forest management. UN agencies such as UNDP and FAO support the empowerment and promotion of improved livelihoods for more resilient rural communities in Congo. The World Bank provides finance through loans and grants for institutional development and technical support in environmental protection, biodiversity management and human resource development. It also contributes in the design of development policies and programs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe countries. WWF strategically focuses efforts on global priority species. Just as IUCN does, WWF also provides lessons learned and technical guidance on wildlife conservation.</p>	<p>Participation in the project development; Project funding and co-funding; Coordination and collaboration with other conservation efforts in Congo (see table 3); Participation in the Project Board; Assistance in the implementation of the Components 1-4.</p>
<p>COMIFAC</p>	<p>In the area of forest and wildlife resources conservation, COMIFAC is the leading intergovernmental organization in Central Africa. In a trans-border context, its "Convergence Plan" promotes harmonization of policies and legislation in the Tri-national Dja-</p>	<p>Collaboration in the exchange of experience on forest conservation and sustainable management under Component 4</p>

	Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. COMIFAC promotes sustainable and effective conservation principles in the region.	
RAPAC (Réseau des aires protégées d’Afrique Centrale)	The network of protected areas in Central Africa-RAPAC is an international organization that deals with protected areas in Congo Basin. RAPAC has strong connections with the Governments and other stakeholders in Congo, Gabon and Cameroon.	Assistance in the implementation of Component 1 (especially Outputs 1.1 and 1.2) and exchange of experience on PA management under Component 4.
LATF (Lusaka Agreement Task Force)	Congo is member of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. (LATF is an inter-governmental organization with the main function of facilitating cooperative activities in/among the Party states to the Lusaka Agreement, in carrying out investigations on violations of national laws pertaining to illegal trade in wild fauna and flora. LATF has strong expertise on law enforcement in the project area	Collaboration on the implementation of the Component 1 (Output 3.3) and Component 2
INTERPOL	Congo is a member of the INTERPOL International expertise in the law enforcement including wildlife crime	Collaboration on the implementation of the Component 2. INTERPOL will provide the project with operational and analytical support to investigate and dismantle wildlife supply chains. They will be involved in training activities for PA staff and law enforcement agencies.
<u>Government of Congo</u> : Ministry of Forest Economy and Protected Areas (MEFDDE) <u>Government of Congo</u> : National Agency for Protected Areas and Fauna Protection under MEFDDE	Responsible party and primary decision maker for land-use and forest and wildlife management and law enforcement in the country. The National Agency for Protected Areas and Fauna Protection under MEFDDE has the mandate, budgets and human resources for wildlife crime enforcement.	The project Implementing Partner; Chair of the Project Board; Direct supervision of implementation of Components 1 and 2; Development of the project collaboration with other Government agencies
<u>Government of Congo</u> : Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary	Development and supervision of legislative base in the country, including wildlife crime laws Has judicial power and staff of judges and magistrates	Assistance in the project implementation (Component 2), especially Output 2.3. Participation in the Project Board
<u>Government of Congo</u> : Ministry of National Defence (MINDEFN)	National security mandate Military and law enforcement power (gendarmes and police officers, army)	Assistance and participation in the project implementation for Component 2 (wildlife crime law enforcement)
<u>Government of Congo</u> : Parliamentarians and Local elected	Elected MPs and Representatives are involved in general overseeing of	One of the key project stakeholders for all three Components

representatives	conservation activities and local development for the OKNP. - Implementation of government policy -Mobilization and Community Awareness	Participation in the Project Board Assistance in building of the project cooperation with local communities
<u>Government of Congo:</u> Mining Ministry	Mining ministry has authority to manage and regulate mining operations in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe project zone. It has expertise on the mining development in the project zone	One of the key stakeholders for implementation of the Component 1 (Integrated Management Planning and PA zoning)
<u>Government of Congo:</u> State Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP)	State Ministry for Agriculture supervises and ensures the development and monitoring of national agricultural and rural development policies. It has expertise in agriculture and rural development	MAEP will be involved in the agro-forestry and sustainable agricultural practices development (Component 3). Also, this is one of the key stakeholders for development of IMPs. Participation in the Project Board
<u>Government of Congo:</u> OKNP, LGS, and other Protected Areas Management	Managers of PAs have overall responsibility of area governance in the OKNP and other parks. They ensure efficient and effective Law enforcement capacity in the PAs	One of the key project partners in the implementation of all three Components in the project area. Participation in the Project Board
Indigenous population (Bantu and Baka groups)	Indigenous people are key users of wildlife and other nature resources in the project area, often involved in poaching. Together with pygmies, they have traditional rights and knowledge of natural resources in the project area.	Key participants and beneficiaries in the implementation of the Component 1 (IMPs and PA zoning) and Component 3 (development of sustainable livelihood) Participation in the project M&E and adaptive management Participation in the Project Board
Local elites (people from project zone resident in the nation's capital)	Local elites may have political power and influence on local communities in the project area.	One of the key stakeholders for implementation of the project's Component 1 (IMPs and PA zoning) and Component 3 (development of sustainable livelihood) Participation in the project M&E and adaptive management
Private Sector: Traders: Hoteliers, Tour operators, Craftsmen, Retailers, Women's groups	Have economic and political power, knowledge of local resources and some power of influence on local populations	One of the key stakeholders for implementation of the Component 3. Can provide additional funds for community-based initiatives
Private Sector: Tourism, mining, logging and agro-forestry companies operating in the project zone, mainly Congo Conservation Company Eco-Oil Energy SA Forest Industry of Ouessou	Have political and economic power Have mandate to manage natural resources on the large scale Have intention to develop social responsibility programmes in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area	Key stakeholders and partners in the implementation of the Component 1 (IMPs and PA zoning) and 3 (development of sustainable approaches to NRM) Project co-financing for initiatives of local

	Interested in the green image to sell production on the environmentally sensitive markets and obtain investments.	communities
Operational Monitoring Vigilance Committees (CVO) of the villages around the OKNP and other PAs	Have political power and influence on local communities in the project area	One of the key stakeholders and participants in the implementation of the project's components 1 and 3 Participation in the Project Board
Local and Traditional Authorities, Patriarchs, Healers and "Wise Men".	Have political power and influence on local communities in the project area	One of the key stakeholders and participants in the implementation of the project's components 1 and 3

iv. Gender Mainstreaming

73. During PPG Phase at the consultation meetings in Brazzaville, Ouessou and villages visited the number of women was low and did not exceed 2%. Almost none of the women have taken a speech during the meetings. Yet we are recognizing the fundamental role of women in the conservation of biodiversity in reference to the fact that they are the key actresses in gathering, processing, packaging and marketing of the forest products. For large hunting expeditions, women prepare hunting camps, provide all logistical support, treat bush meat, and secretly sell it in the markets. The project will offer them alternative options for diversifying revenue sources in the project areas (70% of the project beneficiaries are women). The project will help women to cooperate and engage into the socio-economic development at local level via implementation of the Component 3. In addition, the project will provide 50% of eco-monitor jobs to local women.

74. The project also plans to help women to create Economic Interest Groups (EIGs) for development of CBNRM, SLM, SFM and renewable energy sources initiatives. The project will invest in the transportation system for women (tricycles) to provide goods to village shops and local markets. Use of renewable sources of energy in the target villages will allow women to increase productivity of their labour and find more free time and send more girls to schools instead of engaging them in the housework. Gender balance and gender rank will be ensured as much as possible regarding women participation in the Project Board and in the PMU. In response to very low women participation in the project development the project will incorporate gender considerations in the implementation procedures in a number of different ways:

- a. Empower women by involving them in IWT intelligence networks, in the shaping of attitudes and in law enforcement processes.
- b. Strong focus on gender within Component 3 with an emphasis on providing microcredit loans to female led households, and/or to households that apply for loans with activities that have an emphasis on female-led activities (e.g., collection of fuelwoods and/or NTF products).
- c. All awareness raising activities will specifically target women and encourage them to take responsibilities including for engagement with the authorities with respect to natural resource management, illegal killing of wildlife and illegal trafficking in wildlife products and live animals.
- d. Where possible and where they exist, women's organisations will be targeted for involvement in the project adaptive management and capacity development. In addition to these activities, the project will adopt the following principles:
 - i. gender stereotypes will not be perpetuated;
 - ii. women and other marginalized peoples will be actively and demonstrably included in project processes and activities whenever possible, and;

iii. derogatory language or behaviour will not be tolerated.

75.As such, the project falls within the Gender Targeted ranking – primarily because changes of the current women’s status will require long-term work beyond the project’s life. Project interventions will seek a greater and more even gender representation with the potential for gender mainstreaming-related activities. Furthermore, relevant gender representation on various levels of project governance will be pursued. All project staff recruitment shall be specifically undertaken inviting and encouraging women applicants. The TORs for key project staff all incorporate gender mainstreaming related responsibilities.

76.The project will promote gender mainstreaming and capacity building within its project staff to improve understanding of gender issues, and will appoint a designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally. This will include facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women’s empowerment and participation in the project activities. The project will also work with UNDP experts in gender issues and the UNWOMEN based in Addis Ababa to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects. These requirements will be monitored by the UNDP Gender Focal Point during project implementation.

Table 5. Proposed gender mainstreaming actions for project implementation

<i>Outcome/ Output</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Gender Mainstreaming Actions</i>
Component 1: Improving the effectiveness of PA management of global importance in the Congo Basin		
Output 1.1. <i>Messok Dja National Park is established on the area of 144,000 ha</i>	MEFDDE and <i>Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive inclusion of women and women organizations in working groups and committees involved in the establishment of Messok Dja NP
Output 1.2. <i>Effective functional zones are planned and officially established around Odzala-Kokoua NP, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja NP on the area of 1,133,560 ha</i>	MEFDDE and <i>Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive inclusion of women and women organizations in working groups and committees involved in the establishment functional zoning
Output 1.3. <i>Integrated Management Plans for 3 PAs are developed, officially approved, and implemented</i>	MEFDDE and <i>Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive inclusion of women and women organizations in working groups and committees to develop Integrated Management Plans for 3 PAs and local sustainable development planning.
Output 1.4. <i>Law enforcement and wildlife monitoring components of the Integrated Management Plans are supported with trainings and equipment</i>	MOEF MEFDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of local women in trainings for eco-monitors and community based surveillance system on poaching and IWT Involvement of local women in the wildlife monitoring in the PAs (50% of eco-monitor positions will be provided to women)

Outcome/ Output	Responsible	Gender Mainstreaming Actions
Component 2: Strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo		
Output 2.1. <i>National IWT enforcement strategy is revised with involvement of key stakeholders and implemented</i>	MOEF, WCS MEFDD and Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)LATF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of women in the Working Groups to review the Strategy and round tables for the document discussion
Output 2.2. <i>National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit (NWCEU) is established and supported with trainings and equipment</i>	Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender roles to be clearly articulated while undertaking training needs assessment and incorporate in training modules • Involvement of women in the work of the NWCEU
Output 2.3. <i>Joint Committee on Legal Monitoring of Wildlife Crime Enforcement is supported to identify and cover gaps in the IWT law enforcement procedures</i>	MEFDD and Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive inclusion of women in TA roles and working groups to review and update wildlife crime legislation under the Committee
Output 2.4. <i>National Training Center for wildlife crime law enforcement is supported</i>	MEFDD and Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving women inspectors in the trainings at the center as much as possible given the current male dominated situation in the national law enforcement agencies
Output 2.5. <i>A detection dog unit is established to strengthen checkpoints and patrol groups in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area</i>	Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will try to ensure that at least one of the 4 dog handlers trained by the project is a woman
Component 3: Reducing poaching and illegal trade in threatened species at site levels via CBNRM and sustainable livelihood (site level)		
Output 3.1. <i>Sustainable livelihood and CBNRM training programs are delivered to local communities.</i>	MOEF, WCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the raining participants will be local women and women organizations • Gender disaggregated reporting on the training participants
Output 3.2. <i>Small grant programme and micro-loan schemes for local community sustainable livelihood and CBNRM initiatives are developed and implemented.</i>	MOEF, WCS, MEFDD, and Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will ensure equal possibility to receive grants and micro-loans to women and men • Inclusion of women in the work of grant and micro-loan committees to make decision on micro-loans

Outcome/ Output	Responsible	Gender Mainstreaming Actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender disaggregated reporting on receivers of the grants and micro-loans
Output 3.3. <i>Pilot projects to develop sustainable livelihood and CBNRM are implemented</i>	MEFDDE, WCS, CSOs, Congo Agency for National Parks and Fauna Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of gender balance in the initiative groups for pilot project implementation Development of pilot projects implemented by women organizations (at least 10% of the projects); Gender disaggregated reporting on the participants of the pilot project
Output 3.4. <i>Sources of renewable and sustainable energy are introduced to local communities</i>	MEFDDE, WCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women are main beneficiaries of this Output as the key householders and producers of NTFPs Gender disaggregated reporting on the beneficiaries from renewable energy sources in the local villages
Output 3.5. <i>Sustainable NRM practices are introduced to logging and agro-business companies</i>	MOEF,MEFDD and Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive inclusion of the female staff of the companies in the trainings provided by the project Gender disaggregated reporting on the training participants
Component 4: Gender Mainstreaming, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management		
Output 4.1. <i>M&E provides sufficient information for gender mainstreaming, adaptive management and learning via active participation of key stakeholders</i>	MEFDDE, Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP) and UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for gender-disaggregated information for appropriate indicators in the M&E Plan Specific monitoring of gender mainstreaming progress during project implementation Promotion of women participation in the project M&E process Gender disaggregated reporting of M&E participants
Output 4.2. <i>Lessons learned from the project, including gender mainstreaming are shared at national and international levels</i>	MEFDDE, UNDP, OKNP, Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (ANFAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting of gender oriented lessons learned from the project Inclusion of women in generating and discussion of the lessons learned from IWT management and CBNRM

v. South-South cooperation

77.The GEF Alternative represented by this project will serve as a powerful South-South cooperation development tool through the setting up and operation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and signing conservation and IWT control governmental agreements between Congo, Cameroon and Gabon. This South-South cooperation will be reflected both in terms of exchange of strategic approaches in the prevention and active fight against poaching. South-South cooperation will involve government institutions, Local Authorities, NGOs and civil society and populations. It will serve as cross-border community cooperation framework for peace and development in view of enhancing socio-economic safety nets to prevent poaching and building resilience and promote green growth and global environment conservation as well. As part of the active fight against poaching, South-South cooperation with Cameroon and Gabon will focus on information sharing, joint cross-border patrols and joint prosecutions, which will also constitute cooperation frameworks. Knowledge sharing on implementation of development policies, plans on improving the legal framework, based on the experiences of the project and for the benefit of participatory conservation of biodiversity of global importance; on carbon sequestration, sustainable land management and promotion of sustainable inclusive growth.

78.The project will build partnerships with other countries in the framework of the GWP on combating wildlife crime and corruption, improvement of wildlife and protected area management, enhancing community livelihood benefits, and reduce demand for wildlife products. Targeted and tight cooperation will be built with GWP child projects in Gabon and Cameroon to join efforts in conservation of Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area's biodiversity, including collaborative support for cross-border plans and strategies to improve wildlife management and promotion of elephant corridors along with enhancement of cross-border wildlife surveillance and patrols.

79.Beyond the trans-border collaboration, cooperation will be built on knowledge sharing with all the African elephant range states already committed to address poaching and the illegal wildlife trade at the highest level of government in the "African Elephant Action Plan," signed at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2010 to include Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

80.Besides, the Government of Congo has also engaged into various initiatives for biodiversity and wildlife protection. For instance, Congo has recently published its National Ivory Action Plan in compliance with the CITES Standing Committee (SC65) direction to countries of secondary importance to reinforce their efforts to combat IWT and the ivory trade in particular. Congo is a party to CITES since 1983. **Congo, as a CITES-listed country, recently published its National Plan of Action on Ivory in 2017. The implementation of this action plan will be reinforced through the synergy of the two Child Project projects in Congo and Cameroon, particularly at the cross-border level. On the other hand, in Congo, the investigation and prosecution of offenses related to wildlife crime will be carried out in line with the arrangements set up in the context of the implementation of the PANI and the National Strategy for Combating Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Species and Products of Wild Fauna and Flora that will be validated at the national level on 26 May 2017.**

81.The project will be an important tool for Congo to fulfill its commitments with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora international agreement between governments aiming to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. To this extend, the project will mainly: 1] Strengthen and operate effective check-points

with sniffer dogs trained to detect mainly ivory, bush meat, pangolin scales and wildlife trophies; 2] Capacity building of Congo Judicial Monitoring Joint Committee to properly carry out its crucial mission to monitor national IWT law enforcement implementation and effectiveness as well as law enforcement obstruction and corruption; 3] The project will help reduce the current gaps between the number of arrests and the number of successful prosecutions (from 5% in the baseline to 75% of arrests successfully prosecuted).

82. During its implementation phase, the project will keep building wider cooperation network for additional resources mobilisation and the African Development Bank is identified as potential contributor to be involved in building effective Check-Points with modern equipment such as X-rays scanning to detect IWT along all the main roads built and to be built in Congo with effective partnership with international NGO's with Government of Congo to operate these check-points as means to contribute to assist Government of Congo fulfil its commitments to CITES but also Gabon and Cameroon through an effective implementation of the signed transboundary agreements.

83. Congo is a member of many international bodies and involved in numerous regional programs related to the implementation of the CBD (e.g. COMIFAC, CEFDHAC, RAPAC, OFSAC, OSFAC, PFBC, GRASP). A national biosecurity framework (GMO legislation, among other legislation) has been developed and the biological diversity clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and biosafety clearing-house mechanism (BCH) have been implemented. Locally, 10 laws, 4 decrees and 4 orders have been adopted to strengthen the legislative framework for the management of biological resources. Since 1983, the year that CITES entered into force in Republic of Congo; wildlife law took on a new dimension in Congo. Today the law is the strictest in Central Africa, punishing poachers and illegal wildlife traffickers with up to 5 years in jail.

84. The government also adopted a new Strategy and Management Plan for Elephants for 2011-2020. Moreover, Congo is involved in the REDD+ as mentioned earlier. Finally, Congo has also signed transborder agreements to promote integrated management of adjacent national parks situated in neighboring countries. It includes the Tri-nationale Dja-Odzala-Minkébé complex, which was created between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, the TNS complex comprising the parks of Lobeke (Cameroun), Dzanga-Ndoki (CAR) and Nouabale-Ndoki (Congo) to manage transboundary resources. It is important to notice that Congo has also adheres to the FLEGT process and signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Congo. A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is a legally binding trade agreement between the EU and a timber-exporting country outside the EU. An Observatory of Law Enforcement Project managed by REM (a UK-based lobby NGO), has also been in operation for some time in Congo.

v. FEASIBILITY

i. Effectiveness and Efficiency:

85. Cost effectiveness of the project will be achieved: a) using best experience in the project design and focusing on the major gaps in the PA management, IWT law enforcement, and CBNRM development by local communities (see Strategy section); b) through strong collaboration with on-going projects and donors via leveraging resources for all project components (see partnership section); c) from wide

involvement of stakeholders in the project implementation, M&E and adaptive management (see Stakeholders section). The project has clear geographic focus on the three PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area that have the most significant value for wildlife conservation. Also, the project is built on the strong financial foundation including baseline programmes and co-financing. Thus, the financing structure this project indicates a total amount US\$ 150,000,000 of the baseline programs and US\$ 19,682,400 of co-financing with GEF contribution (US\$ 3,125,250) of only 13% of the entire project budget. The GoC contribution of US\$ 6,522,400 is twice as much as the GEF funding and indicates high government commitment and support to this important project. This in kind contribution will enable the project to have local offices in Ouessou, Mielekouka, Lango and Mbomo in addition to part-time salary of the PMU staff. Significant co-financing contributes to the efficiency of the GEF initiative in Congo. The GEF funding is strictly focused to remove identified barriers for national wildlife conservation, promote technical and technological innovations and conduct demonstration of the best practices in the PA management, IWT law enforcement, and development of sustainable livelihood by local communities. Moreover, the project will work with logging and agro-forestry companies in the project area to bring additional funding for CBNRM and support of local communities via social responsibility programmes of the companies.

86. Detailed budgets have been prepared for all project investments and are considered cost efficient. Where tools and technologies are being introduced, the most recent developments are being used – and further developments will be tried and tested during the project’s life, while being cost efficient because they are being tried and tested to achieve the project’s results.

87. The project will use standard UNDP rules for procurement; these are specifically designed to optimise value for money. All activities will be included in the Annual Work Plan, which will be discussed and approved by the Project Board to ensure that proposed actions are relevant and necessary. When the activities are to be implemented and project outputs monitored and evaluated, cost-effectiveness will be taken into account but will not compromise the quality of the outputs. When hiring third party consultants or contractors, the project will follow a standard recruitment and advertising process to have at least three competitors for each contract. Selection will be based on qualifications, technical experience and financial proposal, to ensure hiring the best consultant (individual or organization) for an optimal price. Economy fares will be applied for necessary air and road travel, and appropriate lodging facilities will be provided to the project staff that ensures staff safety and cost-effectiveness. Similarly, the project will follow a tendering process for equipment purchase and any printing/publishing that accounts for more than USD 10,000, comparing at least three vendors. In case there is a single vendor only for any activity, appropriate official norms will be followed to obtain approval from UNDP and GEF. Expenses will be accounted for according UNDP rules and in line with the GEF policy.

88. Finally, in order to maximise the effectiveness and sustainability of the project results, an exit plan will be developed by the end of year 4, for implementation and tracking during the final year. This will identify a key owner and sustainability mechanism for each of the project’s results that also contributes to the project effectiveness.

ii. Risk management:

89. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Manager will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk log. Management responses to critical risks will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR. Overall nine (9)

risks have been identified at PPG stage, while the PIF identified four, including a negligible risk on climate change (Table 4). At PPG stage, the national security threat had escalated as the national financial crises emerged as well.

Table 6. Project Risks

Description	Probability and Impact	Mitigation
Government Institutions unwilling to collaborate on and coordinate IWT & poaching prevention and enforcement activities because of weak capacity and due to corruption	Probability = 5 Impact = 4 Risk = High	This has been one of the biggest obstacles in the past for successfully combatting wildlife crime. The project is particularly investing into strengthening the newly created <i>Agence Nationale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées</i> (ANFAP) and establishment of NWCEU as an inter-agency structure to overcome this risk. This agency and NWCEU will coordinate the actions of other agencies regarding the fight against poaching and will be responsible for promoting an effective synergy between the different services involved. NWCEU will be supported to facilitate coordination and collaboration with the police, judiciary, port authorities, customs and others through collaboration agreements between agencies, joint training through the Permanent Training Center at Lebang and information sharing at site level, national level and transboundary level. Moreover, stakeholder involvement in the revision and updating the National IWT Strategy will allow to develop a really working collaboration framework for different agencies in IWT combat. Outputs 2.1-2.4 will help to address this issue.
The interests of illegal wildlife profit-making groups are stronger than the political will to fight the issue, undermining the project strategy	Probability = 4 Impact = 3 Risk = Moderate	In order to overcome this risk the project will invest considerable funds in the strengthening of national and local law enforcement systems to develop a deterrent effect against poaching under the Component 2 and 1 (Output 3.3.). Component 3 outputs will also address this risk by providing incentive alternative options to poaching for local communities. Thus, this risk will be addressed by combining both a) strong law enforcement as a deterrent effect to poaching and IWT, and b) robust alternatives via CBNRM, SLM and SFM as sources of income for local communities.
Budget constrains at national and local government institutions to successfully execute their role in combating IWT	Probability = 4 Impact = 3 Risk = Moderate	IWT and Illegal Forest Logging crimes have been hampered by lack of funds that can be directly applied where they are needed. The situation is exacerbated by the current financial crises in Congo due to drastic drop of oil price. More easily accessible funds are needed to help Government implement its Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segment National Parks specific anti-poaching plans, including recruiting additional minimum rangers and eco-gardens staffs along with building their capacities in poaching enforcement. To address this risk the project suggests development of strong partnerships with International NGOs, multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide leverage resources for achievement of the project Outcomes. Moreover, the project will build strong cooperation with private sector to obtain additional funding for IWT enforcement in the project area and support conservation initiatives of local communities (Components 1 and 3)
Increase of habitat degradation	Probability = 4	This risk may require action by Government if goes beyond ability

Description	Probability and Impact	Mitigation
and poaching in the PAs due to sectoral activities and demographic trends counterbalance improvements in the PA management	Impact = 3 Risk = Moderate	of the PA management to address the risks at local level. The project will address the risk through Outputs 1.1-1.3 and 3.1-3.5. Establishment of new National Park and appropriate PA zoning will allow to mitigate the risk and ensure conservation of the most valuable populations and habitat. The implementation of IMPs along with local community plans for CBNRM will ensure sustainable use of the habitat without degradation.
Limited local capacity to carry out the project implementation and maintain Outcomes	Probability = 4 Impact = 3 Risk = Moderate	For project implementation built on combination of national and international expertise will provide necessary technical competencies and skills to PA staff and local communities to mitigate the risk. Output 1.3; 3.1 - 3.3 will ensure sufficient level of capacity to fight IWT and develop CBNRM in the project area
Community Based Alternative Options to Poaching and feasibility of proposed local economic activities are overestimated	Probability = 3 Impact = 3 Risk = Moderate	During the PPG the overall project design had been built upon lessons learnt from other projects in Congo and other countries to develop the most appropriate and viable alternatives to poaching. Detailed cost-benefit analysis for each of proposed alternative economic options will be undertaken during the project implementation (Component 3). Adaptive management of the project implemented under the Component 4 will allow adjust proposed alternatives for local communities in response of the socio-economic changes in the area
VTs land degradation due to increased agriculture pressure	Probability = 2 Impact = 2 Risk = Low	PA IMPs will help to address this risk via careful zoning and planning (Component 1). Under the Component 3 the project will invest in implementation of sustainable development part of IMPs via establishment of CBNRM, SLM and SFM practices of local communities. The project will address restoration of degraded habitat via larger community based pilot projects and will contribute to restoration of at least 400 ha of wildlife habitat.

Risk Assessment Guiding Matrix

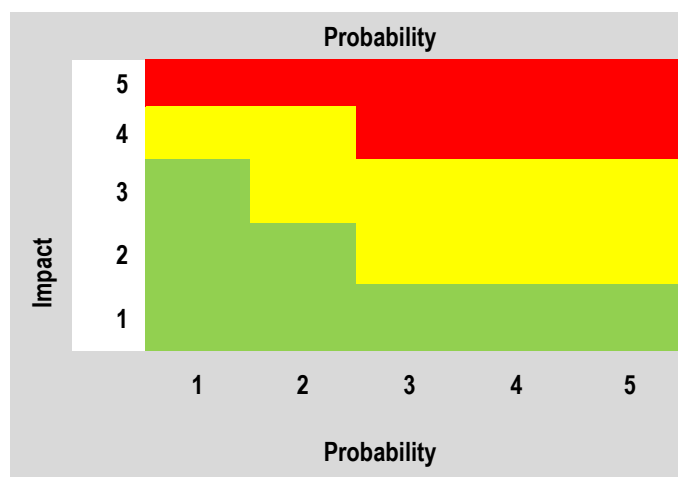
Rating the probability of a risk

Score	Rating
5	Expected
4	High likely
3	Moderately likely
2	Not likely
1	Slight

Rating the impact of a risk

Score	Rating
5	Critical
4	High
3	Medium

Significance of a risk



2	Low
1	Negligible

Green=Low, Yellow= Moderate, Red= High

iii. Social and environmental safeguards

90.The GEF 6 project has a low risk rating as indicated in the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, included as Annex F to this project document. There is virtually no social risk in this Project because it is designed in a way that enables local communities and indigenous people, including women, youth and other vulnerable groups to take ownership of the wildlife, forest and land in their areas and develop sustainable options to use natural resources based on community participation (see also Stakeholder and Gender Mainstreaming sections). During the project development key groups of local and indigenous people in the project area were actively involved in the consultation process and the project activities were carefully designed based on their values and interests (Component 3).

91.For the work to be carried out at the community level (Component 3), the project highlights the need for equitable distribution of benefits, resources and equal access rights to biological resources. Due to the fact that the local communities in the project selected sites have experience in working with previous projects, it is expected that local people will be open and responsive to the project interventions, especially with regards to the design and implementation of local land development plans and community management of biological resources. Relevant representation of key local beneficiaries at the project Steering Committee meetings will be ensured by the PMU.

92.Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) have been identified as a potential threat for both people and wildlife all across the villages on the south of OKNP as well as along the Sembe-Souanke and Ngbala areas. Specific HWC mitigation strategies will be implemented in the project area via cooperation with other GEF projects with a focus to HWC (e.g., WB/GEF project). IMPs and community management plans will restrict development of settlements along corridors and food-gathering areas (outputs 1.1 and 1.2) in order to mitigate the risks of human-wildlife conflicts. Ecological solutions through honey beehives all around the VTs for keeping away elephants from crop fields and human habitations will also be used. Once elephants disturb the bees in their way to accessing the village crop fields or the inhabited village zones, they will then be attacked by the bees. This ecological solution has also economic benefits through the honey production, processing and selling. The nature of the project does not pose any significant risk environmentally. It rather promotes environmental safety by ensuring continued existence of environmental resources including wildlife habitats and species.

93.In line with UNDP standard procedures, the Project will set up and manage a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) as recommended by UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) that would address project affected persons’ (PAP) grievances, complaints, and suggestions. The GRM will be managed and regularly monitored by the PCU. It will comply with the following requirements:

94.Uptake. The GRM will have multiple uptake locations and channels. PAPs in the project areas will be able to submit complaints or suggestions to Project Local Management Units, the Project Mangement Unit (PMU) or members of Project Steering Committee (SC) in person, via mail, email, via special page of the Project web-site, and phone. These channels will be locally-appropriate, widely accessible and publicized in written and verbal forms on all -project communication materials, and in public locations in the project areas.

95.Sort & process. All grievances will be registered by PCU. All complaints submitted to PMU or members of SC will be registered by the PMU and the complaint will be assigned a unique tracking number upon its submission. PMU will maintain a database with full information on all submitted complaints and responses taken. These data are important to assess trends and patterns of grievances across the Project regions and for monitoring & evaluation purposes.

96.Investigate & act. Strict complaint resolution procedures will be developed and observed, and personnel at the PMU will be assigned to handle the grievances. PMU will develop clear and strict grievance redress procedures, and assign responsibilities. To the extent possible, complaints will be handled at the level of PMU, as close as possible to the complainant. Difficult situations and conflicts will be brought to the attention of SC and UNDP CO if PMU is unable to find appropriate solution. Complaints that are beyond the Project scope will be conveyed by PMU to relevant local or regional authorities in the project areas.

97.Provide feedback. Feedback will be provided in response to all registered grievances. PMU will provide feedback by contacting the complainant directly (if his/her identity is known), by reporting on actions taken in community consultations and/or by publishing the results of the complaints on the Project web-site, local newspapers and as part of project materials.

98.Enable appeals. Complainants will be notified of their right to appeal the decision taken by the PMU. If complainants are not satisfied with PMU response to their grievance, they will be able to appeal the PMU decision to members of SC and UNDP CO via mail, e-mail or the Project web-site.

99.Monitor & Evaluate. The performance of the CBNRM across the 3 Pilot PAs will be regularly monitored. As all information about the grievances and their resolution will be recorded and monitored. This data will be used to conduct in-depth analyses of complaint trends and patterns, identify potential weaknesses in the Project implementation, and consider improvements. Environmental and social grievances will be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR. The full SESP screening report is included in Annex F.

iv. Sustainability and Scaling Up

100. **Sustainability.** The project will invest considerable resources in the institutional sustainability of the project results via the improvement of legal and enforcement frameworks, long-term protection of three project PAs critical for wildlife conservation in Congo Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segment, establishment of sustainable CBNRM projects managed by local communities and other relevant co-management arrangements through the project strategic zoning, and development of long-term partnerships at national and regional levels to control poaching and IWT. These proposed results will have lasting effects for at least 5-15 years after project completion and high probability of prolonged government and community support. Thus, the project has been designed in a participatory manner with ANFAP, WWF, ETIC and WCS. All the organizations are well established entities and have engaged in long-term contracts for the management of the three selected PAs. By working closely with these entities a strong degree of sustainability of the GEF 6 investments in the project area is projected, as long-term commitments for continued support and collaboration are in place. In terms of an effective National IWT Strategy, the project will invest into critical strategic support areas: establishment of National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit as the key entity for national IWT control and the core for collaboration among law enforcement agencies; and capacity building of enforcement staff that are critical for long-term and effective control of IWT in the country. The design of the project builds on

sustainability component by investing into technical support for ANFAP (leader of NWCEU) – national coordination center of wildlife conservation with a certain degree of effective influence within Government through the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment.

101. Successful implementation of the project will catalyse greater interest among other donors, enhancing **financial sustainability** of project outcomes. Increased government and public attention to wildlife conservation and IWT issue through the building of partnerships among key national stakeholders will also ensure that wildlife protection and restoration remains a high national and regional priority into the future and has appropriate funding. Moreover, the project is going to involve corporate funding for local community development and support of the target PAs and community based conservation initiatives (Components 1 and 3).

102. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen conservation of globally threatened wildlife in the Congo and its Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Segment in particular. Thus, the project will contribute directly to the **environmental sustainability** and achievement of obligations of the country under a number of international conventions, including those supported through the GEF mechanisms (CBD, CMS) and CITES. The overall environmental impact of the project is expected to be very positive and an important contribution to inclusive vulnerability reduction, building resilience and promoting sustainable development of Congo Local Communities in the project three selected sites; contribute to enhanced protection of national biodiversity assets.

103. **Social sustainability** of project outcomes will be in compliance with the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure conducted during project preparation (see Annex E for the SESP summary). Overall, the project is expected to improve local community livelihoods and wellbeing through realization of community sustainable development plans integrated into the PA IMPs. The SESP identified no expected issues that would result in negative social impacts. The project will offer sustainable alternative options through the GEF Small Grant and corporate funding in form of micro-loans or larger pilot projects for local communities that are expected to result in ~1000 new jobs. The project will overall promote gender mainstreaming and capacity building within local communities to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues, and will appoint a designated focal point (or focal points in each site) to be coached by UNDP CO Gender Specialist, for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming. This will include facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities. The project will also work with UNDP experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects. The project will promote social sustainability via development of sustainable partnerships of local communities with private sector and international donors. Finally, in order to maximise the sustainability of the project, an exit plan will be developed through the project implementation process while the project is still going on. This will identify a key owner and sustainability mechanism for each of the project's results.

104. **Upscaling.** The lessons learned from the project via participatory M&E system will be made available nationally, regionally and globally for replication through the dissemination of project results, recommendations and experiences including demonstration of best practices. This will be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner through the project quarterly bulletins, publications, and website; through GWP Partnership, UNDP, and GEF Programme Frameworks, as well as through participation in international fora including CBD, Land degradation, National Parks, Climate Change, and Sustainable Forests Management events. The project will take steps towards scaling up the on-site enforcement activities piloted through the project across the whole network of the three selected PA systems including the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area's segments in Gabon, Cameroon and CAR. It also lays the groundwork for

expansion of conservancies across the country, building on the experience of the pilot conservancies to be established around the Sangha rain forests, as well as through piloting the implementation of the biological corridors for wildlife seasonal migration across domestic and transboundary landscapes so as to avoid wildlife consanguinity and increase biodiversity and ecosystem services. The upscaling potential of the project in the country is significant. Specific lessons learnt will be derived for upscaling and integration into the National Strategy on IWT.

VI. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<p>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): <i>list relevant SDG goal (s) SDG1: No Poverty ; SDG2: Zero Hunger; SDG5: Gender Equality ; SDG7 : Affordable and Clean Energy ; SDG10: Reduced Inequalities ; SDG12 : Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG15 : Life on Land</i></p>
<p>This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document: <i>By 2018, institutions and populations are implementing sustainable environment management policies integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.</i></p>
<p>This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan : Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste. (IRRF Indicators 1.3.1 and 1.3.2) Output 2.5: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation. (IRRF Indicator 2.5.1)</p>

Objective/Outcomes	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Assumptions
<p>Objective: <i>To strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in the basins of the Republic of Congo by improving biodiversity enforcement</i></p>	<p>Mandatory Indicator 1: Number of new partnership mechanisms for financing sustainable management solutions natural resources, ecosystem services at local, national and sub regional (IRRF 1.3.1.)</p>	0	3 ¹	3	Private sector sees economic and reputation benefits in the establishment of partnerships with local communities
	<p>Mandatory Indicator 2: a) Total number (%) of people (m/f) benefiting from CBWM, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and small business development in the project areas (IRRF 1.3.2) b) Number of beneficiaries with access to renewable energy and energy efficiency through electric power from solar energy (IRRF 1.5.2)</p>	<p>a) 115 (f: 63/m:52), ~1% of the population in the project area b) 800 (f:440/m:360)</p>	<p>a) 4,000 (f: 2,800/m:1,200), 33% of the population in the project area b) 1,500 (f: 1050/m:450)</p>	<p>a)8,000 (f:5,600/m:2,400), 67% of the population in the project area b)3,000 (f:2,100/m:900)</p>	<p>In the result of the project investments, total number of people benefiting from CBNRM and sustainable livelihood will increase</p>

¹ 3 new partnership mechanisms for financing sustainable management solutions natural resources, ecosystem services will be established with logging and agribusiness companies operating in northern Congo so as to comply with standard certifications norms and to contribute to the project overall funding mainly through the implementation of component 2.

	<p>Mandatory Indicator 3: Extent to which institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems (IRRF 2.5.1):</p> <p>a) National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit;</p> <p>b) National IWT Enforcement Strategy</p>	<p>a) <i>None</i></p> <p>b) <i>None</i></p>	<p>a) <i>officially established</i></p> <p>b) <i>approved by Government</i></p>	<p>a) <i>Fully operational²</i></p> <p>b) <i>Implemented³</i></p>	<p>Government will allocate enough funds and staff for NWCEU and implementation of IWT Strategy</p>
	<p>Indicator 4: Populations of forest elephant (a) and gorilla (b) in the project area</p>	<p>a) <i>20,000</i></p> <p>b) <i>26,000</i></p> <p><i>(2016)</i></p>	<p>a) <i>20,000</i></p> <p>b) <i>26,000</i></p>	<p>a) <i>20,000</i></p> <p>b) <i>26,000</i></p>	<p>a) <i>20,000</i></p> <p>b) <i>26,000</i></p>
<p>Outcome 1. Expanded PA network and improved management effectiveness of PAs in the Congo Basin, specifically Odzala-Kokoua, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja, an area of 2,667,160 ha</p>	<p>Indicator 5: Total area (ha):</p> <p>(a) covered by PAs/% of Aichi target for Congo, including officially Messok Dja NP, and functioning zones for three target PAs</p> <p>(b) under implemented Integrated Management Plans</p>	<p>a) <i>1,389,600/70%</i></p> <p>b) <i>0</i></p>	<p>a) <i>2,100,380/83%</i></p> <p>b) <i>1,533,600</i></p>	<p>a) <i>2,667,160/96%</i></p> <p>b) <i>2,667,160</i></p>	<p>Governmental agencies and local stakeholders will approve functional zoning developed by the project.</p> <p>Government will approve PA extension suggested by the project with allocation of additional funding for management</p>
	<p>Indicator 6: METT score for targeted PAs</p>	<p><i>PNOK: 68</i></p> <p><i>SGL : 25</i></p>	<p><i>PNOK: 83</i></p> <p><i>SGL: 50</i></p>	<p><i>PNOK : 93</i></p> <p><i>SGL: 75</i></p>	

² Established as the ANFAP department, have appropriate funding and staff, and annual reports

³ Coordinated by ANFAP with allocation of appropriate staff, have annual implementation reports

					Implementation of MPs and increased capacity of the PA staff will improve PA management
Outcome 2. Biodiversity and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) priorities are integrated into key national policies and plans and harmonized with regional initiatives	Indicator 7: Capacity of National Enforcement Agencies to control IWT (UNDP Capacity scorecard, %)	49%	60%	80%	Capacities of law enforcement agencies will increase after the project investments and lead to increased number of IW trader arrests and successful prosecutions
	Indicator 8: Results of law enforcement on IWT in the project area in 2016: 1. annual number of inspections/patrolling; 2. annual number seizures; 3. annual number of arrests; 4. annual number of successful prosecutions on poaching and IWT	1. 420 2. 102 3. 98 4. 32	1. 504 2. 122 3. 118 4. 46	1. 588 2. 142 3. 137 4. 56	
	Indicator 9: Poaching rate for forest elephants in the project area (individuals killed annually)	28 (2016)	16	8	
Outcome 3. Strengthened sustainable livelihood capacity in the targeted PA complexes	Indicator 10: Number of hotspots under effective community based poaching prevention and control	10	20	50	Local people will see economic benefits and increased security of livelihood in the land restoration practices, small biodiversity-friendly business,
	Indicator 11: Number of direct biodiversity-friendly jobs created in the result of the project activities: Total (f/m)	0	500 (f: 350/m:150)	1,000 (f: 700/m: 300), ~8% of the population in the project area	

	Indicator 12: Total area under CBNRM (ha) and sustainable land management	0	566,780	1,133,560	CBNRM and SFM
	Indicator 13: Total volume of CO2 mitigated in the project area as per the GEF GWP TT (tCO2eq)	0	5,000,000	11,380,000 ⁴	
Outcome 4 Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E, including gender mainstreaming practices, are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community based conservation nationally and internationally	Indicator 14: Number of the lessons on IWT control and CBNRM learned by the project that used in other national and international projects	0	5	10	Other stakeholders are interested in the lessons learned by this project
	Indicator 15: % of women among the project participants directly benefiting from the project activities	2%	30%	50%	Other stakeholders are interested to participate in the project M&E

⁴ Total area currently covered by the rain forest in the project site is ~ 2,667,160 ha. According to the WWF last two decades (1990-2010) deforestation rate in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area was very low ~0.19%/10 years⁴. Thus, average annual deforestation in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area does not exceed 0.02%/year, or 533 ha/year. Without project for 6 years total deforestation due to logging will be about 3,198 ha. However, plans exist to clear about 55,000 ha of the rain forest in the southern part of Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area for oil palm plantations in the nearest 10 years⁴. Thus, it is likely the deforestation rate may increase for additional ~5,000 ha/year, or 30,000 ha for 6 years. The total deforestation for 6 years without the project is thus estimated to be about 33,198 ha. With the project given development of Integrated Management Plans, establishment of Messok Dja National Park, promotion of SFM and SLM, and conservation cooperation with local logging companies, the deforestation rate due to commercial and small agriculture logging is expected to decrease by at least twice (our assumption) to ~ 267 ha/year, or 1,602 ha for 6 years of the project. We assume that sustainable agro-forestry under the project will decrease deforestation rate by oil palm plantations at least by half in the project area to ~2,500 ha/year (or 15,000 ha for 6 years). Thus, total deforestation in the area with the project will be nearly a half of what is expected without the project (16,602 ha for 6 years). Moreover, the project will use 400 ha of degraded lands for small scale community oil palm plantations to avoid deforestation. These calculations were used as basis for calculation of carbon benefits with the FAO ExAct Tool. Given these, the project's lifetime direct GHG emissions avoided is **11.38 million tCO2eq** based on the 10-year life time period.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

105. The project results as outlined in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results via implementation of Outcome 4: Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E, including gender mainstreaming practices, are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community based conservation nationally and internationally

106. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. While these UNDP requirements are not outlined in this project document, the UNDP Country Office will work with the relevant project stakeholders to ensure UNDP M&E requirements are met in a timely fashion and to high quality standards. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements (as outlined below) will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF M&E policy and other relevant GEF policies. The monitoring and reporting should include data broken down by categories of beneficiaries and / or potential affected groups and include gender indicators. The project shall be recognizing the fundamental role of women in the conservation of biodiversity; particularly in reference to the fact that they are the greatest actors in the gathering, processing and packaging and marketing of game products.

107. In addition, at the Output level, the project will establish a spatio-temporal coverage and follow-up system comprising anti-poaching, ecological and socio-economic measures feeding a GIS database that will serve as a decision-making tool at various levels of management. The following will be monitored:

- Patrol Effort Distribution Card / Coverage Rate
- Indices of arrest of judicial prosecution of poachers
- Distribution map of the kilometric index of abundance of traces of large mammals
- Map of distribution of kilometric indices of abundance of human impacts
- Interpolation map on the presence of large mammals
- Interpolation map on the presence of human impacts
- Distribution rate of elephant carcasses at km²
- Probability of observation of large mammals in their preferred biotopes
- Degree of use of the elephant trail network
- Hunting effort index which is the ratio between the biomass of animal species caught on the total distance traveled during the hunting season

108. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. This will include the exact role of project target groups and other stakeholders in project M&E activities including the GEF Operational Focal Point and national/regional institutes assigned to undertake project monitoring. The GEF Operational Focal Point will strive to ensure consistency in the approach taken to the GEF-specific M&E requirements (notably the GEF Tracking Tools) across all GEF-financed projects in the country. This could be achieved for example by using one national institute to complete the GEF Tracking Tools for all GEF-financed projects in the country, including projects supported by other GEF Agencies.

M&E Oversight and monitoring responsibilities:

109. Project Manager: The Project Manager is responsible for the daily management of the project and regular monitoring of results and risks, including social and environmental hazards of the project. The project manager will ensure that all project staff maintains a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in monitoring and evaluation and presentation of project results. The Project Manager will inform the Project Board of Directors, the UNDP representative office in the country and the UNDP-GEF RTA, of any delays or difficulties that would arise during the implementation of the project, such so that appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted. He will prepare annual work plans based on the multi-year work plan in Annex A, including the goals of annual results; to enable the effective implementation of the project. The Project Manager will ensure that the standards and requirements of the UNDP-GEF in monitoring and evaluation are met at the highest level of quality. This includes, but not limited to, ensuring that the indicators of the framework results are duly checked each year to produce reports based on evidence in the GEF PIR, and a monitoring system risks and various plans / strategies are developed to support the implementation of the project (e.g the kind of strategy, knowledge management strategy, etc.) on a regular basis.

110. Steering Committee of the Project: The Project's Board (or Steering Committee) will take the necessary corrective measures to ensure that the project achieves the expected results. The project's Board held on project progress assessment sessions to assess project performance and review the annual work plan for the following year. In the last year of the project, the Project Board will hold a review session project end to capture lessons learned and discuss with audiences, scaling possibilities and highlight the results of the project and lessons learned. This final review meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the findings presented in the draft of the final evaluation report and the management response.

111. Project implementing partner: The implementing partner of the project is responsible for providing all the information and all data necessary for the timely production of complete project reports and based on evidence, including the results and financial data, as far as necessary and appropriate. The implementing partner will ensure that monitoring and evaluation at the project level is undertaken by national institutes and is in alignment with national systems; so that the data used and generated by the project are useful to national systems. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment.

112. UNDP Country Office: UNDP Country Office will support the Project Manager as required, including through annual supervision missions. The annual supervision missions will take place on schedule in the annual work plan. The supervision mission reports will be distributed to the project team and the project's Executive Board in the month following the mission. The UNDP country office will initiate and organize key activities of monitoring and evaluation of the EGF, including the annual PIR GEF independent mid-term and final independent evaluation. The UNDP Country Office will also ensure that the standards and requirements of the GEF UNDP in monitoring and evaluation are met at the highest level of quality.

113. UNDP country office is responsible for compliance with all monitoring requirements and evaluation at the project level as described in the UNDP POPP. This includes making sure that the evaluation of the UNDP Quality assurance during implementation of the project is undertaken each year; that the annual objectives in outcomes are developed and monitored and are reported using UNDP management systems; the regular updating of the ATLAS risks; and the update of the UNDP Gender indicators on an annual basis based on gender mainstreaming progress as shown in the PIR GEF and UNDP ROAR. All the problems of quality of monitoring and evaluation reports over the activities of monitoring and evaluation (e.g. such annual assessment scores of quality GEF PIR) should be treated by the UNDP country office and the manager project.

114. The UNDP Country Office will retain all tracking records and evaluation of the project up to seven years after the financial closure of the project to support the ex-post evaluations can be conducted by the UNDP Evaluation Office Independent (IBE) and / or the independent Office of the GEF evaluation (IEO).

115. **UNDP-GEF Unit:** Additional quality assurance monitoring and evaluation, and implementation and support in coaching will be provided by the Technical Adviser of the UNDP - GEF Regional and if needed by UNDP -GEF.

116. **Audit:** The project will be audited according to the UNDP financial regulations and rules and policies applicable to audit the implementation of NIM projects.

Additional requirements of the GEF monitoring and development:

117. **Inception Workshop:** The project Inception workshop will be held within two months after the project document has been signed by all parties concerned. The workshop will work on the following issues:

- a) Refocusing efforts of stakeholders in the project strategy and discuss any changes in the general context that influence the strategy and implementation of the project;
- b) Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, communication and conflict resolution mechanisms;
- c) Review the results framework and finalize the indicators, means of verification and monitoring regime;
- d) Discuss relationships, roles and responsibilities of monitoring and evaluation, complete monitoring and evaluation budget; identify national / regional institutes that can participate at the project level to the monitoring and evaluation activities; discuss the role of monitoring and evaluation of GEF OFP;
- e) Update and review the monitoring responsibilities in the different plans and strategies of the project, including the Risk log; the Environmental and Social Management and other protection requirements; gender strategy; Knowledge Management Strategy and other relevant strategies;
- f) Review the mandatory procedures and requirements for financial reporting, and agree on the terms of annual inspections;
- g) Plan and schedule project meetings of the Governing Council and finalize the work plan for the first year.

118. **Inception Report:** The Project Manager will prepare the initial report within one month after the inception workshop. The inception report will be endorsed by the UNDP country office and the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor - GEF, and will be approved by the Steering Committee.

119. **Implementation Report of the GEF Project (PIR):** The Project Manager, UNDP Country Office and the Regional Technical Advisor of UNDP - GEF will make an objective contribution to the GEF Annual PIR covering the reporting period; July (of the previous year) to June (of the current year) for each year of implementation of the project. The Project Manager will ensure that the indicators included in the framework of the project results are monitored every year before the NIR submission deadline; so that progress can be reported in the PIR. The environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly and progress will be reported in the PIR.

120. **PIR submitted to the GEF** will be shared with the Project Steering Committee. The UNDP country office will coordinate as appropriate, the written contributions of the GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders in the content of the PIR. The quality rating of the RIP of the previous year will be used to inform the preparation of subsequent PIR.

121. **Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation:** The results will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone and other projects and programmes through existing networks and information-sharing forums. The project will identify and participate, in a relevant and appropriate way, in networks and scientific forums, and / or other policy-based networks, which can be beneficial for the project. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial for the design and implementation of similar projects and widely disseminate these lessons. There will be a continuous exchange of information between this project and other similar projects of interest in the same country, the same region and in the world.

122. **Tracking Tools for GEF focal areas:** Global Wildlife Programme Tracking Tool will be used to monitor the overall results of the environmental benefits: as agreed with the Regional technical advisor of UNDP - GEF. Baseline / approval by the CEO of tracking tools for GEF focal areas subject to Appendix D of this draft document will be updated by the Head of the Project Team (not the consultants responsible for the evaluation retained to undertake the MTR or TE) (specify another partner project, if agreed) and shared with consultants for the midterm and final evaluation consultants to review before the required exam / assessment missions to take place. GEF tracking tools updated will be submitted to the GEF and the mid-term review report completed and the final evaluation report.

123. **Independent Mid-Term Review (IMR):** An independent mid-term process will begin after the second PIR was submitted to the GEF, and the MTR report will be submitted to the GEF in the same year as the 3rd PIR. The conclusions of the MTR and the responses described in the Management Response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project period. The terms of reference, the review process and the MTR report will respect standard models and guidelines prepared by the UNDP IEO for projects funded by the GEF and available on the website of the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). As indicated in this document, the assessment will be "independent, impartial and rigorous." The consultants that will be hired to undertake the mission will be independent of the organizations that were involved in the design, execution or to advice on the project to evaluate. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be involved and consulted in the final evaluation process. Additional support for quality assurance will be available from the UNDP-GEF Management. The final report MTR will be available in English and will be endorsed by the UNDP Country Office and the Regional Technical Advisor UNDP-GEF, and approved by the Steering Committee.

124. **Final Evaluation (FE):** An independent Final Evaluation (TE) will be held at the end of all results and main activities of the project. The final evaluation process will begin three months before the operational closure of the project by allowing the assessment mission to perform while the project team is still in place, while ensuring that the project is close enough to the end for the evaluation team to draw conclusions on key issues such as sustainability. The Project Manager will remain under contract until the TE ratio and steering response are finalized. The terms of reference, the evaluation and the final report TE process will respect the standard templates and guidelines prepared by the IEO UNDP for projects funded by the GEF and available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center site. As indicated in this document, the assessment will be "independent, impartial and rigorous." The consultants will be hired to undertake the mission will be independent of the organizations that were involved in the design, implementation or advising on the project to evaluate. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be involved and consulted in the final evaluation process. Additional guidelines for quality assurance are available from the UNDP-GEF Management. TE final report will be endorsed by the UNDP country office and the Regional Technical Advisor UNDP-GEF, and will be approved by the Board of Directors of the project. TE report will be publicly available in English on the UNDP ERC website.

125. **Final Report:** At the end of the project, the PIR and the terminal evaluation report (TE) and the response of the corresponding direction will serve as the final project report package. The final package of draft report should be discussed with the Project Board during a final project review meeting to discuss lesson and scaling up opportunities.

126. The UNDP Country Office will integrate the project evaluation planned in the evaluation plan of the UNDP Country Office, and download the final evaluation report in English and the Project Steering corresponding response at UNDP evaluation resource Centre (ERC). Once downloaded to the ERC, the IEO UNDP will conduct a quality assessment and validate the findings and assessments in the TE report, and evaluate the quality of the TE report. The UNDP IEO's evaluation report will be sent to the IEO GEF and the final project evaluation report.

Table 7: Mandatory GEF M&E Requirements and M&E Budget:

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget⁵ (USD)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
<i>Inception Report</i>	Project Manager	None	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
<i>Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP</i>	UNDP Country Office	None	None	Quarterly, annually
<i>GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)</i>	Project Manager and UNDP Country Office and UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Annually
<i>Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant</i>	Project Manager	None	None	Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant
<i>Addressing environmental and social grievances</i>	Project Manager	None	None	Addressing environmental and social grievances
<i>Supervision missions</i>	UNDP Country Office	None	None	Annually

⁵ Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff time and travel expenses.

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget⁵ (USD)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
Oversight missions	UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Troubleshooting as needed
GEF Secretariat learning missions/site visits	UNDP Country Office and Project Manager and UNDP-GEF team	None	None	To be determined.
Inception Workshop	UNDP Country Office	USD 9,000	None	Within two months of project document signature
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Manager	Per year: USD 5,000 Total: \$30,000	Per year: USD 2,500 Total: \$15,000	Annually
Audit as per UNDP audit policies	UNDP Country Office	None	Per year: USD 3000 Total: \$18,000	Annually as per UNDP Audit policies
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	Project Manager	USD 10,000	None	Annually
Project Board meetings	Project Board UNDP Country Office Project Manager	Per year: USD 4,000 Total: \$ 24,000	None	Annually
Knowledge management as outlined in Outcome 4	Project Manager	USD 7,000	None	On-going
Mid-term GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by ACFAP	Project Manager	USD 6,000	None	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and management response	UNDP Country Office and Project team and UNDP-GEF team	None	USD 20,000	Between 2 nd and 3 rd PIR.
Terminal GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by (add name of national/regional institute if relevant)	Project Manager	USD 6,000	None	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) included in UNDP evaluation plan, and management response	UNDP Country Office and Project team and UNDP-GEF team	None	USD 30,000	At least three months before operational closure
Translation of MTR and TE reports into English/French	UNDP Country Office	USD 4,000	None	
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses		USD 96,000, or 3.1% of GEF funding	USD 83,000	

VII. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

127. The project will be implemented over a period of six years (72 months). The first three months will allow UNDP and the project partners to start up the project in an effective way. This will enable the Responsible Party to be contracted (see below for details) and for project staff (for the Responsible Party) to be recruited. It will then also allow the project partners to collect baseline data for those indicators for which no baseline consolidated data were available during the PPG.

128. The project will be implemented following UNDP's national implementation modality (NIM), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Congo, and the Country Programme.

129. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (MEFDDE). The Implementing Partner will take the responsibility for the oversight of the project, and is the main (but not only) beneficiary for Components One and Two (the components on protected areas and IWT law enforcement, respectively). The Implementing Partner will also appoint a National Project Director. This will be a high-ranking official person responsible to ensure cooperation, collaboration and efficient implementation of the project. The Implementing Partner will assign a National Project Coordinator (NPC) to the Project Management Unit (PMU, see below).

130. The day-to-day implementation of the project will be supported by Responsible Party(ies), the selection of which will be done based on a competitive selection process as follows (as per UNDP POPP):

- The awarding of the contract will be based on a Quality-Based Fixed Budget Selection (QB-FBS). This means that the budget will be disclosed at the time of the Call for Proposal, and the bidders will submit proposals based on that fixed budget.

131. The selection of the RP(s) shall be formalized through the signing of a Responsible Party Agreement(s) (RPA) – as requested by the Government (see letter of request). In order to participate in the competitive selection process, RPs must be legally constituted and fully registered. The Vendor Sanctions policy of UNDP also applies to potential bidders and their members, regardless of the process undertaken to engage them as RPs.

132. When selecting the RP(s), the UNDP-CO will conduct a mandatory HACT (capacity) assessment(s).

Because the selection is being conducted for a specific TOR without existence of a roster:

- a. The first step will be the development of the engagement TOR.
- b. Sending RFI & CACHE can be combined in a single step
- c. Steps to conduct the capacity assessment and the risk assessment will remain significantly the same although at this stage it will be conducted from the TOR perspective

133. The procurement process will also use the following guidelines:

- a. The RP will be selected immediately after the PRODOC has been signed (thus, once the project has officially started and an additional eight months have been added to the project's life to accommodate this recruitment process)
- b. A tendering process that adheres to UNDP procurement rules and regulations will be prepared and bids will be solicited from potential organisations.
- c. The organisations could include government, private sector or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

- d. The bids will be evaluated on the basis of a number of criteria, including (but not limited to): the proposed composition of the team that will comprise the Project Management Unit (PMU), the relevance of the organisation's experience to working in the sector and on similar projects, the relevance of the organisation's experience to working in the context of Ethiopia, a micro-capacity assessment of the bidding organisations.
- e. The process of selecting the RP will be audited by an independent audit company. The purpose of the audit will be to ensure that the process is free and fair, and without any undue interference.

134. The Responsible Party Agreement (RPA) will be on the following basis:

- a. The agreement with the RP will be a delivery-based contract and, as such (with the exception of an agreed cashflow), payments will be made to the RP on the basis of agreed milestones, outputs and deliveries
- b. The payments for the RP will be provided by UNDP Direct Project Services under the request of the Government.

135. The selection of the RP on this basis is based on previous experiences in Congo and the fact that the Government of Congo is familiar with such a modality as it is used by a number of donors working in the country.

136. Under the oversight of the Project Board, the Responsible Party is responsible and accountable for managing the implementation of all components and outputs of this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources (see draft TORs for the Responsible Partner in Annex E). The Responsible Party will, therefore, form a Project Management Unit (PMU) to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the project. The composition of the PMU will be at the discretion of the Responsible Party taking into account that the Responsible Party will be held to account i) for delivery of the project objective, outcomes and outputs (see Section IV), ii) through the demonstrable, effective and efficient achievement of the targets in the PRF (see Section VI), ii) through the monitoring and evaluation processes (see Section VII), and iii) through financial audits carried out by an independent and certified auditor (see also Section VII). Although the proposed team composition will be one of the criteria used to evaluate the bids that are submitted for the tendering process, the project team will include a Project Manager. The Project Manager will run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Responsible Party within the constraints laid down by the PB. It is expected that the Project Manager will be supported by a Procurement and Financial Officer (PFO), and together they will form the Project Management Unit (PMU). The suggested TORs for both the Project Manager and the PFO are included in Annex E. The PMU will not be housed in rented office space in a mutually convenient but neutral location from Government of Congo In-Kind contribution at Ouessou in the Sangha Region and UNDP-CO. Notably all project staff will be recruited by UNDP.

137. In addition, it is expected that one (or more) Technical Adviser(s)⁶ will be recruited on a part-time basis by the Responsible Parties to cover the technical aspects of the three different components (see Annex E for draft TOR for TA(s)).

138. The Responsible Parties will prepare annual workplans and budgets for approval by the Project Board. In addition, the Responsible Parties will be responsible for the preparation of all project reports including the project's Inception Report and the Project Implementation Reports (PIR) (see Section VII). The Responsible Party will be responsible for contracting consultants, partner organisations and/or contractual service companies that will be engaged to carry out the different aspects of the project, as necessary and as required.

⁶ If only one, s/he will be the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) on a full-time basis.

139. In addition, the RP may sub-contract other partners to implement different components or sub-components of the project. For example, a sub-contractor could be hired to implement the project in the different selected sites for Component One; a sub-contractor could be hired to implement the whole of Component Two; while a sub-contractor could be hired to implement the micro-credit schemes or the NRM processes under Component Three. How this is managed will be at the discretion of the Responsible Party under the guidance and oversight of the Implementing Party and the PB.

140. The functions of the Responsible Party will end when the final project terminal evaluation report and corresponding management response, and other documentation required by the GEF and UNDP, has been completed and submitted to UNDP (including operational closure of the project).

141. The Project Board is responsible for making, by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Responsible Party (with the Project Manager), including recommendation for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, final decision shall rest with the UNDP Programme Manager. The terms of reference for the Project Board are contained in Annex E. The Project Board is comprised of the following institutions:

- Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment chairing the PB;
- The UNDP Resident Representative;
- UNDP-GEF Coordinator
- The Advisor Program Manager of Environment and Poverty Unit
- The GEF Operational Focal Point;
- The Director General of Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas;
- The Director General of Forest Economy;
- The National Coordinator of the Micro Finance Programme of the Global Environment Fund;
- The Focal Point of COMIFAC;
- Observers (All Coordinators of the Projects and implementation of ongoing programs);
- The Responsible Party and the Project Management Unit (the secretariat of the meeting)

142. The Project Board will meet after the Inception Workshop and at least once each year thereafter. Attendance of the PB meetings will be monitored and attendance rate of the delegated people is expected to be no less than 80%. The PB will meet every twelve months; its major tasks involve:

- approve ongoing activities and partnership planned
- share information on anti-poaching actions, adjust and enhance communication between project stakeholders to keep the project focused on its initial objectives
- negotiate with national authorities to adapt and prevent harmful mining, industrial or agri-food projects which could encounter difficulties to integrate into the physical and social landscape as well as having a negative impact on biodiversity. This task does not represent a reject of any projects, because they also have a significant positive impact on employment, but to contribute to their framing so that they become adapted to the sustainable development strategy for the area, which is largely based on eco-tourism development.
- manage non-allocated resources of the project and new resources coming from different sources

- create a specific label for the zone which constitutes a protected area cooperative, and enhance communication about the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area and its recognition through a proper governance body.

143. The Project Manager , who will have the following tasks will be recruited by the Responsible Party under UNDP oversight will mainly focus on:

- the administration, implementation and coordination of all project activities; the design, planning, monitoring and evaluation of the program in collaboration with site assistants and with other partners; partnership coordination and support for the animation of the anti-poaching strategies and management of PAs; integration, coordination and animation of the team members who work to achieve the objectives which he is responsible. He also hosts the thematic platforms of local consultations; mobilizing resources and achieving the expected results of the project;
- coordinating project activities with activities of other government bodies;
- supervise project expenditures in accordance with the work plans and approved by the Steering Committee budgets;
- monitoring and reporting on the markets and the implementation of activities within the deadlines set by the PTA;
- approving the terms of reference for consultants and tendering documents for the inputs resulting in a subcontracting;
- reporting to UNDP on the implementation and impacts of the project.

144. An International Technical Adviser (ITA) will provide on a part time basis, overall professional and technical backstopping to the Project. He/She will render professional and technical support to the PMU, and other government counterparts. The ITA will support the provision of the required professional and technical inputs, reviewing and preparing Terms of Reference (TORs) and reviewing the outputs of service providers, experts and other sub-contractors. He/She will report directly to the RP.

145. The project assurance roll will be provided by the UNDP Country Office and additional quality assurance will be provided by the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor. Given that the project falls under the Global Wildlife Program, it is expected that additional support and quality assurance will be provided, as required and where available, by the GWP teams within the UNDP and the World Bank Group.

146. Finally, the project has been designed not just to take into account other initiatives within Congo but to work in cooperation and collaboration with them. The best example of this is the work that WB/GEF is planning with respect to institutional Capacity Building of the Congolese National Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas (ANFAP): this project works in synergy and mutual benefit with the AFD, the EU and NGOs programs and there are independencies. The full set of synergies, collaboration and coordination are fully described within Section IV Results and Partnerships of the UNDP-GEF Project Document.

147. In addition as a part of the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) the project will be implemented synchronously and in full collaboration and cooperation with the other projects that are being implemented under the GWP.

148. Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project’s deliverables and disclosure of information: In order to accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy⁷ and the GEF policy on public involvement⁸.

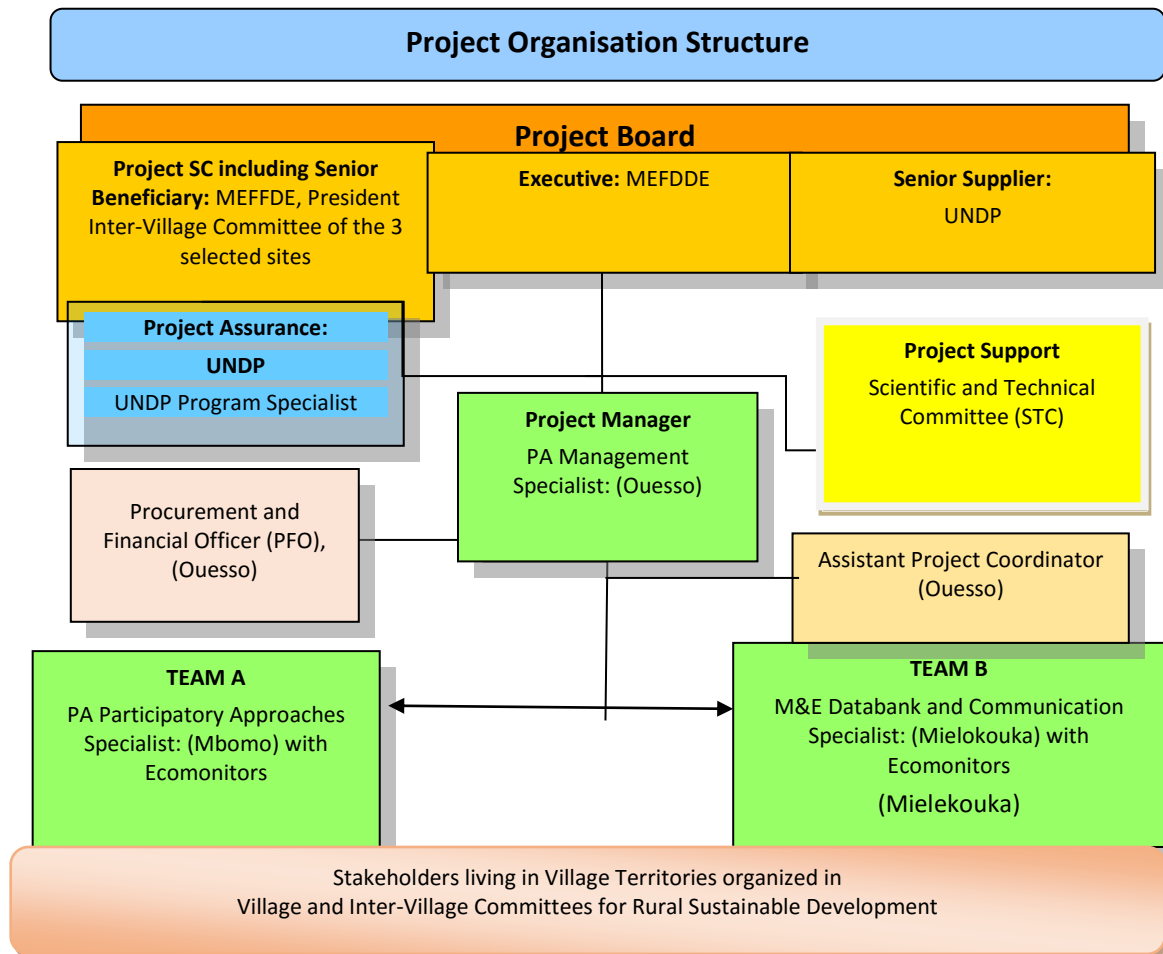


Fig. 5. Institutional Arrangement graph

⁷ See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/

⁸ See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

VIII. PLANNING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

149. The total cost of the project is USD 23,807,650. This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 3,125,250 and USD 1,000,000 from UNDP TRAC resources in cash contribution to be administered by UNDP, and USD 19,682,400 will be provided as co-financing (see details below). UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the execution of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to the UNDP bank account only.

150. Co-financing: The actual realization of project co-financing will be monitored during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process and will be reported to the GEF. The planned parallel co-financing will be used as follows:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount, USD	Planned Activities/Outputs	Risks	Risk Mitigation Measures
UNDP CONGO CO	Cash	1,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All outputs of Outcomes 3 and Project Management 	No Risk as Committed on TRAC Resources	<i>No Risk</i>
Government of Congo/Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment	In-kind	6,522,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects Outputs for Outcomes 1-2 Civil Servants part time jobs salaries including, SC, Scientific and Technical Committee, Rangers, Ecogardes and NWCEU Office buildings for the Project Coordination Unit at Ouessou and at Local Management Units in each of the project three selected sites 	Moderate Risk , Current financial crises of GoM may lead to staff salaries and office rentals delayed or decreased	<i>Support key functions for project from project budget, leverage additional resources through partnerships with International NGOs</i>
Congo Conservation Company	Parallel cash	4,360,000	Outputs 1.1-1.2 and 3.1-3.4 mainly around OKNP	Low , possible decline of tourism economy due to insecurity and Ebola may decrease the sum	Leverage necessary funds from other companies and donors
Eco-Oil Energie	Parallel cash	2,150,000	Outputs 3.1 - 3.3 via support of small scale oil palm plantation and products processing by local communities	Low , growing prices for palm oil in the world	Leverage necessary funds from other companies and donors

Wildlife Conservation Society	Parallel cash	1,250,000	Outputs 1.1-1.3, 2.5, and 3.1-3.4 in the central and northern parts of OKNP	No risk – fully committed beyond the project lifetime	-
Industrie Forestière de Ouesso	Parallel cash	1,250,000	Outputs 1.1-1.3, and 3.1-3.5	Low , due to high annual payment of logging companies to state reserves.	Leverage necessary funds from other companies and donors
WWF/ETIC	Parallel cash	4,150,000	Outputs 1.3, 2.1-2.4 in Ngombe Logging Conservation Series of mining and logging concessions and all across OKNP buffer zones.	No risk – fully committed beyond the project lifetime	-
TOTAL COFINANCING		20,682,400			

Overall risk of the failure to receive planned co-financing was evaluated as **low**. The co-financing letters from each co-financing organization are in the project mandatory annexes section.

151. **Budget Revision and Tolerance:** As per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP, the project board will agree on a budget tolerance level for each plan under the overall annual work plan allowing the project manager to expend up to the tolerance level beyond the approved project budget amount for the year without requiring a revision from the Project Board. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager and UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the UNDP-GEF team as these are considered major amendments by the GEF:

- a) Budget re-allocations among components in the project with amounts involving 10% of the total project grant or more;
- b) Introduction of new budget items/or components that exceed 5% of original GEF allocation.

152. Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount will be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

153. **Refund to Donor:** Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the UNDP-GEF Unit in New York.

154. **Project Closure:** Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. On an exceptional basis only, a no-cost extension beyond the initial duration of the project will be sought from in-country UNDP colleagues and then the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator.

155. **Operational completion:** The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the relevant parties will have already agreed and confirmed in writing on the arrangements for the disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

156. **Financial completion:** The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met:

- a) The project is operationally completed or has been cancelled;

- b) The Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP;
- c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project;
- d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

157. The project will be financially completed within 12 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the UNDP-GEF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

IX. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan			
Atlas Proposal or Award ID:	Award ID: 00092643	Atlas Primary Output Project ID:	00097266
Atlas Proposal or Award Title:	Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo		
Atlas Business Unit	COG10		
Atlas Primary Output Project Title	Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo		
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	5612		
Implementing Partner & Responsible Parties	Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (MEFDDE)		

ATLAS ACTIVITIES / GEF OUTCOMES	Responsible Party	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 US \$	Amount Year 2 US \$	Amount Year 3 US \$	Amount Year 4 US \$	Amount Year 5 US \$	Amount Year 6 US \$	TOTAL PROJECT US \$	Budget Notes
Component 1: Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo Basin	GOC/MEFDDE	62000	GEF (10003)	71200	International consultants	48000	18000	0	0	0	0	66,000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	41000	35700	35700	0	0	0	112,400	2
				71400	Contractual Services- Individual	18000	18000	18000	18000	18000	18000	108,000	3
				71600	Travel	53620	46280	46280	46280	0	0	192,460	4
				72100	Contractual Services- Companies	30000	40000	40000	25000	0	0	135,000	5
				72200	Equipment and furniture	161000	140000	40000	0	0	0	341,000	6
				72600	Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
				72800	Information Technology Equipment	22500	45000	94500	0	0	0	162,000	8
				73400	Rental and Maintenance of other equipment	3900	5100	5100	5100	5100	0	24,300	9
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	800	600	400	350	190	0	2,340	10
Sub-Total GEF						378,820	348,680	279,980	94,730	23,290	18000	1,143,500	
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 1						378,820	348,680	279,980	94,730	23,290	18,000	1,143,500	
Component 2. Strengthened institutional capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade	GOC/MEFDDE	4000	UNDP (00012)	71200	International consultants	12000	0	0	0	0	0	12000	11
				71300	Local Consultants	26000	24000	24000	24000	22500	0	120,500	12
				71400	Contractual Services- Individual	18000	18000	18000	18000	18000	18000	108,000	13
				71600	Travel	20320	20800	30600	30200	30200	0	132,120	14

governance				72100	Contractual Services- Companies	100000	100000	56,000	50,000	50000	0	356,000	15	
				72200	Equipment and furniture	70000	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,000	16
				72300	Materials and Goods	77000	0	0	0	0	0	0	77,000	17
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	4000	3000	2000	1000	880	0	10,880	18	
				Sub-Total GEF		327,320	165,800	130,600	123,200	121,580	18,000	886,500		
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 2						327,320	165,800	1130,600	123,200	121,580	18000	886,500		
Component 3: Reducing poaching and illegal trade in threatened species at site levels via CBNRM and sustainable livelihoods	GOC/MEFDDE	4000	UNDP (00012)	71200	International consultants	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	19	
				71300	Local Consultants	32,000	0	0	0	0	18000	50,000	20	
				71300	Local Consultants	29,000	0	0	0	0	0	29,000	21	
				72100	Contractual Services- Companies	84,399	75,000	75,000	65,000	65000	47000	411,399	22	
				Sub-total UNDP		157,399	75,000	75,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	502,399		
	GOC/MEFDDE	62000	GEF	71600	Travel	21,360	21,360	21360	21360	21360	0	106,800	23	
				72200	Equipment and furniture	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	500,000	24	
				72100	Contractual Services- Companies	100,000	202,000	0	0	0	0	302,000	25	
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	8,000	7,000	6,000	5,000	4187	0	30,187	26	
				Sub-Total GEF		629,360	230,360	27,360	26,360	25,547	0	938,987		
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 3						786,759	305,360	102,360	91,360	90,547	65,000	1,441,386		
Component 4: Gender Mainstreaming, Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management	GOC/MEFDDE	4000	UNDP (00012)	71300	Local Consultants	0	0	12000	0	12000	0	24000	27	
				71400	Contractual Services- Individual	14,410	14,800	14,400	14,200	6,990	7,200	72000	28	
				71600	Travel	0	12,330	0	12330	0	0	24,660	29	
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	690	600	600	600	600	0	3,090	30	
				Sub-Total UNDP		15,100	27,730	27,000	27,130	19,590	7,200	123,750		
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 4						15,100	27,730	27,000	27,130	19,590	7,200	123,750		
Project Management	GOC/MEFDDE	62000	GEF	74598	Direct Project Cost	5418	5419	5419	5419	5419	5419	32513	31	
				71200	International consultants	0	0	20000	0	0	22500	42500	32	
				71300	Local Consultants	0	0	10000	0	0	12500	22500		

			72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	1500	3000	3000	3000	3000	1500	15000	33
			72500	Supplies	1000	2000	2000	2000	2000	1000	10000	34
			74100	Professional Services	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	18000	35
			74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1900	3007	3007	3007	3007	1823	15,750	30
			Sub-Total GEF		12,818	16,426	46,426	16,426	16,426	47742	156,263	
			71400	Contractual Services- Individual	54000	41370	42100	41970	49510	61900	290,850	32
			Sub-total UNDP		54000	41370	42100	41970	49,510	61,900	290,850	
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 5					66,818	57,796	88,526	58,396	65,936	109,642	447,113	
TOTAL GEF					1,348,318	761,266	484,366	260,716	186,843	83,742	3,125,250	
TOTAL UNDP					242,398	159,700	160,100	150,300	144,055	143,446	1,000,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET					1,590,716	920,966	644,466	411,016	330,898	227,188	4,125,250	

PROJECT BUDGET NOTES

See Budget Note per line	Budget line cost (USD)	Description
COMPONENT 1		
1	66,000	Part-time International consultant for 6 months to lead on the development of the PA zoning and Integrated Management Plans for 3 project PAs (Outputs 1.2 and 1.3).
2	112,400	4 national consultants to support the participatory development of the Integrated Management Plans for three project PAs and prepare documents for the PA zoning; development of justification documents and lead consultation process for establishment of Messok Dja National Park (Outputs 1.1 and 1.3).
3	108,000	Salary of the technical assistant/ expert for preparation of local development plans integrated with IMPs for 10 communities adjacent to the target PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Outputs 1.3)
4	192,460	Travel and per diem expenses for international and national consultants, and technical assistant to develop IMPs for 3 PAs, design PA zoning, prepare documents for establishment of Messok Dja National Park, and prepare local development plans for 10 local communities adjacent to the target PAs
5	135,000	Trainings for 3 PA staff on advanced law enforcement and surveillance, wildlife monitoring techniques, financial management and inter-agency collaboration. Training for 10 local communities on community-based anti-poaching surveillance and wildlife

		monitoring, capacity building for 200 local eco-monitors (Output 1.4)
6	341,000	Acquisition of law enforcement and wildlife monitoring equipment (vehicles and field equipment) for 3 target PAs (Output 1.4)
7	0	
8	162,000	Purchase of electronic equipment (GPS units, digital cameras, radios, computers) for law enforcement and wildlife monitoring groups of the 3 target PAs and eco-monitors (Output 1.4)
9	24,300	Fuel for vehicles and rental of meeting rooms for consultative meetings with local communities and PA staff under Outputs 1.1.-1.2 and for trainings of the PA staff and eco-monitors (Output 1.4)
10	2,340	Miscellaneous expenses
COMPONENT 2		
11	12,000	International consultant for 20 working days to lead on the participatory process of review of the National IWT Strategy, identify the gaps in the document and develop a plan to update the Strategy (Output 2.1)
12	120,500	3 National Consultants to develop updated draft of the National IWT Strategy, agree it with key stakeholders and prepare for approval by the Government; develop proposals and TORs for establishment of National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit; make review of the gaps in the National IWT legislation and develop drafts of the legislation amendments (Outputs 2.1-2.3)
13	108,000	Recruitment of a National Expert to provide necessary training on the law enforcement techniques and technologies for the staff of the newly established National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit (Output 2.2) and develop mandatory law enforcement training programmes for the IWT Enforcement Training Center in Lebango (Output 2.4)
14	132,120	Initial support of operations and patrolling of the National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Output 2.2)
15	356,000	Contract for the acquisition and management of one detection dog unit in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area: 4 dogs and 4 handlers, construction of special facility and purchase of equipment, training for the dogs and handlers (Output 2.5)
16	70,000	Contract for the provision of services to equip bedrooms at the IWT Enforcement Training Center in Lebango (beds, mosquito nets, kitchen) and equipment for NWCEU (Outputs 2.2 and 2.4)
17	77,000	Contract for the provision of materials and services for the refurbishment and extension of the IWT Enforcement Training Center in Lebango (Output 2.4)
18	10,880	Micellaneous expenses
COMPONENT 3		
19	12,000	International consultant for 20 days to elaborate a strategy for development of CBNRM, SLM and SFM around 3 target PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Output 3.1)
20	50,000	2 National Consultants to develop detailed training programmes for local communities on CBNRM, SLM and SFM and most economically viable alternatives to poaching around 3 target PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area; and training programs for local mining and logging concessions on the sustainable management of NRs (Output 3.5);
21	29,000	Recruitment of 2 national consultants rural sensitization and sustainable rural development to deliver trainings for local

		communities on CBNRM, SLM and SFM and most economically viable alternatives to poaching around 3 target PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Output 3.2); and trainings for local mining and logging concessions on the sustainable management of NRs (Output 3.5)
22	411,399	Contract for the provision of services for the implementation of the small grant and microcredit initiative in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area through the GEF SGP, including establishment of micro-finance committee and micro-loans (Output 3.2)
23	106,800	Travel expenses for the experts to provide trainings to local communities and local mining and logging concessions under Outputs 3.2 and 3.5
24	500,000	Contract for the provision of services to equip 30 villages with small-scale solar power plants ensuring village lighting and the promotion of rural entrepreneurship services to contribute in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases and provision of equipment to supply rural homes with improved cooking stoves in view of reducing deforestation and ensuring sustainable forest management; necessary equipment for implementation of pilot projects (Output 3.3-3.4)
25	302,000	Contractual Services-Companies for the Development and support for pilot and demonstration projects on CBNRM, SLM and SFM and most economically viable alternatives to poaching around 3 target PAs in the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area (Output 3.3)
26	30,188	Miscellaneous Expenses
COMPONENT 4		
27	24,000	Capitalization of the lessons of experience of the project in the preventive and active fight against poaching and publication of information on the project web site with links to UNDP and the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the Environment (MEFDD) Websites (Output 4.2)
28	72,000	Recruitment of an expert in monitoring and evaluation, website and database management and communication for disseminating the achievements of the project; with appropriate materials, briefs, leaflets, posters and radio and television broadcasts (Output 4.1)
29	24,660	Missions to exchange experiences at national and cross-border levels (Output 4.2)
30	3,090	Miscellaneous Expenses
31	32,513	Direct project costs will be charged at the end of each year based on the UNDP Universal Pricelist (UPL) or the actual corresponding service cost. The amounts indicated here are estimations, however as part of annual project operational planning the Direct Project Costs to be requested during that calendar year would be defined and the amount included in the yearly budgets.
32	65,000	Consultants for Monitoring and Evaluation including Tracking Tools Mid-Term Review and Project Terminal Evaluation
33	15,000	Communication, including cell phone contracts or airtime and internet connectivity
34	10,000	Office supplies
35	18,000	Audit as per UNDP Annually Audit policies
32	290,850	Recruitment of a National Coordinator, one administration and finance assistant and one Management Assistant

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document [and the Project Cooperation Agreement between UNDP and the Implementing Partner]⁹.

The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/qa_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under/further to this Project Document".

Note that any designations on maps or other references employed in this project document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

⁹ Use bracketed text only when IP is an NGO/IGO