



# PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: September 8, 2008

Re-submission Date: September 15, 2008; October 10, 2008

## PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEF PROJECT ID<sup>1</sup>: PROJECT DURATION: 5 years

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 605522

COUNTRY(IES): Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon

PROJECT TITLE: Sustainable management of the wildlife and bushmeat sector in Central Africa

GEF AGENCY(IES): FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), Réseau des aires protégées d'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC), World Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Centre International de Coopération en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Organisation pour la Conservation de la Faune Sauvage en Afrique (OCFSA), Institut de recherche écologique tropical /centre national de recherche scientifique et technique (IRET/CENAREST), National institutions responsible for forestry, wildlife and rural development

GEF FOCAL AREA (S)<sup>2</sup>: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): BD-SP 4

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable): CONGO BASIN INITIATIVE

PROJECT PROMOTES SOUND CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT (if applicable): yes  no

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	Nov 2008
CEO Endorsement/Approval	June 2010
Agency Approval Date	August 2010
Implementation Start	October 2010
Mid-term Evaluation	Sept 2013
Project Closing Date	Sept 2015

### A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK (Expand table as necessary)

Project Objective: Reinforce the forest functions, structure and viability of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin with special regard to faunal biodiversity and the regulations for the management of hunting								
Project Components	Investment, TA, or STA**	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing*		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$) c = a + b
				(\$ a)	%	(\$ b)	%	
1. Management of wildlife resources through development and implementation of policies and associated national strategies including legislation	30% TA 30% STA 40 % inv.	Locally based consumption is sustainable and commercial large-scale trade is restricted; Multi-sector management authorities create accountability across government for activities under the national strategies; regional collaboration strengthened;	National Strategies for bushmeat consumption and trade developed and strengthened; National bodies mandated with authority and budget to implement these strategies;	190,272	19	800,000	81	990,272
2. Raising awareness of stakeholders concerned through outreach, extension information dissemination and training on the bushmeat crisis and the national strategy, including private sector stakeholders	5% inv. 95% TA	Increased public support for wildlife management and conservation; Awareness and application of regulations on bushmeat increased; Adherence to regulations increased.	Public awareness raising and training plan developed and implemented; Material to support the plan prepared and training organized; Performance of public awareness plan assessed	180,272	15	1,000,000	85	1,180,272

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned initially by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

3. Understanding of the issue increased through reinforcement and support to monitoring and data collection systems.	40% inv 20% TA 40% STA	Local institutions with greater capacity to provide relevant advice/decisions for the future; National strategy bodies review and adaptively manage activities in response to monitoring reports	Wildlife population and bushmeat monitoring system developed and implemented Regional and national institutions involved in monitoring activities Regular reports regarding the bushmeat situation published; National strategies reviewed on the basis of lessons learnt	374,363	27	1,000,000	73	1,374,363
4. Development of alternative livelihoods to the bushmeat trade.	20% inv 80% TA	Demonstrable local reductions in bushmeat harvest and use as a result of these alternatives.	Viable economic alternatives identified and adopted by communities. Pilot operations designed and implemented by communities Technical guidelines and other extension materials developed Community-based enterprises developed.	859,273	41	1,200,000	59	2,059,273
5. Community-based wildlife management (CBWM).	100% TA	CBWM groups legally established. Management plans exist for local wildlife resources and are approved by the National Strategy authority.	Best CBWM practices identified and adopted through a participatory approach. Pilot operations designed and implemented (management plan developed, social institution – rules, organization- set up). . Tenure arrangements enabling devolution of user rights and management responsibilities negotiated Community-based enterprises developed	2,216,727	61	1,400,000	39	3,616,727
6. Project management				424,545	41	600,000	59	1,024,545
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>4,245,452</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10,245,452</b>

\* List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively to the total amount for the component.  
\*\* TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & technical analysis.

#### B. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Project Preparation (a)		Project (b)	Total C = a + b	Agency Fee
	PDF-A/B	PPG			
GEF	0	300,000	4,245,452	4,545,452	454,548
Co-financing	0	300,000	6,000,000	6,300,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>10,245,452</b>	<b>10,845,452</b>	<b>454,548</b>

**C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT PREPARATION AND FOR PROJECT BY SOURCE and BY NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)**

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project Preparation	Project	Total
Project Government Contribution	In-kind	120,000	1,600,000	1,720,000
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	In-kind	150,000	1,000,000	1,150,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	Unknown at this stage			
Multilateral Agency(ies)	In-kind		2,500,000	2,500,000
Private Sector	In-kind	5,000	300,000	305,000
NGO	In-kind	20,000	500,000	520,000
Others	In-kind	5,000	100,000	105,000
<b>Total co-financing</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>

**D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)\***

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)			
			PPG** (a)	Project (b)	Agency Fee (c)	Total d=a+b+c
FAO	Biodiversity	Gabon	50,000	404,545	45,455	500,000
FAO	Biodiversity	RCA	50,000	404,545	45,455	500,000
FAO	Biodiversity	DRC	50,000	404,545	45,455	500,000
FAO	Biodiversity	Congo Rep.	50,000	404,545	45,455	500,000
FAO	TFA	Global	100,000	2,627,272	272,728	3,000,000
(select)	(select)					
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>			<b>300,000</b>	<b>4,245,452</b>	<b>454,548</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

\* No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

\*\* Input only if PPG request submitted with PIF; if no PPG requested, leave the column blank.

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:** Wildlife resources in the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin include endemic and endangered species, and are an important aspect of forest biodiversity. Wildlife species make a significant contribution to the maintenance of forests' ecological services and forest health. Forests empty of mammalian wildlife have been shown to have altered seedling establishment patterns, including non-establishment of some trees with obligate large mammal dispersers and intolerance for establishment beneath a parent tree. Forests lacking large mammals, such as elephants, show key structural differences from intact forests, particularly in relation to the open saline areas critical to many other forest species and the under-storey density, which affects predator-prey relations. As animal species are removed from a community by hunting, ecosystem relationships previously held in equilibrium (such as predator-prey relationships or inter-specific feeding competition that control wild populations, disease and parasite transmission that is limited by normal population density), are disrupted and ecological services to all other forest dwellers, including humans are degraded. Human population growth, instability and recent urbanization, extraction of natural resources and associated increased infrastructure and transport, altered land tenure & access to resources, the use of advanced firearms and snares, and the lack of rural economic alternatives have dramatically increased the commercial trade of bushmeat between villages and cities of the Congo Basin in the last 20 years. This new commercial use of wild meat has altered the balance between rural human communities and their local wildlife resources, which are now being used to sustain much larger, distant urban centers. Commercial hunting and trade of wild animals for meat has reached unsustainable levels in the majority of the Congo Basin, as the natural regeneration ability of wildlife populations is not high enough to match the demand of wild animals for meat. Unsustainable extraction of bushmeat in many areas threatens both the survival of a wide range of wildlife species and the food-security of forest-dwellers, even in the short to medium term (5-10 years). This in turn is leading to profound disturbance of the regenerative ability of the forest and the degradation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems. In cases where local wildlife species are entirely extirpated, these changes will be near-irreversible. The complete eradication of the bushmeat trade in the Congo basin is not currently desirable, nor does it have grass-roots or political support:

many rural people still rely heavily on wild animals as a protein source with often no alternatives available, and a high cultural value is still placed on bushmeat for traditional, ceremonial meals. However, sustainable off-take of a few, locally abundant, fast-breeding species is believed to be possible, as long as it is based on solid data with regard to the local status of wildlife populations and management strategies which allow for regular adaptation to wildlife population responses. Solutions which allow rural inhabitants to sustainably take bushmeat to partially satisfy local protein demands, have access to affordable alternative protein sources and regulate commercial exploitation of wildlife resources to sustainable levels, will lead to conservation of the wildlife for future generations and long term food-security for rural communities. At present, the capacity for regulation of the trade in the region, and the implementation of policies and regulations is weak in all countries. Alternative livelihoods are limited and many populations are unaware of central regulations regarding bushmeat, though most recognise a local need for better regulation in the face of the recent wildlife declines they have witnessed. In order to regulate the current over exploitation of bushmeat to sustainable levels, the following things must happen:

- 1) Management of wildlife resources should be enhanced. Countries must define National goals and ensure that the legal framework available for management will allow them to achieve these goals, then define and ratify a practical national strategy for bushmeat management in the short to medium term (5-10 years), detailing their goals for sustainable rural exploitation, supply to urban commercial markets, protection of associated livelihoods (traders, hunters) and protection of key wildlife species. Countries need capacity radically increased; local capacity in law enforcement to support compliance with local wildlife management plans, adaptive management and monitoring of results. Many areas have already reduced their local wildlife to a critical state, where no off-take is currently possible without further population declines, in these areas, economic alternatives are critical. The project will seek to identify and promote an innovative range of alternative livelihoods in keeping with local skills and traditions, with the strong involvement of national (extension) institutes. In doing this, the project will undertake baseline monitoring and initiate long-term monitoring (including appropriate national capacity building for future autonomous monitoring) of the economic effects of alternative livelihood development on the community well-being, and the resulting reduction of any unsustainable bushmeat harvest, such that the relevance and effective contribution of alternatives to the core aim of reduction of the bushmeat harvest to sustainable levels can be empirically evaluated, and strategies redefined in response. Community-based wildlife management must be enabled and included as an option in the national strategy. The project shall assist national and local government in the countries to identify any current national governance or regulatory obstacles to the establishment of community wildlife management groups, or local wildlife management bylaws, including rights to define access rights and quotas and to enforce penalties for non-compliance with locally-defined management plans. The project will take a participatory approach to identifying best practices for community-based wildlife management, referring to lessons learned from long-term management examples in other regions, and assessing the local feasibility of applying identified best practice (addressed in component 1, 4 and 5).
  - 2) Awareness raising of key stakeholders and the population. Awareness should be raised of the problem, the national strategy, the legal realities, the potential for economic alternatives and the possibility of community based wildlife management, such that there is grass-roots support for the initiative. The project seeks to develop, strengthen, publicise and implement bushmeat use policies, associated strategies and legislation for the regulation of bushmeat hunting and trade in the region, and to sensitize and build capacity within law enforcement institutions, dependent rural communities, private sector players and other relevant stakeholders. Lessons learned with regard to collaboration with the private sector (concessionaries) will be identified and scaled up as well as replicated at other sites. Besides national activities, a regional approach to taking these steps will increase popular support, as the ideas become commonplace in all countries (this will be addressed in component 2).
  - 3) The status of wildlife populations and the impact of bushmeat management strategies should be better understood. The project will strengthen national capacity for relevant research, monitoring and advocacy, as well as identify and implement mechanisms for sustainable financing of appropriate national institutes. The status of the wildlife populations must be assessed, and local management strategies tailored to local possibilities in the short, medium and long-term. The project will endeavour to rigorously examine the impact on bushmeat use of any past projects to develop rural economic growth in the region, before deciding on appropriate methods. Tools, including sampling designs, data storage and management systems and statistical analysis approaches for evaluation of community well-being, socio-economic status, bushmeat consumption and hunting off-takes can be developed centrally for application across the region. This will have the added benefit of creating harmony in nationally-maintained databases, which will facilitate regional comparisons of the effectiveness of different mitigation strategies in different socio-economic or cultural contexts and facilitate the evaluation of cross-border trade problems (This will be addressed in components 3).
- 3). Through its regional coordination, the project will seek to replicate successful examples of local management,

and according to a regional analysis of site-specific circumstances, scale-up and implement best models. The project does not seek to implement the same strategy or local approach in all countries, rather to focus on each country's areas of need within the overall roadmap defined above, and thus to define national project plans. By organizing consultations and workshops at the national level during the project preparation phase, national priorities will be defined, in consultation with the national GEF and CBD focal points, COMIFAC representatives, Bushmeat working group focal points and other technical experts. The components outlined above may therefore not all be equally implemented in each country.

Overall, the project seeks to improve the management of faunal resources, reinforce the capacities of public, private and civil society stakeholders, and to put in place an appropriate and efficient mechanism for monitoring and regulation of bushmeat trade. The sub-regional approach is key to harmonizing strategies and activities and would thus avoid unsustainable bushmeat trade to be relocated from one country to adjacent neighbouring countries.

The expected global environmental benefits are critical protection of the faunal biodiversity of the region, protection of the key environmental service of provision of food for forest dwellers, general higher long-term resilience of the ecosystems in the Congo Basin to human and climatic disturbances, leading to the maintenance of many important forest functions and the provision of other ecological services such as carbon sequestration or hydrological services. Moreover, the extinction-risk of highly endangered species, including primates, will be lessened.

- B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:** The four countries have confirmed their support for this PIF in a consultative process under the GEF initiative 'Support for sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin'. Its objectives are in line with national sectoral policies for environment and sustainable development, water and forests and agriculture. In Gabon, Projet Gibier, a collaboration between the Ministry of Water and Forests, WCS and CIRMF (Centre International de Recherches Medicales, International Centre for Medical Research), has been carrying out research on the trade and consumption of bushmeat for the last 7 years. The experience has elucidated scientifically robust sampling strategies and quantified their ability to detect trends in commerce and consumption. This project will be able use these tools, data collection protocols and sampling strategies for monitoring, as well and lessons learned in how to translate field data to governance, and extend their application to aid monitoring and adaptive management in other countries in other countries. National priorities regarding management of wildlife resources will be set in the project preparation phase through consultative processes. The project will build upon previous national initiatives in the four countries, as described in detail in section D.
- C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:** The project will support the following strategic programs: **Strategic long-term Objective Biodiversity 2: To mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes/seascapes and sectors**, Strategic Program for GEF-4 4: 'Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity' by ensuring wildlife and particularly bushmeat issues will be adequately addressed in policies, legislative, and regulatory frameworks guiding the actions of the production sectors, and being implemented by national and decentralized governmental institutes. The project will strengthen factors which could hamper protection and sustainable use of faunal biodiversity such as inadequate legislative frameworks for local management groups, weak national management capacity and a lack of scientific monitoring and data. The data generated through the project will increase understanding of the value of wildlife and bushmeat, and its contribution to food security and national development. Private and public actors will be sensitized and trained on policy and regulation regarding bushmeat use and trade, and a facilitating environment will be created to enforce regulations. Moreover, incentives will be created for conservation of biodiversity by establishing community-based management of wildlife.
- D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:** Project objectives are in line with COMIFAC's 'Plan de Convergence' for the conservation and sustainable management of forest and savanna ecosystems, specifically with axes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Project objectives are in line with conventions like CITES, CBD etc. The CITES Bushmeat Working Group, established in 2000 at CITES CoP 11, with the mandate to 'examine issues related to the bushmeat trade and identify solutions that can be willingly implemented by the range states'. At CITES CoP 13, the CITES secretariat called upon relevant international organizations and the secretariats and parties to international treaties to provide assistance to regulating the trade in bushmeat and tackling the associated issues of poverty, habitat degradation, human population growth and utilization of natural resources. This project will actively seek to work with the designated BWG point persons in each country and canvass technical support from the wide BWG expertise where appropriate. The reports of the BWG provide a starting point of nationally-identified priorities and possible mitigation activities, which will be assessed for implementation by the project.. Within individual countries, several

existing or past projects can already provide starting points for activities that this project may build upon. A UNDP GEF-funded project entitled 'Conservation of biodiversity through effective management of wildlife trade' in the region aimed to strengthen national capacities, improve knowledge of the impact of wildlife trade and assist in the development and implementation of sustainable trade strategies. It was completed in 1998. The evaluation showed that the mechanism put in place to regulate wildlife trade in Gabon needed fine-tuning. In response, Gabon has been pursuing the development of a National Strategy for Management of the Bushmeat Industry since 2000, including the work of Projet Gibier, and has also undertaken a full revision of the wildlife laws. These two parallel processes are nearing completion, with ratification of Gabon's National Strategy, including the publication of the new legal texts, planned for September 2008. This project will be able to build upon the lessons learned during the earlier GEF project and the process of strategy development subsequently undertaken in Gabon, and will thus be well-placed both to support Gabon in implementation of its new governance strategy, and to enable other participating countries to use that experience to accelerate development of their own national strategies, through diffusion of lessons learned and sharing of successful models. The project's regional stance will help to ensure that the national strategies of neighbouring countries are complementary. Work towards these governance goals will include strengthening technical capacity for data evaluation and strategy adaptation within management committee memberships, as well as ensuring the sustainable financing of monitoring and research institutes. In Congo and Gabon, reported practical experiences of building private sector partnerships for bushmeat harvest regulation (PROGEPP, Minkebe-Bordamur) can serve as models for best practice in this area, and a starting point for developing frameworks for community management models. Though outside the project's geographic scope, the CAMRAIL project in Cameroon, which is successfully reducing bushmeat transport by rail, can also serve as a model for practical intervention in the region, particularly Gabon. The Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo have fewer recognised examples of successful bushmeat management strategies, largely due to instability in recent times. The region hosts several large international projects to reinforce protected area management and implement activities around protected areas: CAWHFI (Central African World Heritage Forests Initiative), ECOFAC (*Ecosystemes Forestières en Afrique Centrale*), RAPAC (*Réseau des Aires Protégées en Afrique Centrale*). This project will maintain strong linkages with these projects, and will actively promote information sharing. Where appropriate, the project will seek to support activities of these projects, particularly in developing community participation in management of resources. Several other large agencies have programs and projects in the region (FFEM, World Bank, CBFP, CARPE), which have noted that better management of wild animals for meat falls within their objectives, and support various NGO executing partners to undertake projects related to regulation of trade and management of harvests. This project will seek to share information and harmonize activities with all donor agencies and implementation agencies wherever possible and to collaborate on activities that contribute to common goals. The large conservation NGO's, WWF and WCS have active programs for regulation of Wildlife hunting and Trade and country programs that operate practical projects in the field to reduce impacts on wildlife whilst maintaining local access to the resource. This project will work with NGO partners in the four countries to ensure consensus on the development of the National Strategies and best practices for activities within the region.

The project was, from its very beginning, prepared in close collaboration with the organizations/initiatives in the countries and sub-region. Efforts will continue during project preparation to ensure that the project complements ongoing initiatives, such as the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI). Partnerships will be strengthened with current partner, including national forest and wildlife administrations, UNESCO, WWF, CI, WCS, FFEM, etc. RAPAC was also closely involved from the very beginning. The countries support this proposed project and its linkages to the existing initiatives.

- E. DESCRIBE PROJECT-RELATED ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS; OR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE PURSUED IF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS AVAILABLE (if applicable): not applicable**
- F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :** GEF support will enable the ongoing initial national activities to regulate bushmeat exploitation to be intensified simultaneously in all four participating countries, which not only share similar problems, but also in effect share populations of animal species which inhabit adjacent transboundary forests. This sub-regional project is key to harmonizing approaches and activities and would thus avoid unsustainable bushmeat trade to be relocated from one country to adjacent neighbouring countries. At the same time, intercountry cooperation on data collection and

monitoring of the wildlife base and bushmeat trade and in training and capacity building activities will be more economical. GEF support to strengthen and expand existing initiatives to regulate hunting and trade will raise the issue of globally endangered species on the agenda of relevant stakeholders in the sub-region, and will ensure more effective protection.

**G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:** Initiatives in the past have experienced risks associated with a lack of dedication from institutional stakeholders to bring activities associated with regulating commercial bushmeat trade successfully to completion. The current project aims to address this risk, by placing national ministries and intergovernmental organizations in an important monitoring position. A well-known risk for the sub-region is political instability and associated civil unrest or war, however this risk is not considered un-manageable for all four participating countries, and can be addressed more accurately during the project preparation period.

**H. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:**

By using the regional approach and working simultaneously in countries that share similar challenges, the cost effectiveness of the project is enhanced in a number of ways including: (i) sharing of information resources, lessons learned and best practices; (ii) project management and coordination is shared among countries; (iii) building upon relevant past and ongoing initiatives in the region. Additionally, harmonization of policies and national strategies will avoid unsustainable bushmeat consumption and trade to be relocated from one country to another. The project design is more cost effective than an alternative design based on national projects.

Regarding the implementation of the GEF operation, FAO as the United Nations specialized agency responsible not only for food security but also with sustainable management of natural resources, will provide essential strategic support in terms of technical information and implementation.

The exact estimation and assessment of the cost-effectiveness aspects of the project will be further examined during the project preparation period.

Since one of the main principles of the Congo Basin program and the projects around BD-SP4 is to develop tangible results in the field, the major part of the allocation will be devoted to pilot operations at field level. The policy work under the component 1 will build on the existing policies and strategies and the expenses for their further development under this component should be not represent much comparing to the field work and practical implementation of existing policies and legislation. For the field work the project will build on existing networks and institutions (National authorities, RAPAC, WWF, WCS, CAWHFI, FFEM, etc.) which should allow better cost-effectiveness.

**I. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:** FAO's mandate is food security as well as conservation of natural resources for future food security and income generation. FAO's main areas of work are putting information within reach, sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations and bringing knowledge to the field; this project falls perfectly in line with these four spearpoints. FAO has the relevant practical experience with sustainable forest management, wildlife management, community-based natural resource management, aquaculture, wildlife rearing and other alternative livelihoods, the development of policy and participative decision making. Through statutory bodies like the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and its subsidiary body the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas, the strong collaboration with COMIFAC and previous work in the sub-region on the development of National Strategies for the management of bushmeat, FAO is well placed to develop appropriate policy and legislation, to identify innovative practices to address bushmeat and wildlife management issues and to implement best practices. FAO with its permanent relationships with the participating governments as well as other inter-governmental bodies, agencies, NGO's and research institutes, has the appropriate technical and political structure that is required.

Member countries have repeatedly requested FAO for assistance on the bushmeat crisis. One of the agenda items of the Twenty-Third FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2004 was "The Bushmeat Crisis in Africa: Conciliating Food Security and Biodiversity Conservation in the continent" (see

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/008/j2763e/j2763e05.htm#bm05.2> ). FAO has been involved in the formulation of national strategies on bushmeat in several African countries through national and regional workshops and in the preparation of technical and policy documents. Some examples of FAO activities in this field include:

- Atelier de Formulation & Elaboration de la Stratégie Nationale sur la viande de brousse, Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche, FAO, December 2002 - Gabon
- Atelier Elaboration de la strategie et du plan d'action national sur la viande de brousse FAO, CITES BWG, WWF-CARPO, October 2003 - Republic of Congo
- Atelier sur l'élaboration d'un Plan d'Action du Cameroun sur la viande de brousse MINEF, UICN, DABAC, FAO, November 2003 - Cameroon
- International Expert Meeting on Non-Wood Forest Products in Central Africa, FAO Current research issues and prospects for conservation and development
- Document on "Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis"  
(<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ai569e/ai569e00.pdf>)
- African Forestry and Wildlife Commission - Fifteenth session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas – Report on the bushmeat crisis in West Africa  
(<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/MEETING/007/J1791E/J1791E00.htm#TopOfPage>)
- Report of the in-Session Seminar on the theme: Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources, The Bushmeat Crisis at the 14th Session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas  
(<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/y6608e/y6608e00.htm>)
- Evaluation de la problématique de la viande de brousse en Guinée  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai570f/ai570f00.htm>

The project, in collaboration with other partners, should continue to support member countries in the implementation of their existing strategies to address the bushmeat crisis.

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

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**  
 (Please attach the country endorsement letter(s) or regional endorsement letter(s) with this template).

Gustave Doungoube Adviser Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting, Fishery and Environment Central African Republic	Date: 15 July 2008
Vincent Kasulu Seya Makonga Directeur de Développement Durable Ministère de l'Environnement Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme Democratic Republic of Congo	Date: 4 September 2008
Alexis Minga Director General, Environment Ministry of Tourism and Environment Republic of Congo	Date: 20 August 2008
Etienne Massard Makaga Director General Ministry of Environment Gabon	Date: 19 August 2008

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
GEF Agency Coordinator:  Charles Riemenschneider Director FAO Investment Centre Division  Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator FAO Investment Centre Division Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy Tel: +3906 5705 5478 Email: <a href="mailto:faogef@fao.org">faogef@fao.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:Barbara.Cooney@fao.org">Barbara.Cooney@fao.org</a>	Project Contact Person:  Moujahed Achouri Chief, Forest Conservation Service Forestry Department FAO Rome, Italy
Date: <i>October 10, 2008</i>	Tel: +3906 5705 4085 Email: <a href="mailto:Moujahed.Achouri@fao.org">Moujahed.Achouri@fao.org</a>