GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title
Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Forest Ecosystems in Southwestern Central African Republic, to safeguard globally outstanding biodiversity, carbon stock and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly unsustainable land use practices

Region	GEF Project ID
Central African Republic	11246
Country(ies)	**Type of Project**
Central African Republic	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	**GEF Agency Project ID**
UNEP	
Project Executing Entity(s)	**Project Executing Type**
The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Government
OCDN: Organisation Centrafricaine pour la Défense de la Nature	CSO
WWF RCA	CSO
ACDEF – CAR: The African Conservation and Development Foundation	CSO
MEFP: La Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée	CSO
REPALCA : Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de Centrafrique	CSO
AFDD : The Association of Women for Sustainable Development in the Central African Republic, as Executing Partners	Private Sector
SIAD-CA: Société des Industries Agricoles Durable-Centrafrique	Government
University of Bangui	
GEF Focal Area (s)	**Submission Date**
Multi Focal Area	9/27/2024
Type of Trust Fund	**Project Duration (Months)**
GET	72
GEF Project Grant: (a)	**Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)**
8,176,147.00	735,853.00
PPG Amount: (c)	**PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)**

200,000.00	18,000.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
9130000	65,407,380.00
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
AFOLU	

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

This country-based project is part of the GEF8 Congo Integrated Program (IP), which include one Regional Coordination Project and several other country-based project in Central Africa. The IP is aimed at improving the conservation and effective governance of critical landscapes in the Congo Basin Tropical Rainforest Biome. The Congo IP is in turn part of a broader GEF8 initiative titled "The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program", aimed at conserving intact rainforests across the globe. The focus of this project: the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape, is one of the last intact forests in the Central African Republic (CAR), is drained by the Ubangi watershed and hosts globally significant biodiversity. Its ecosystems are vital for local and national economies and essential to the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities through NTFPs, carbon sequestration, and more. The global environmental problem that this project seeks to address is the threat to landscape's biodiversity and productive landscapes from (i) deforestation and forest degradation, unsustainable use of natural resource, (ii) land degradation, (iii) climate change, (iv) and poor water resource governance, leading to watershed degradation, biodiversity loss, habitat loss and fragmentation, soil erosion, and reduced water quality. These impacts reduce people's access to productive landscapes and ecosystem services, and have serious implications for agriculture, food security, health of the livelihoods of indigenous people and local communities, thereby creating a negative feedback loop. The general lack of economic alternatives and population growth projected over the next 20 years will create great pressures to clear forests. Meanwhile, changes in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change will exacerbate water management challenges, leading to more frequent floods and droughts, complicating water governance efforts. Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders, including governments, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and international organizations.

In this context, the project's objective is to safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value ecosystems, from unsustainable resource use, as a result of effective government enabling capacity, community participation and resilient green livelihoods. To achieve this, the project's success is dependent on a transformational approach aimed at supporting a shift away from unsustainable practices to those which promote widespread adoption of sustainable practices, while at the same time ensuring ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation. This will be achieved through the following components: (i) Enabling framework for safeguarding biodiversity, promoting SFM, combating land degradation, and securing a nature-based economy, which will also provide the enabling environment to enhance the development of science-based transboundary river basin management tools and approaches; (ii) Conservation of Key biodiversity areas and ecosystem services, sustainable use of natural resource, enabled through application of Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, natural capital accounting (NCA), PES, and OECMs; (iii) IPLCs livelihoods improvements through green enterprises and market systems with private sector; and (iv) Knowledge management, stakeholder coordination, M&E and gender mainstreaming. These components will apply four levers to facilitate significant transformations: (i) Governance and Policies: the project will advance supportive best practices in policy, legal, regulatory frameworks and governance for ILUMP, ecological restoration, sustainable production practices, green enterprises development, and the Ubangui Watershed management. With regards to the later, the project will support the signing of governance mechanism between CAR and DR Congo for a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed. (ii) Multi-stakeholder dialogues: The project will foster alignment and collaboration through processes ranging from community-level participatory land use planning and protected area co-management to multi-stakeholder landscape planning to multi-country dialogue around transboundary forest in

coordination with the Regional Coordination Project (RCP). It will also support Multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues organized for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed; (iii) Financial leverage: The project will enhance the ability to secure innovative and sustainable financing, in terms of strengthening stakeholders' technical capacity for linking natural capital valuation of goods and services and their roles in a transformation towards SLM/SLM, and exploring biodiversity credits or certificates as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions. This will enhance their ability to implement coherent policies; (iv) Innovation and learning: the project, in connection with Component 4, will generate critical information necessary for the adoption of modern integrated approaches to managing water resources and balancing competing uses. Through the GEF IW: LEARN, it will promote transboundary water management of the Ubangui watershed, particularly with DR Congo. The project will also implement systems to document best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches. This ongoing learning process will support the development of coherent and adaptive policies/regulatory frameworks, informing gender-responsive land use planning, design of governance arrangements, and support for alternative livelihoods, nature-friendly enterprises. Appropriate technologies will facilitate knowledge capture, sharing, dissemination, and application, including communities of practice (feeding project information into the one established under GEF 7 Congo IP), collaborative platforms, regional and global events, south-south exchanges, and other digital tools that support KM processes. Collaboration with the GEF 8 RCP and other country-based IP, will be fostered through regular meetings, continuous information exchange, and the publication of communication materials to share achievements and lessons learned. This will enhance knowledge flow with other GEF8 Congo IP country-based projects, including the RCP, and will contribute to support or improve future investments and scale up innovative solutions. In addition, the project will benefit from support of the RCP, through technical support, capacity building, learning exchanges, as well as from its facilitation of the transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogue, allowing for replication and scaling-up of the project's impact. An awareness and communication strategy (taking into account low literacy levels and language diversity) will inform key stakeholders, including women, about knowledge products and tools develop by the project. Through its M&E system, the project will track outcomes to identify areas needing adjustments for coherence. Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) that will be delivered through the project include: 49, 098, 753 tCO2-e of GHG emissions mitigated; 18,200 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management; 30,000 ha of degraded lands under ecological restoration, 200,000 ha of farmlands under improved production practices. Forest and landscape restoration activities are of particular relevance to the CAR, which has been suffering from decades of instability and sluggish growth, with the last crisis in 2013 being the most critical. The vast majority of local populations suffer from extreme poverty and food insecurity and their livelihood is highly dependent on natural resources. The project will benefit 5,000 people, with a focus on gender equality, and it is foreseen that women benefitting from the project will constitute 50% of this total

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value ecosystems, from unsustainable resource use, as a result of effective government enabling capacity, community participation and resilient green livelihoods.

Project Components

Enabling environment for ILUMP and enhanced transboundary water management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,425,060.00	18,814,815.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1:

Gender responsive' strengthened governance mechanism and cross-sectoral capacity increased to improve coherence in support of ILUMP enabling conditions

Outcome 1.2: *Enhanced Regional cooperation between CAR and DR Congo to promote water governance and healthy watershed management of the Ubangui Sub-Basin,* duly screened for gender equality and women's empowerment

Output:

Output 1.1.1: Landscape-level, cross-sectoral, gender-responsive governance mechanism/platform (GSGM) involving relevant stakeholders (IP, local communities, youth) from provincial and local levels for participatory development and coordinated ILUMP implementation.

Output 1.1.2: Gender responsive government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at provincial and councils' levels capacitated for ILUMP

Output 1.1.3: Relevant policies and regulations reviewed and gender responsive guidelines and by-laws developed that ensure coherence and support ILUMP approach.

Output 1.1.4: Landscape-level information and monitoring system established

Output 1.2.1 Regional Cooperation between CAR and DR Congo for the management of the Ubangui Sub basin promoted, with due consideration for gender

Component 2: Conservation of Key biodiversity areas and ecosystem services, sustainable use of natural resource, enabled through application of Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, natural capital accounting (NCA) and OECMs

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,516,248.00	17,050,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: ***Sustainability of the Basse-Lobaye Forest Landscape secured, taking gender equality and women's empowerment into consideration***

Outcome 2.2: *Remaining core biodiversity areas in the landscape are better protected, restored, connected and effectively managed, taking gender equality and women's empowerment into consideration*

Outcome 2.3: ***Capacity and application of NCA developed in 2 priority sites within the landscape, with due consideration for gender***

Output:

Output 2.1.1 An ILUMP for the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape developed, with due consideration for gender, based on participatory processes and remotely-sensed data evidence.

Output 2.1.2. Ecological connectivity enhanced through elephants' collaring results, as well as training, field equipment, surveillance provided to decentralized services of the Ministry of forest, to build capacity, ensure coherence and synergies with existing GEF 7 project and Sangha Tri national anti-poaching agreement initiative, in addressing illegal wildlife trade with adjacent forests: The Ngotto Forest and the TNS

Output 2.1.3. Increased management effectiveness of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, with due consideration of gender

Output 2.2.1 : Detailed mapping and designation of priority candidates' areas for recognition as OECMs, within the productive landscape

Output 2.2.2: **Gender responsive** Ecosystem restoration interventions, applying FPIC principles, implemented across 30,000 ha of degraded ecosystems in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape

Output 2.2.3. **Gender-responsive** sustainable agricultural practices for targeted farms, designed and implemented in key productive sites, applying the FPIC principles

Output 2.3.1. Experimental Ecosystem accounts established at landscape level and incorporated into decision making

Output 2.3.2. Technical assistance, gender responsive training and protocols provided to national and selected key stakeholders on NCA compilation for application in 2 priority sites within the landscape

Output 2.3.3. ILUMP developed by integrating NC values

Output 2.3.4. Investment pathways, duly screened for gender equality, investigated to facilitate accessible business, organizational, and individual investments in landscape restoration and management through Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates

Component 3: Indigenous peoples, local communities' livelihoods improvements through green enterprises and market systems with private sector

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,827,099.00	18,050,319.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3. Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices, diversified and sustainable IPLCs' livelihoods, including for the benefit of women

Output:

Output 3.1. Gender responsive investment, applying the FPIC principles and training plan for the promotion of economic activities around value chains for agroforestry, NTFPs, etc

Output 3.2. Gender responsive diversified resilient livelihoods options, applying the FPIC principles co-developed with IPs, Local communities to support the emergence of new green business opportunities with private sector, particularly for women and youth

Component 4 Knowledge management, stakeholder coordination, M&E and gender mainstreaming

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
581,600.00	7,221,877.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Knowledge and innovation are diffused at multiple sub-national, national and international scales, while project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated by a gender responsive M&E strategy

Output:

Output 4.1:

Communication, knowledge products, tools and approaches are developed and shared widely, duly screened for gender equality and women's empowerment

Output 4.2: Data and analytics, with due consideration for gender, to help officials at the Ubangui Sub-basin, prefecture and national level understand current and future water risks and better prepare for and manage those risks are enhanced.

Output 4.3 Inclusive Capacity building and awareness raising of governments and CSOs representatives in targeted areas of the Lobaye landscape, as well as on water- and climate-wise learning, planning and decision-making

Output 4.4 Operational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems implemented

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
436,800.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Knowledge and innovation are diffused at multiple sub-national, national and international scales, while project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated by a gender responsive M&E strategy.

Output:

Output 4.4 Operational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems implemented

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Enabling environment for ILUMP and enhanced transboundary water management	1,425,060.00	18,814,815.00
Component 2: Conservation of Key biodiversity areas and ecosystem services, sustainable use of natural resource, enabled through application of Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, natural capital accounting (NCA) and OECMs	3,516,248.00	17,050,000.00
Component 3: Indigenous peoples, local communities' livelihoods improvements through green enterprises and market systems with private sector	1,827,099.00	18,050,319.00
Component 4 Knowledge management, stakeholder coordination, M&E and gender mainstreaming	581,600.00	7,221,877.00
M&E	436,800.00	1,000,000.00
Subtotal	**7,786,807.00**	**62,137,011.00**
Project Management Cost	389,340.00	3,270,369.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**8,176,147.00**	**65,407,380.00**

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Global environmental significance

The northern edge of the Congo Basin forests which extends over 1500km on the South-Western part of the Central African Republic (CAR), comprising the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape (and the Basse Lobaye Biosphere Reserve), is home to three additional terrestrial biodiversity hot spots of the planet: the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, the Dzanga-Ndoki Park, the Mbaere Bodingue Park. Conservation and sustainable management of this continued forest block, both in terms of its carbon sequestration capacity and preservation of its biodiversity, represents a challenge of global magnitude. The forests of the Basse-Lobaye landscape, which is the focus of this project, provide livelihoods and ecosystem services to indigenous peoples and local communities: Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs), carbon sequestration, etc. They harbor exceptional biodiversity including mammal species, birds, reptiles and hundreds of tree species amongst which some are endangered or vulnerable. Emblematic species that are found here include: gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants and bongos. In addition, there are medicinal plants, nutritional plants and a wide variety of NTFPs spread throughout the landscape, which are used by the

majority of the people for food, health care and to generate significant income. The Ubangi watershed (which flows into the Congo) covers Two-thirds of the country, drained the entire project intervention area. Additionally, the landscape is also characterized by a high presence of indigenous groups: the Mbororo Fulani and the Aka. The Mbororo Fulani who are generally nomadic herders, live in the Lobaye prefecture, but are also found in the prefectures of Ouaka in the centre-east at M'bomou. The Aka Pygmies, about 90 percent of whom live in the forest, are found in the prefectures of Lobaye (the target project area). They are also found at Ombella Mpoko and Sangha-Mbaéré in the south-west, and Mambéré Kadéi in the west.

Project intervention area: the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape

The Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape faces global environmental issues, including: (i) deforestation and forest degradation from slash-and-burn agriculture, unsustainable mining, informal logging, fuelwood collection, forest fires—resulting in biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, soil erosion, reduced water quality, and increased carbon dioxide emissions contributing to climate change; (ii) land degradation due to unsustainable land use practices diminishing productivity and ecosystem services like soil fertility and water regulation; (iii) unsustainable natural resource use; (iv) and poor water resource governance.

Deforestation: According to Global Forest Watch, from 2001 to 2022, 0.46% of tree cover loss occurred in areas where the dominant drivers of loss resulted in deforestation. Top 5 regions in CAR, were responsible for 53% of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023: Mbomou, and the Basse Lobaye region – the targeted landscape for this project - had respectively 118 kha, and 90.4 kha of tree cover lost compared to an average of 59.8 kha. Table 1 below further show how deforestation trend at national level is translated in the proposed sites of the project intervention area for the period 2001-2023.

Table 1: Forest cover reference data for the SW portion of the CAR and the Basse Lobaye Biosphere

Forest/Ecosystem degradation: During the PPG phase, Forest landscape integrity index scores which range from 0 (lowest integrity) to 10 (highest integrity) were calculated for the project intervention area. This range was discretized to define three main categories illustrative: low (≤6.0); average (>6.0 and <9.6); and high integrity (≥9.6) as outlined in Grantham et al. 2020 . This calculation reveals that forests with a high index integrity represents 19.96% of the surface of the project area and 28.43% of the surface (See Annex E1) of the Basse Lobaye Biosphere Reserve. Annex 1 in combination from data from field missions in the project area, were used for the identification of priority pilot intervention areas for forest and land restoration, agroforestry to improve sustainable production practices.

Biodiversity loss: The loss of biodiversity in the target landscape includes a significant reduction in flagship species such as elephant, western lowland gorilla, as well as the decrease of populations of certain noble species such as Entandrophragma cylindricum (Sapeli). Biodiversity loss is driven by deforestation and forest degradation, poaching, uncontrolled exploitation of biological resources, the lack of a national inventory of biological resources. Many of these threats are due to the widespread poverty across the country, and to the politico-military conflicts, which as a result have weakened the existing management systems.

Land degradation: According to CAR's 3rd national communication on GHG emissions (2011-2016), the Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use sectors accounted for 93% of GHG emissions, of which 60% of national emissions in 2016 (from 4,900 to 6,700 Gg CO2 eq/year) came from land use changes where forest land is converted to cultivated land.

The target landscape follows this trend, with land degradation driven by agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices like slash-and-burn agriculture, overgrazing, and fires. This results in reduced productivity and ecosystem services, including soil erosion and loss of organic matter, diminishing soil fertility and water retention capacity during dry spells. Consequently, smallholder farmers face low resilience to frequent droughts, leading to low yields and poverty—factors contributing to high

food insecurity among indigenous peoples, and local communities. These dynamics also have an impact of GHG emissions and climate change. See Annex E2 for areas of severe degradation in the project intervention area.

Rural livelihoods and natural resource dependence: In the project intervention areas of Pissa and Moboma councils, Indigenous peoples, and local communities rely on agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for their livelihoods. Women in indigenous households daily engage in the exploitation of NTFPs such as gnetum and marantaceae leaves, wild fruits, caterpillars, mushrooms, snails, and termites, which they resell or exchange locally for goods like cassava, salt, and cigarettes within Bantu communities. The collection of NTFPs is a seasonal activity throughout the year, with many products marketed locally or in urban areas. These populations also depend on hunting (game and snails) and fishing, gathering additional forest products like small edible fauna, honey, bait fishing, and medicinal plants. However, they face challenges such as resource depletion, low involvement in NTFP entrepreneurial sectors, and poor agricultural productivity leading to diminished livelihoods. During the PPG team's visit to camps near the villages, they were struck by the economic precariousness among households, youth, and children, along with low education levels.

Water resource Governance: The Ubangi watershed which drained the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape, is one of the largest tributaries of the Congo river: the world's second largest river basin. It faces numerous governance challenges. The lack of tools and approaches preparatory to Transboundary cooperation, integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), makes coordinated management difficult. In addition, deforestation, mining, and slash-and-burn farming techniques contribute to the degradation of the watershed. This impacts water quality and availability, posing a threat to both ecosystems and human populations and navigation, complicating water governance efforts.

Climate change: According to the moderate emissions climate scenario (RCP 4.5), climate change trends will exacerbate temperatures and rainfall variability, which will have impacts on CAR's forest ecosystems, resulting in soil erosion and water logging of crops, thus decreasing yields and increasing food insecurity, disproportionately affecting the livelihoods of the rural poor of Indigenous peoples, local communities, including Women, youth, in areas such as the Basse-Loabe Forest landscape.

Future trends and transformative actions

The Basse-Lobaye landscape's biodiversity and forest ecosystems face significant pressure from over-exploitation and unsustainable resource use, including bushmeat hunting, fuelwood collection, and the harvesting of timber and non-timber products, as a result of lack of policy coordination, institutional weaknesses, widespread poverty, continuous insecurity, and climate change—all contributing to biodiversity loss. This situation makes agriculture, the primary livelihood for over 70% of the rural population, increasingly unproductive, leading to further forest land conversion for agricultural intensification and higher rates of deforestation and degradation. In a worst-case scenario, ongoing forest ecosystem loss will accelerate local biodiversity declines (terrestrial and aquatic) as critical habitats vanish or transform and essential corridors for fauna movement become fragmented. The interplay of biodiversity loss, land and ecosystem degradation, and climate impacts poses a significant challenge to sustainable development in CAR and in the project intervention area, necessitating behavioral changes and accessible technical alternatives for resource-poor communities.

Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects:

Government:

The management of forest resources, including oversight of commercial forestry operations and management of the national parks and the implementation of the Forest Policy is under the responsibility of the Ministry for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishery (MEFCP) in collaboration with other Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable

Development (MEDD), the Ministry of Finances and Budget (MEF), and the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation (MPECI). The MEFCP is responsible for the management of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve.

In 2012, the national Agency for Sustainable Management of the Forest Resources (AGDRF) (Law n° 12-006) was created under the MEFCP to: (1) provide guidance and support to the Ministry in terms of definition and implementation of its Forest Policy and (2) to guide logging towards sustainable and integrated management of the forest resources.

Government is decentralized with the country divided into 20 prefectures, among which the Prefecture of Lobaye, which is the proposed area for project intervention.

Policy Framework:

CAR is very committed to sustainable land and natural resources management and is a signatory to the three Rio Conventions and has high-level commitments (cf section C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming strategies and country/regional Priorities). At the highest level, this commitment is manifested in the country Constitution under Law No. 04/392 of December 2004 which enshrines the environment in its preamble and guarantees rigorous management and a transparent environment as an unshakable condition for sustainable development. Within this environmental framework, the local communities as well as all the citizens have the latitude to ensure the protection of the nation.

CAR has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aligning its socioeconomic development framework to the SDGS. As part of this vision, the Government is committed to protect intact ecosystems, and has set the ambition to restore 3.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

In order to reach the goals of the conventions, constitution and 2030 agenda, the country has developed a high number of plans and strategies, already outlined in the Expression of interest submitted for this project. Three natural resources management instruments are particularly of relevance with the issues and themes to be addressed by this project:

the Forest Code, the Wildlife Code, the Water Code and texts relating to land, mining and agriculture in the CAR. The description of alignment of the project with these management instruments can be found in Annex C.

Legal framework dealing with minorities:

- The provisions of CAR's Constitution of March 30, 2016 regarding minorities, in particular: (i) The recognition of human rights as the basis of any human community, of peace and justice (Articles 1 and 2); (ii) the recognition of the right to life and to physical and moral integrity without any distinction, in particular of sex (Article 3); (iii) reinforced protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, minorities and people with disabilities (Article 6, paragraph 2).

- The ratification in 2010, by the CAR government of the ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples which aims at protecting the rights of indigenous people and guarantee respect for their integrity.

Gender Focus: Despite existing policies and legislation, socio-cultural norms remain unfavorable to women and girls. Traditional gender roles often dictate who controls and benefits from natural resources. Women's participation in decision-making related to resource management remains limited, perpetuating inequalities. Resource Scarcity and conflict, environmental Degradation, exploitation in Resource Extractions, impacts of climate change often result in heightened levels of GBV, as control over resources is frequently asserted through violence. Addressing these issues requires integrated

approaches that consider both gender equality and sustainable resource management, as efforts to combat GBV and promote gender equality are essential for achieving effective and equitable environmental conservation in CAR.

Civil Society Organizations:

- CSOs are working with the CAR government to address biodiversity loss and forestry issues through afforestation, restoration, sustainable production practices, and PA management. For example:

- "La Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée (MEFP): is dedicated to defend the interests of indigenous peoples in the Basse-Lobaye landscape.

- Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de Centrafrique (REPALCA): focused on strengthening Indigenous peoples' involvement in conservation and REDD projects on their lands, promoting rights-based community forest management.

- The Association of Women for Sustainable Development (AFDD) in the Central African Republic is engaged in several areas to promote economic empowerment of women and young people in agroecology and livestock farming, income-generating activities in Bimbo (Bangui Prefecture). From 2021 -2022, in the Basse-Lobaye landscape, the Association carried out 08ha of ecological restoration, with local species from "ESSESSANG/njansang" (Ricinodendron heudelotii), to the benefit of the Ba'aka indigenous communities in the SIRIRI village. The experience was positive because its seeds allowed the Ba'aka women to produce edible powder that was in high demand on the local market and even in Bangui..

- OCDN (Organisation Centrafricaine pour la défense de la nature), with funding from AfDB and GEF Small Grants, has implemented several community actions: reforesting 5 ha with Teak Tree (Tectona grandis) in BOKOMA village in 2013 and 2 ha in 2016. OCDN also trained locals to establish a nursery that produced over 12,000 Teak seedlings. However, this nursery is poorly maintained, and reforestation efforts have often used non-native species. According to the government, these actions have benefited nearly 120 women.

- There are thirteen operational nurseries (see below in sub section on private section) in the Lobaye Prefecture: But the following targeted areas for landscape restoration: Pissa and Moboma, does not have any operational nursery. The existing ones requires simple maintenance (e.g., fencing, seed storage , etc.).

- Community reforestation is supported through the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing. The Government does not manage any nurseries nationwide. There are very few locally individual or community owned nurseries with very poor seedlings capacity year. However, under the baseline, these nurseries are generally in poor repair and reforestation efforts often rely upon non-native species.

- Reforestation generally occurs within either temporary or permanent enclosures. Unfortunately, once the trees are planted, incentives and engagement with monitoring and enforcement are not generally effective. The entire baseline could be strengthened with greater access and application of tools such as community-based management regimes and informed monitoring.

- Over the past years, nearly 2,000 hectares have been reforested in the project area and at the national level. Many of these are showing good levels of regeneration, including both trees and vegetation. This is a strong baseline of activity with limited project investment and more emphasis upon long-term conservation of native species could be greatly expanded and enhanced.

- WWF CAR: Under the GEF 7 Congo IP, WWF CAR has been supporting the Natural Resources Governance Project (NRGP), which aim to reinforce the continuity between the Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park (MBNP) and the network of Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA), by initiating new conservation dynamics within the MBNP as well as its periphery and development in its buffer zone. WWF-CAR has so far conducted ecological (fauna and flora) inventories, a baseline assessment of the socio-economic conditions for the MBNP, as a basis for updating the MBNP's development and management plan. It has also conducted a capacity assessment of the of the MBNP administration, which has been important to inform the trainings of eco-guards for surveillance, and ecological monitoring activities. In addition, partnership agreements have been signed with the logging concessionaires along the ecological corridor between the MBNP and the APDS with the aim to provide technical assistance to reduce the negative impact of their activities on natural ecosystems.

Support provided by WWF-CAR, include support for identifying, mapping and protecting High Conservation Value areas (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS). Moreover, simple plans for the management of agricultural series and human occupation (ASHO) and simple plans for the management of natural resources at community level has been developed and are being implemented in the Ngotto forest to contribute to the sustainable management of land and biological resources. WWF CAR is also developing a long-term strategy and partnership for the PNMB and the ecological corridor to the DSPA to ensure the continuity of management and protection activities beyond GEF-NRGP support. This baseline could be strengthened and scaled up to the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape, which all together constitute a continued forest block, located in the northern edge of the Congo Basin forests which extends over 1500km on the South-Western part of the Central African Republic (CAR), comprising the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape (and the Basse Lobaye Biosphere Reserve), the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, the Dzanga-Ndoki Park, the Mbaere Bodingue Park. During PPG phase, WWF-CAR expresses its interests to addressing specifically the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve Effective management, the harmonization of law enforcement efforts with adjacent forest blocs, building on lessons learned from Adjacent forests landscape.

- ACDEF – For Nature & People in Africa: an NGO currently operating in DR Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Sierra-Leone, Liberia is currently developing a project focusing the Basse-Lobaye region. Its works include: participatory land use planning and development of incentive-based mechanisms to support community livelihoods for biodiversity conservation and management through the establishment and management of Natural Resource-based businesses. During PPG phase, discussions were held with ACDEF, and is a potential technical partner being considered to support the project execution.

Private sector: SIAD-CA (https://www.horusimpact.com/en/about-us): HORUS Impact and its local subsidiary in CAR SIAD-CA (Société des Industries Agricoles Durable-Centrafrique) uses Regenerative Agriculture to deliver high yields, while minimizing inputs and regenerating the richness of the soil. This private sector company is located in the Basse-Lobaye Prefecture region, and aim to boost the socio-economic development of this region, through: removing barriers posed by farmers' access to chemical fertilizers, by supporting farmers in transforming available degraded areas into agricultural spaces. SIAD-CA overall strategy include bringing forest resources close to areas of concentration of indigenous and local communities by creating community forests, by planting caterpillar host trees, charcoal trees, fruit trees, pharmacopoeia trees, deploying regenerative agriculture and syntrophic framing agroforestry to restore degraded areas and prevent access to primary forests. It also includes reforestation of ecological corridors through Assisted Natural Regeneration around primary forests to reconnect forest patches to primary forests, using farmers as agent to restore/regenerate the natural environment.

SIAD-CA also implement a governance, inclusive and social approach, which includes: A training centre aiming at training two types of professionals: agricultural entrepreneurs and specialist technicians. This training is designed to encourage diversity and inclusion, with a particular focus on empowering women in the agricultural sector. SIAD-CA empower and build Local Agriculture Cooperatives, through providing supports to smallholder farmers in organizing themselves into effective cooperatives, and providing these with support for the training and equipment they need. Benefits of cooperatives for farmers include collaboration, pooling/sharing of equipment (processing plant) or means of transport in such a way as to optimize access to these resources and their profitability, close to farmers farms. It also includes group purchasing and selling, training, capacity building and circular economic activities such as input production. Today SIAD-CA operates on an area of 2000 ha on which it has already cultivated 300ha. It has developed a nursery with a capacity of 100,000 seedlings, including 50,000 on its site and 50,000 with 13 tree nurseries operators destined to become fruit producers. This established capacity allows the production of more than 300,000 seedlings per year, enough to reforest more than 1200ha per year.

Relevant International Investments (cf sub section titled: Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project).

The project’s proposition

In the baseline scenario without GEF support:

In the baseline scenario without GEF support, the socio-ecological pressures in the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape would continue to generate cumulative environmental impacts, including deforestation, ecosystem degradation, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Biodiversity loss will continue to occur, with negative impacts on ecosystem services and local livelihoods. Ips, Local communities that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods will continue to be unable to implement measures to prevent land and forest degradation. This is likely to result in continued degradation of ecosystems,

reduction of the availability of NTFPs and other environmental services, that will in turn exacerbate current levels of poverty. Without GEF intervention, the lack of instruments, tools, approaches to promote inter sectoral coordination and transboundary collaboration (on water governance resource) will persist, making it difficult to implement land use planning at the scale require to cope with both socioeconomic and ecological systems, and to lay down the basis for IWRM. The lack of incentives for SLM/SFM, restoration and sustainable production will persist. IPLCs will be left with no means to implement sustainable livelihood strategies. As a result, land degradation will be amplified, further contributing to biodiversity loss and reducing ecosystem goods and services critical for IPLCs' livelihoods. The value and production potential of land and water will decline alongside hydrological changes. Furthermore, the use of unsustainable farming practices coupled with population growth, will intensify, and will be compounded by the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. Additionally, fisheries systems and biodiversity value chains critical for IPLCs' livelihoods will increasingly suffer from climate change effects while environmental degradation continue, making sustainable development very challenging under the current scenario.

With the project scenario: CAR aims to safeguard and restore its environmental assets, build resilience, and stimulate green socio-economic growth across the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape. It will provide a model for delivering SLM/SFM interventions, that include a strengthened enabling environment and improved land and water resource governance mechanisms. Governance platform members will receive organizational support and tools like by-laws. Lessons learned from empowering IPs, local communities, and women's rights in target sites will be shared nationally and regionally, facilitating knowledge exchange for effective governance of similar areas in the country and across the region, and beyond. GEF resources will support participatory local implementation of SLM/SFM techniques and capacity building, leading to sustainable production of ecosystem goods and services. Indigenous people and local communities will play a greater role in land management planning through better policy, capacity building, and participatory governance. IPLCs will engage in restoration and sustainable practices, gaining experience through learning by doing. By enhancing local SLM/SFM capacity, government decision-makers and IPLCs will better manage CAR's vulnerable ecosystems, mitigating risks from land degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. With GEF support, the project will strengthen green value chains that offer transformative economic potential while benefiting biodiversity and reducing land degradation. These efforts will enhance the livelihoods of local communities dependent on natural resources. Collectively, these efforts will generate local and global environmental benefits, including the conservation of key species and unique ecosystems, while bolstering livelihoods and household economies dependent on nature's goods and services in this region.

The Project Objective is to safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value ecosystems, from unsustainable resource use, as a result of effective government enabling capacity, community participation and resilient green livelihoods.

The Project transformational approach will engages stakeholders, including IP & LCs, women, and youth, to (i) establish a multi-level natural resource governance mechanism for land, forests and water that promotes integrated landscape management, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity conservation; and (ii) support Indigenous peoples, and local communities in transitioning from unsustainable practices to those that prioritize sustainability while ensuring ecosystem health, conserving biodiversity, and reducing land degradation.

Barriers to the achievement of the with-project scenario:

Despite efforts highlighted in the baseline, to reduce threats to biodiversity and to promote restoration and sustainable production practices in the country and in the targeted landscape, the following barriers persist:

Barrier #1: Lack of integrated landscape land use planning, and limited institutional capacity to control deforestation, land and watershed degradation, and conserve globally outstanding biodiversity; Limited inter-sectoral coordination in driving transboundary water governance and management in the Ubangui watershed basin. There is no land planning scheme at prefectural or communal levels, resulting in frequent land use overlaps and conflicts. Weak coordination among government institutions hampers the alignment of economic activities with biodiversity conservation goals. These institutional constraints

affect the delivery of environmental benefits. Addressing competing land uses and pressures in the Basse-Lobaye forest requires an integrated management approach.

Barrier #2: Insufficient investment in PA management and limited tools and capacities for IPLCs, government institutions, and extension services to adopt and sustain SLM/SFM practices in mixed-use landscapes, ensuring long-term integrity and ecological connectivity

Despite efforts made to expand the protected area network in the country, many of these lack finance resources. Management of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve is non-existent due to insufficient budget, staff, equipment, and planning instruments. Moreover, IPLCs (including women, youth), government institutions, and extension services have limited capacity to adopt SLM/SFM practices sustainably. Many agroecological and agroforestry approaches are unfamiliar locally, and extension services often lack training in integrated landscape management.

Barrier #3: Lack of experience in linking valuation of natural capital and other innovative sustainable financing with SLM/SFM.

CAR is a natural resource-dependent country, with most rural populations relying on these resources for their livelihoods. However, knowledge about the contributions of natural resources to local communities and the baseline health of ecosystems providing sustainable ecosystem services is limited. Due to insufficient capacity and understanding of natural capital's role in the economy and human welfare, the value of most ecosystem services remains unknown. Monetary valuations of natural capital are absent from environmental impact assessments, hindering informed decision-making regarding projects that rely, directly or indirectly, on natural resources. This underscores the importance of building stakeholders' capacity to ensure that NC values are assessed and incorporated into land use planning and mainstreamed into any private sector operations in the landscape.

Barrier #4: Insufficient biodiversity-friendly economic alternatives and incentives for IPLCs to conserve biodiversity / Lack of sustainable livelihoods opportunities for IPLCs. There're a very few models to demonstrate both sustainable utilization of natural resources and positive economic outcomes. IPLCs are confronted to the dearth of sustainable and economically viable alternatives. IPLCS are neither equipped with knowledge, skills and tools nor incentivized to modify their livelihoods strategies and practices to align with biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship objectives. Value chains for the major outputs of sustainably managed products are scarce, often with critical challenges around the quality and predictability of supply.

Barrier #5: Insufficient capacity to monitor, capture and amplify lessons learned and best practices.

There are no mechanisms to systematize best practices and lessons learned about biodiversity conservation, SLM/SFM, and gender mainstreaming in production landscapes. As a result, the possibility of replication in other landscapes and production sectors is incomplete.

The decision to prioritize this project addressing identified thematic areas is substantiated through the following evidence and benefits:

(i) the global and national priority and focus on restoring and protecting remnants of last intact forests, with the Ministry of environment and sustainable development, and the Ministry of forestry joining forces to address these challenges; (ii) CAR is among the most climate-vulnerable countries, facing urgent challenges from decreased hydrology, rising temperatures, and anthropogenic impacts on watersheds, land and food insecurity, which call for urgent action to counter land degradation and biodiversity loss, through implementing sustainable water governance mechanisms, land management policies, strategies, and practices; (iii) The Basse-lobaye forest landscape is one of the range area for many globally outstanding mammals, that migrate between the Dzanga-Sangha park, the Ngotto forest and the proposed project site, therefore, instituting

environmental sustainability and stewardship at local level could contribute significantly to global and regional efforts to conserve biodiversity, habitats, and prevent species extinctions.

Project Benefits

Through the project's pathways to transformation, reflected by its four components, the project is aligned with the GEF8 Congo IP and will generate multiple global environmental benefits including the improvement of the Ubangui water resource governance, the restoration of 30,000 ha of degraded lands; 200,000 hectares of forest landscapes under improved sustainable production practices; mitigation of 49,098,753 tCO2-e GHG emissions, and improved management of at least 18, 200 ha of the existing Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, leading to improved ecosystem services and sustainable community livelihoods directly benefitting 5,000 local people (50% women) in the project area with significant potential for replication and scaling-up beyond the project area.

Project stakeholders and expected beneficiaries

This project will be implemented in collaboration with a variety of public, private sector, and local stakeholders, including women, Indigenous peoples, local communities who will be instrumental in delivering GEBs, as outlined in: Appendix5c_Stakeh_Engagement_Plan_Central African Republic.

The project will pursue social participation, applying FPIC principles, seeking to guarantee the needs, challenges, knowledge, and opinion of indigenous peoples, local communities (including women, men, youth), to participate in sustainable value chains and natural resource management. The project will strengthen their livelihoods, supporting the creation of green job opportunities, access to productive assets and boosting capacities and professionalization. The project will also engage with other stakeholders including sub national governments representatives, local and regional NGOs, University of Bangui, etc. Private sector will be sought through the involvement of the national associations for logging companies. A strong focus and resources will be dedicated to generating gender-transformative actions, prioritizing activities that are managed or mostly benefit women leaders/female heads of households. A thorough gender analysis has been conducted at the PPG and feed the design of several outputs as illustrated in the following document: Appendix 5a_b_Gender_Analysis_Plan_Central African Republic.

Project Cost-Effectiveness:

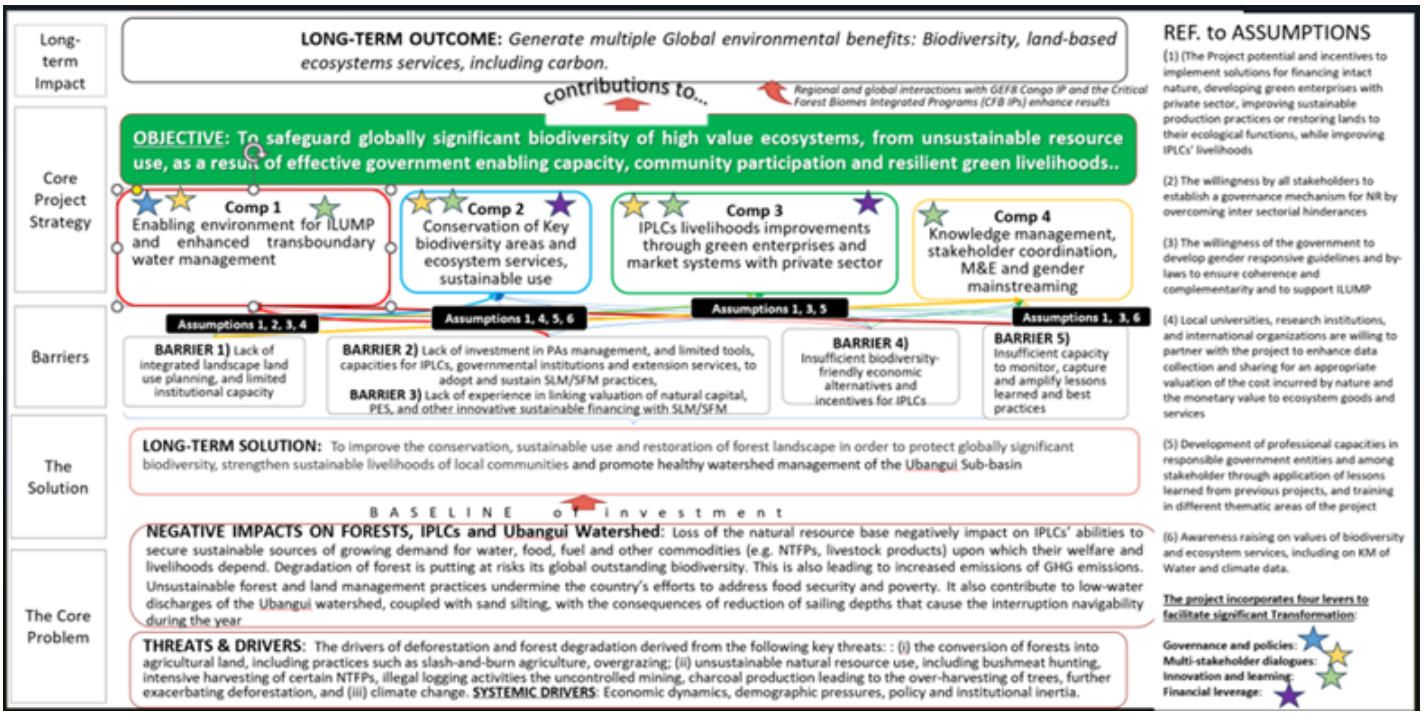
The project is designed to be cost-effective by partnering with stakeholders such as WWF-CAR. To mitigate fiduciary risks, the project will be led by a senior, culturally sensitive Chief Technical Advisor, supported by a mid-level Administrative Finance staff. Although these roles may increase costs, they are deemed necessary for successful project implementation. A strong national team to be established within WWF-CAR, will work closely with the CTA and the Project National Director, promoting ownership and strengthening institutional capacity. The teams will be based primarily in Bangui, with some experts in the Pissa and Moboma councils to optimize coordination. Up to $1, 670, 000 of the project's budget (proposed grant to Acdef, and local NGOs) will be allocated to NGOs for implementing mini-projects in the project zones, focusing on managing biodiversity value chains and empowering women, who will benefit at a 50% ratio. This approach ensures that the livelihoods of entire families are strengthened. UNEP's extensive experience with similar projects funded by GEF , being implemented in Cameroon (the Cobalam project), further enhances the project's cost-effectiveness and potential for success.

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section

should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Project Theory of Change (TOC)



The 'Core Problem' addressed by the project is the issue of deforestation and forest degradation, land degradation, unsustainable natural resource use, and poor water resource governance in the Central African Republic, which result in biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, soil erosion, diminished productivity and ecosystem services like soil fertility and water regulation, reduced water quality, and increased carbon dioxide emissions contributing to climate change.

This problem is rooted in direct Threats to the forests and their integrity such as : (i) the conversion of forests into agricultural land, including practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture, overgrazing which play a significant role in deforestation and land degradation; (ii) unsustainable natural resource use, including bushmeat hunting, intensive harvesting of certain NTFPs, illegal logging activities contributing to forest degradation and loss, the uncontrolled mining, which leads to significant land disruption and deforestation, charcoal production leading to the over-harvesting of trees, further exacerbating deforestation, and (iii) climate change. These threats are driven by external factors, including economic dynamics, demographic pressures, policy and institutional inertia. External factors are considered systemic drivers and represented in the bottom part of Appendix 14a (Problem Tree). Because the project cannot directly address the Drivers behind the problem, an ideal 'Long-Term Solution' for a 'possible sustainable future' for forests in the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape was identified and described, and thereafter the Barriers to this solution were analyzed (Appendix 14b).

To address these drivers, the Project will apply all four system transformation levers of the GEF-8: Governance and policies, multi-stakeholder dialogues, Innovation and learning, and Financial leverage. The project's TOC is also aligned with global and regional level conservation goals, including those under the GEF's initiative on Critical Forests Biomes (CFB IP). This relationship is shown in Appendix 14c.

Causal pathways between barriers, project proposed solutions integrating transformation levers, and assumptions

The project's overall theory of change (as presented in Appendix 14b), which is the translation in the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape, of the ToC approved in the PFD of Congo IP, makes the assumption that underlying the project's feasibility is the potential to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of forest ecosystems, while improving IPLCs' livelihoods taking gender equality and women's empowerment into consideration. It is also premised on the commitment to establish an enabling environment for ILUMP and enhanced transboundary water management, with due consideration for gender. It is also dependent on availability of opportunities and incentives to develop green enterprises with private sector is provided to IPLCs, including for the benefit of women, capacity development of key government stakeholders, other actors on innovative financing mechanisms as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions, and raising awareness on values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including on KM of Water and climate data.

To achieve this transformational change, five barriers were identified as key hinderances for reducing threats to biodiversity and to promote restoration and sustainable production practices in the country and in the targeted landscape, thus impeding the maintenance of the integrity of globally important terrestrial ecosystems in the target landscape. These includes:

Barrier #1: Lack of integrated landscape land use planning, and limited institutional capacity to control deforestation, land and watershed degradation, and conserve globally outstanding biodiversity

Barrier #2: Lack of investment in PAs management, and limited tools, capacities for IPLCs, governmental institutions and extension services, to adopt and sustain SLM/SFM practices across mixed use landscapes, that strengthens the long-term integrity and ecological connectivity within the landscape.

Barrier #3: Lack of experience in linking valuation of natural capital, PES, and other innovative sustainable financing with SLM/SFM.

Barrier #4: Insufficient biodiversity-friendly economic alternatives and incentives for IPLCs to conserve biodiversity / Lack of sustainable livelihoods opportunities for IPLCs.

Barrier #5: Insufficient capacity to monitor, capture and amplify lessons learned and best practices.

The project's Components are designed to overcome these barriers according to the arrows in Appendix 14b, and provided that the assumptions numbered in that appendix remain true. These assumptions formed the basis for identifying the project's risks. Except for social and environmental risk, which are a class of risks on their own, all risks to the project strategy are the negation of a TOC assumptions. In this manner, the strategy remains consistent with the TOC and within the system that it encompasses. The logical connection between the assumptions and components is indicated in Appendix 14b and in the Results Framework in Annex C (Appendix 3), side by side with the corresponding risks.

The project's logical pathways are discussed below:

In response to these barriers, 21 key outputs were identified consistently applying the four system transformation levers of the GEF-8: Governance and policies: Mostly in Component 1, Financial leverage: Mostly in Components 2 and 3, Multi-stakeholder dialogues, Innovation and learning: Across all Components.

In particular, the outputs and outcome of Component 1 apply the levers of : Governance and policies, Multi-stakeholder dialogues, Innovation and learning are thus important to advance policy coherence through supportive best practices in legal, regulatory frameworks and in establishing up a governance mechanism that will support Institutional Coordination and implementation of tools to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems, and setting up the enabling conditions to improve the likelihood of success of components 2, 3 and 4. This intervention pathway sets a route to arrive at an agreed 'enabling framework for action' under which governance, policies, institutions and regulations promote an integrated and inclusive approach to planning and management of multiple use landscapes. Component 1 consolidates the work of five key actions: (i) operationalization of a gender responsive governance mechanism/platform - GSGM (Output 1.1); (ii) a gender responsive capacity development program for relevant government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at Prefectural and councils levels involved in the integrated land use and management planning (Output 1.2); (iii) review and development of gender responsive guidelines and by-laws to ensure coherence and complementarity and to support integrated Land use management Plan (ILUMP) approach (Output 1.3), (iv) establishment of a landscape-level information and monitoring system (Output 1.6), and promotion of regional Cooperation between CAR and DR Congo for the management of the Ubangui Sub basin (Output 2.1).

The outputs and outcomes of Components 2 and 3 will operate in an integrated manner, delivering together innovative and transformational change on the ground. Both Components hinges primarily on the finance leverage, multi-stakeholder dialogues and innovation and learnings transformation levers.

The pathway of Component 2 and 3 includes the management effectiveness of existing PAs, identification of potential areas to be recognized as OECMS, ecological restoration of 30,000 ha of degraded lands, sustainable production practices in 200,000 ha to improve local and global ecosystem services. It will also include valuation of natural capital, and exploration of biodiversity credits or certificates as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions. Through the Multi-stakeholder dialogues lever, the project will foster alignment and collaboration through processes ranging from community-level participatory land use planning and protected area co-management to multi-stakeholder spatial planning at the landscape scale to multi-country dialogue around transboundary forest. Through the innovation and learnings transformation lever, the project will foster collection and dissemination of knowledge and best practices, in the areas of protected area management, management of OECMs, ecological restoration practices, informing gender-responsive land use planning, design of governance arrangements, and providing support for alternative livelihoods and nature-friendly enterprise, and policy reform and alignment. Through the finance leverage, the project will enhance the ability to secure innovative and sustainable financing, in terms of technical capacity for (i) linking natural capital valuation of goods and services and their roles in a transformation towards SLM/SLM, (ii) exploring biodiversity credits or certificates as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions, to sustain conservation and sustainable management in the long-term landscape management.

Component 4 apply the lever of Innovation and learning. It will facilitate replication and the expansion of efforts across various landscapes within the country and at regional level through effective knowledge management, raising awareness, and gender mainstreaming. It will support monitoring protocols to track progress towards meeting planned environmental and socio-economic benefits from the project and to provide for adaptive management as needed.

The project objective is therefore to safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value ecosystems, from unsustainable resource use, as a result of effective government enabling capacity, community participation and resilient green livelihoods. This will be achieved through four interrelated components, which collectively address the four levers for systems transformation outlined in the GEF-8 strategy mentioned above:

Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activity Descriptions

Based on the Theory of Change (above), the proposed alternative scenario involves the following Components, Outcomes and Outputs:

Component 1: Enabling environment for ILUMP and enhanced transboundary water management

This component will support governance mechanisms, stakeholders' capacity building, increased policies coherence through strengthened regulatory frameworks to guide participatory land use planning mechanism and associated tools (outcome 1), contributing to an enabling environment for green value chain development, which is articulated under Component 3. It will also provide pre-diagnosis, tools and approaches preparatory to Transboundary cooperation for the Ubangui watershed management (outcome 2). Stakeholders will be engaged in policy dialogues at multiple scales and inter-sectoral consultation processes, and the engagement of IP&LCs will follow due FPIC procedures. Consideration of gender perspectives addressing inequality, women's equal participation in governance and decision-making, their access to natural resources, will be cross-cutting themes across all Components.

Outcome 1.1. Gender responsive' strengthened governance mechanism and cross-sectoral capacity increased to improve coherence in support of ILUMP enabling conditions .

Under this outcome, GEF resources will be used to provide technical assistance for the design and operationalization of a gender responsive governance mechanism/platform - GSGM (Output 1.1); deliver a gender responsive capacity development program for relevant government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at Prefectural and councils levels involved in the integrated land use and management planning (Output 1.2); review and develop gender responsive guidelines and by-laws to ensure coherence and complementarity and to support integrated Land use management Plan (ILUMP) approach (Output 1.3), and to establish a landscape-level information and monitoring system (Output 1.6). This Outcome assumes that participatory data collection, mapping and monitoring will help improve land use planning at local, council and prefectural levels, leading to better decision-making, and thereby increasing sustainability

of natural resource management.

Output 1.1.1 Landscape-level, cross-sectoral, gender-responsive governance mechanism/platform (GSGM) involving relevant stakeholders (IP, local communities, youth) from provincial and local levels for participatory development and coordinated ILUMP implementation.

To ensure a common vision for landscape land management, landscape' stakeholders must meet regularly to agree on a long-term vision. Currently, there are no existing coordination mechanisms at Basse-Lobaye Prefecture level, that bring together stakeholders to address integrated landscape management, watershed degradation, sustainable production practices, and forest restoration. With GEF 8 resources, an Inter-sectoral, gender-responsive governance platform will be established based on previous experiences in similar landscapes within the country and the region to facilitate effective collaboration across sectors for joint decision-making and planning in the Basse-Lobaye landscape. Platform' members will be strengthened in conflict management and community mobilization to ensure inclusive and efficient community engagement. By setting up a GSGM, the project will enhance cross-sectoral coordination on key priorities such as SLM/SFM, restoration, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, climate change actions, and their links to food security, poverty alleviation, and job creation.

Implementation Mechanism: Directed by the PMU with the support of specific consultancies to implement the analysis of landscape-level governance models, the participatory development and validation of rules, regulations, and other administrative instruments.

Output 1.1.2: Gender responsive government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at provincial and councils' levels capacitated for ILUMP.

ILUMP is a new topic among Basse-Lobaye' stakeholders. To promote this key element, sensitization and training workshops will be organized at provincial and council levels, the scale at which integrated land management plans will be developed. A series of workshops will institutionalize ILUMP, enabling councils to independently lead ILUMP planning and produce diagnostic and monitoring information. A team of consultants will support this activity by developing training modules on ILUMP. The training shall

also include module addressing equity and women's participation in planning and implementation. Existing materials from FAO, WRI, and other organizations will be adapted for these training modules. This output therefore includes: (i) delivery of trainings, decision-support tools, and diagnostic information for ILUMP planning, resulting in (i) capacitated government stakeholders to enforce ILUMP and (ii) increased sub-national capacity for biodiversity conservation, restoration, SLM/SFM in key sectors. A comprehensive capacity needs assessment will be conducted at project inception to support government institutions, private sector, Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth in designing and implementing an ILUMP.

Implementation Mechanism: Consultancies under PMU leadership.

Output 1.1.3: Relevant policies and regulations reviewed and gender responsive guidelines and by-laws developed that ensure coherence and support ILUMP approach.

This Output will assist the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, and the Ministry of Land Management, Decentralization and Local Development in reviewing existing policies and legislation to identify gaps, overlaps, and inconsistencies. This assessment will inform the development of regulatory instruments/by-laws and facilitate advocacy among key ministries to mainstream the proposed regulations. The formulation of by-laws will be done following the step-by-step bottom-up approach to ensure adequate participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders as well as traditional authorities. Opportunities for policy improvement will be jointly identified by government and nongovernment stakeholders, building on weaknesses identified under the OCDN project financed by the AfDB. Potential documents include: (i) constraints and opportunities for recognizing OECMs to strengthen management of Ecological Corridors in the Basse-Lobaye landscape; (ii) a gap analysis of frameworks related to OECMs with recommendations; ((ii) a biodiversity-positive carbon credits policy; (v) a natural capital accounting policy.

Technical guidelines will be prepared on restoration, sustainable production practices drawing from best practices, with emphasizing the application of soil and water conservation – these guidelines will be utilized in the implementation of integrated approaches in the demonstration areas under Component 2 (outputs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3). An ILUMP communication strategy highlighting the goals of ILUMP relevant to decision-makers and landscape stakeholders, the value of various sustainable land use practices to ensure forest ecosystem protection and improvement of livelihoods, will be developed.

Output 1.1.4 Landscape-level information and monitoring system established.

The project will assist decentralized structure of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing with the provisioning of improved capacities for Georeferenced programming in GIS. The project will also support this structure with remote sensing technologies and associated capacity building through a partnership to be developed with FAO. These technologies will also be used to support terrestrial spatial planning activities.

Outcome 1.2: *Enhanced Regional cooperation between CAR and DR Congo to promote water governance and healthy watershed management of the Ubangui Sub-Basin, duly screened for gender equality and women's empowerment.*

Output 1.2.1 Regional Cooperation between CAR and DR Congo for the management of the Ubangui Sub basin promoted, with due consideration for gender.

This output is critical in ensuring that a strong institutional foundation is set up to support transboundary cooperation and drive joint management of the Ubangui watershed.

Under this output, GEF 8 resources will be used to strengthen the coordination mechanism between CAR and DRC for the Management of the Ubangui watershed, and creating the necessary baseline information for evidence-based transboundary decision-making. It will lay down the ground groundwork for preparatory phase necessary for effective Regional transboundary

cooperation. Central to this approach to facilitate a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed between the two countries are: (i) the establishment of multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues; (ii) the collection of data for water information system, as a basis for evidence-based decision-making and the agreement on the platforms format in which data can be stored and accessed; (iii) the information exchange procedures. These are critical in supporting the implementation of the Agreement – and ensuring countries work towards an agreed approach to harmonize data collection and exchange; (iv) the definition of a system for continuous monitoring and the (v) signing of an agreement to support transboundary cooperation for the management of the Ubangui watershed. Lessons learnt from other transboundary water resource management will be built on in order to establish effective mechanisms of cooperation. The following data collection, tools and approaches will be considered:

1. Pre-Diagnosis, including Data Collection to gather data on hydrology, climate, land use, and socio-economic factors, to inform the design of a monitoring network on the Ubangui watershed. This will also involve remote sensing, field surveys, and historical data analysis; Stakeholder Identification, to Identify all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, governments, NGOs, and private sector entities, and Assessment of Current Conditions to evaluate the existing state of the watershed, including water quality, quantity, and ecosystem health.

2. Tools and Approaches, including establishing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS), to map and analyze spatial data related to the watershed; Hydrological Models, to simulate water flow and distribution, helping to predict the impacts of various management scenarios (see Output 4.2); Legal and Institutional Frameworks, to strengthen legal agreements and institutional arrangements to support cooperative management; Training on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to promote coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources (Output 4.3); Capacity Building, to enhance the technical and institutional capacities of all stakeholders involved (see Output 4.3).

Component 2: Conservation of Key biodiversity areas and ecosystem services, sustainable use of natural resource, enabled through application of Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, natural capital accounting (NCA), PES, and OECMs.

Building on component 1, which sets the framework for different land uses across the landscape, component 2 focuses on the implementation of management effectiveness of existing PAs, identification of potential areas to be recognized as OECMS, ecological restoration of 30,000 ha of degraded lands, sustainable production practices in 200,000 ha to improve local and global ecosystem services. It also aims to assess the value of natural capital, and explore biodiversity credits or certificates as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions, which will ensure the protection of natural resources and sustainable use of biodiversity, contributing to ecological connectivity.

Outcome 2.1: *Sustainability of the Basse-Lobaye Forest Landscape secured, taking gender equality and women's empowerment into consideration*

Output 2.1.1. An ILUMP for the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape developed , with due consideration for gender, based on participatory processes and remotely-sensed data evidence.

Under this output, and building on lessons learned from the GEF 7 land use planning process initiated in CAR and across the Congo, an Integrated Land Use Management Plan (ILUMP) for the Basse-Lobaye landscape will be developed through a participatory approach. This participatory process is set out in three main steps outlined in Appendix 15, each of which is divided into several sequential stages that include guidance on what is needed within each step.

Output 2.1.2 Ecological connectivity enhanced through elephants' collaring results, as well as training, field equipment, surveillance provided to decentralized services of the Ministry of forest, to build capacity, ensure coherence and synergies with existing GEF 7 project and Sangha Tri national anti-poaching agreement initiative, in addressing illegal wildlife trade with adjacent forests: The Ngotto Forest and the TNS.

There is an existing coordinated anti-poaching effort within the adjacent landscape: the Sangha Tri-national, which include CAR, Cameroon and Republic of Congo. This output seeks to complement this effort, to secure elephant population within the corridor connecting the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape, to the Ngotto forest landcape and the Sangha Tri-national transboundary protected area. With GEF 8 resources, this output will provide support for training, field equipment, operational expenses, aerial surveillance and means to monitor elephant movements and locations in real time.

Output 2.1.3. Increased management effectiveness of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, with due consideration of gender

Under this Output, the GEF 8 resource will be used to increase management effectiveness (as assessed through the METT) of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, and update its Management Plan (MP). The MP will designate core zones of the reserve important for elephant and other large bodies mammal use and will clearly define regime for the zones to allow wildlife access to vital habitats and water and maintain integrity of the elephants' migration routes in adjacent forest landscape, such as the Ngotto forest and the Sangha Tri-National Forest landscape. To implement law enforcement of the reserve, the GEF 8 resource will be used to provide vehicles and field equipment for law enforcement activities, along with trainings to the PAs staff. With WWF CAR support, staff of the Reserve will be capacitated to undertake wildlife monitoring and protection based on capacity needs assessment and METTs developed during PPG. During the interviews carried out during the collective FPIC, many complained about the absence of physical materialization of the limits of the park. The GEF 8 resource will also be used for the physical demarcation of the park.

Outcome 2.2: *Remaining core biodiversity areas in the landscape are better protected, restored, connected and effectively managed, taking gender equality and women's empowerment into consideration*

Output 2.2.1: Detailed mapping and designation of priority candidates' areas for recognition as OECMs, within the productive landscape

Under this output, with support from WWF, GEF 8 resources will be used to identify potential areas to be recognized as OECMS, which will ensure the protection of natural resources and sustainable use of biodiversity, contributing to ecological connectivity.

The following four criteria that will be used for identifying OECMs: (i) The area is not currently recognized as a protected area; (ii) The area is governed and managed; (iii) The area achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity; and (iv) the associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values are conserved and respected.

Output 2.2.2 Gender responsive Ecosystem restoration interventions, applying FPIC principles, implemented across 30,000 ha of degraded ecosystems in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape

This Output will deliver the restoration of degraded forests on 30,000 hectares based on system for restoring degraded areas already developed within the landscape, in the Pissa Council, by the company: SIAD-CA. Ecological restoration will be done through regenerative agriculture and syntrophic agroforestry using a participatory approach involving IPs and local communities' farmers (including women, youth and traditional authorities) as agent for reforestation. This will further be supported by the identification of local-level champions (men, women and youth) to drive the restoration process. This will support a decentralized approach to sustainability. The selection of farmers who will be involved in ecological restoration will be a key step. The objective will be to enlist at least 3000 farmers with a target of 10 ha on average per person. Therefore, training will be provided to reach 500 farmers per year on average. Through the SIAD-CAR training Center at Bobangui, a capacity-building program for Indigenous peoples, local communities will be rolled out and will cover a range of approaches for landscape restoration (e.g. crop rotation, agroforestry, etc.). The project will build on inventory of degraded lands (already conducted at PPG phase, see Appendix 17) to confirm areas to be considered for ecological restoration. Land areas were indigenous peoples leaved will be identified as a priority. A partnership with the University of Bangui (Ethnology Division) will be established to identify and restore their ancestral lands. With SIAD_CA and OCDN, the GEF 8 resource swill be used to support establishment of community forestry in these lands by creating community

forests, by planting caterpillar trees, charcoal trees, fruit trees, pharmacopoeia trees. As needed, Indigenous peoples, local communities or community nurseries, managed by local women, will be supported or established to provide seedlings to sites where enrichment planting will be taking place. Indigenous seedlings to be selected will include those can provide multiple NTFPs benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities to support additional livelihoods. Restoration plans and protocols will be developed during the first year of project implementation, and may include: species identification, maintenance needs, costs, etc.

Key stakeholders that will be involved include: Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, Local NGOs such as: OCDN, the Kamolelou association as well as ENABEL, the Mbaiki Rural Development Higher Institute, the Central Africa Higher Institute of Agronomy, Central African Agronomic Research Institute (ICRA), and the ethnological Division of the University of Bangui.

Output 2.2.3 Gender-responsive sustainable agricultural practices for targeted farms, designed and implemented in key productive sites, applying the FPIC principles

Today, a major obstacle to agricultural development is the lack of access to quality chemical fertilizers and pesticides. SIAD_CA has developed a method that minimizes chemical fertilizer use and relies on crop rotation and biodiversity integration for pest resistance, closely aligned with local ancestral practices. During the PPG, an initial assessment of farming systems, including women and indigenous group specific activities in targeted sites was conducted. It found that none of the sites included large-scale commercial farmers; rather, they comprised existing plantations and small-scale farms growing a mix of subsistence and cash crops. Under this Output, with GEF 8 resources, smallholder farmers (men, women, youth, Indigenous peoples) will be supported in implementing sustainable practices that reverse land degradation, rehabilitate abandoned plantations, and enhance resilience to CC through SLM, protecting ecosystem services and increasing incomes by raising crop yields. By undertaking sustainable practices in degraded areas/abandoned plantations, the following benefits that help protect primary forests are expected: (i) Reducing Pressure on Primary Forests: By increasing productivity on already disturbed lands, there's less need to encroach on primary forests for agriculture and resource extraction, preserving these critical ecosystems; (ii) Carbon Sequestration: Restoring degraded lands through sustainable practices will sequester significant amounts of carbon, mitigating climate change impacts and reducing deforestation pressures on primary forests; (iii) Biodiversity Conservation: Rehabilitation of degraded areas will create buffer zones and corridors that connect and protect primary forests, supporting biodiversity conservation efforts; (iv) Economic Incentives: Sustainable practices on abandoned lands will create economic opportunities that discourage deforestation and promote conservation by providing alternative livelihoods for IPs and local communities; (v) Ecosystem Services: Restoring lands will improve water quality, soil health, and overall ecosystem services, contributing to the resilience and health of adjacent primary forests.

With the GEF 8 resource, this project will support innovative approaches to SLM, which increased crop yields thus improving food security, and in so doing, it will aim to avoid and reduce smallholder encroachment into adjacent primary forests. The implementation of the agroecology model developed by SIAD_CA will lead to regeneration of degraded areas/abandoned plantations through the deployment of regenerative agriculture and agroforestry techniques, which in turn will reduce GHG emissions and protect biodiversity and contribute to the management of 200,000 ha of sustainable productive landscape. In the project approach, agricultural production systems will be used as a means to disseminate biodiversity-friendly sustainable practices, whereas training center established by SIAD_CA will be use to provide comprehensive training in a participatory, hands-on setting. The goal of this training will be to (i) build extension agents and farmers' skills in agroecological farming practices, (ii) enable farmers to improve food security, crop variety and strengthen livelihoods, (iii) raise awareness of improved pest management, and (iv) restore soils. As mentioned above, traditional knowledge of sustainable land management systems will be integrated and promoted.

Partnerships will be sought with various stakeholder groups mentioned under Output 2.2.2.

Outcome 2.3: Capacity and application of NCA developed in 2 priority sites within the landscape, with due consideration for gender.

Output 2.3.1. Experimental Ecosystem accounts established at landscape level and incorporated into decision making

Under this output, GEF 8 resources will support the establishment of Natural Capital Accounts for selected pilot areas within the Basse-lobaye landscape, for spatial planning purposes, including NCA on environmental assets (ecosystems and condition); flows of goods and services from the Terrestrial, water to the economy (supply/use of ecosystem services). It will focus on the establishment of terrestrial (land) and water accounts. A review will be done to identify key lessons learned from the valuation of natural capital among the GEF 7 projects being implemented in CAR and in the Congo Basin, to identify key datasets that can be adapted to the Basse-Lobaye's context. Based on the available data, at least one ecosystem condition account will be constructed to demonstrate how the NCA can be used as a monitoring tool for land and watershed management. Natural capital valuation reports will be produced for the Basse-Lobaye landscape showing the contribution of biodiversity and its ecosystem goods and services to key economic sector.

Output 2.3.2. Technical assistance, gender responsive training and protocols provided to national and selected key stakeholders on NCA compilation for application in 2 priority sites within the landscape

Capacity and NCA know-how in CAR are very low. Therefore, through a validated methodology developed under the GEF 7 project in the Congo Basin, this output will support training of staff members and key stakeholder on natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services. This will be done by conducting tailor-made training programs with the help of international technical experts in the field of NCA and ecosystem valuation. A separate training-of-trainers will be supported to facilitate further uptake and dissemination of the concept and application of NCA.

Implementation mechanism: PMU, in collaboration with university and consulting firm.

Output 2.3.3. ILUMP developed by integrating NC values

Complementary to the theoretical knowledge acquired under Output 2.3.1 on terrestrial and water accounts, and the NCA integration into ILUMP developed under the GEF 7 project, this Output, with GEF 8 resources will integrates NC values into the ILUMP developed under Output 2.1.1.

Output 2.3.4. Investment pathways, duly screened for gender equality, investigated to facilitate accessible business, organizational, and individual investments in landscape restoration and management through Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates

This output aim to identify innovative financial instruments and their implementation mechanisms in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape. Recognizing that public financing has been the mainstay of biodiversity finance in the past, and is almost inexistent today, this output will have to contribute significantly towards conservation and sustainable nature-friendly use of biodiversity. It will therefore assess the feasibility of a few financing mechanisms (biodiversity credits scheme, etc.) for testing to enhance current funding for conservation. With GEF 8 resources, the project will therefore design and customize technical tools tailored to the local context for, biodiversity credits, carbon credits, and nature certificate schemes.

Component 3: Indigenous peoples, local communities' livelihoods improvements through green enterprises and market systems with private sector.

Under Component 3, the sustainability of the SLM and SFM interventions to be implemented under Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2, will be secured by supporting Women, Youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of viable green enterprises and market systems.

Outcome 3. Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices, diversified and sustainable IPLCs' livelihoods, including for the benefit of women

Output 3.1. Gender responsive investment, applying the FPIC principles and training plan for the promotion of economic activities around value chains for agroforestry, NTFPs, etc.

During the PPG phase and the FPIC processes organized with focus groups in the Pissa and Moboma Councils, the following requests came out very strongly: (i) the need to strengthen technical capacities and entrepreneurial leadership in green Enterprises. Therefore, the GEF 8 resource will be used to provide training, capacity development and market/value chain assessments to support green enterprises development; and the request for (ii) a large-scale participatory mapping of land and resources as expressed by local communities, indigenous peoples from Londo, Moalé, Bakota, and Moloukou. This tool will provide local entrepreneurs with a visual representation of community lands and resources for consensual zoning of micro ecological areas conducive to biodiversity-respectful entrepreneurial activities. Activities under this output will be led by ACDEF, in partnership with CSOs grouped within a platform called CIONG-CA (Inter-Non-Governmental Organization Council in the Central African Republic).

Output 3.2. Gender responsive diversified resilient livelihoods options, applying the FPIC principles co-developed with IPs, Local communities to support the emergence of new green business opportunities with private sector, particularly for women and youth

The NTFP' participatory assessment carried out during the PPG phase, in Londo, Moalé, Moloukou, Siriri, Pissa, and Bagandou reveals a deep deficit in production assets, the conservation and transport of products from the collection or harvest sites to local and urban markets. This has a direct impact on revenues and constitutes major constraints to the development of green businesses. Currently, the green economy benefits external actors from secondary cities, more than local communities and indigenous peoples. The later expressed, the need to acquire light material and logistical resources to carry out their green business activities. Taking into consideration the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks conducted for NTFPs value chains during PPG phase, and with the aim to enhance the effectiveness of project intervention to the benefit of local communities, and indigenous peoples, the following recommendations were made during the validation workshop that took place in Bangui: (i) The need to (a) adopt a community approach through associative grouping of entrepreneurs, (b) to create a co-managed bank of equipments, and the (c) need to provide Indigenous peoples, and local communities with necessary equipment and logistic infrastructures; (ii) The need to establish a shared strategy among local entrepreneurs for group sales of products to manage seasonal variability and enhance financial benefits; and (iii) The need to facilitate establishment of storage facilities at pilot sites. It was recognized that there is no point, for example, in collecting NTFPs if there is no conservation facility in place. Implementing these recommendations, with GEF 8 resources, will include (i) providing support to local NTFP entrepreneurs with production, conservation, and transport assets; (ii) strengthening resource collection and supply by creating 5 equipment banks co-managed by beneficiary entrepreneurial groups; (iii) improving income levels for families in production areas; and (iv) preventing food insecurity and child malnutrition during lean periods by popularizing improved agricultural seeds (peanut/sesame). A strong emphasis will be placed on women and youth as change drivers to enhance their leadership role. Opportunities identified during the PPG phase for accelerating green businesses and resilient green livelihood options will be prioritized for implementation. To incentivize green livelihoods aligned with the enabling framework developed under Component 1, financial support will be considered using GEF 8 resources. These may include grants issued to Associations, groups of local NTFP entrepreneurs, to finance biodiversity-friendly value chains. The inclusion of a gender target for financing benefits of at least 40% could contribute to improve NBS led by rural women.

Implementation Mechanism:

ACDEF will lead the implementation of Outputs 3.1 and 3.2.

Component 4. Knowledge management, stakeholder coordination, M&E and gender mainstreaming.

This component is essential for capturing and leveraging knowledge from the project to drive integration and transformation beyond its specific geography. It will implement systems to document best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches. This ongoing learning process will support the development of coherent and adaptive policies/regulatory frameworks. In addition, by providing relevant knowledge products, data and insights, this component will help policymakers create strategies informed by the best available knowledge. Appropriate technologies will facilitate knowledge capture, sharing, dissemination, and application, including databases, communities of practice (like the one established under GEF 7 Congo IP), collaborative platforms, regional and global events, south-south exchanges, and other digital tools that support KM processes. Collaboration with the GEF 8 RCP and other country-based IP, will be fostered through regular meetings, continuous information exchange, and the publication of communication materials to share achievements and lessons learned. This will enhance knowledge flow with other GEF8 Congo IP country-based projects, including the Regional Coordination Project (RCP), and will contribute to support or improve future investments and scale up innovative solutions. In addition, through the RCP, this project benefit from technical support, capacity building, learning exchange, as well as from its facilitation of the transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogue, allowing for replication and scaling-up of the project's impact. An awareness and communication strategy (taking into account low literacy levels and language diversity) will inform key stakeholders, including women, about knowledge products and tools on biodiversity management, land degradation, corridor management through land restoration, sustainable production practices, and gender-responsive green business development. Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders—Indigenous peoples, local communities, government agencies, the private sector, and international partners—will promote integration and coherence while ensuring diverse perspectives on biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation provides a comprehensive understanding of how these areas intersect and interact. This will help create a more holistic and inclusive KM approach, ensuring that regulatory frameworks and/or policies are not developed in isolation but are part of an integrated strategy, and that they are aligned and mutually reinforcing. Training programs and workshops will build stakeholders' skills in biodiversity conservation, restoration, sustainable production practices, green enterprise development, enhancing their ability to implement coherent policies. Through its M&E system, the project will track outcomes to identify areas needing adjustments for coherence. This last component is also key to the management of the Ubangui basin resources as it will invest to facilitate the establishment of a regional cooperation framework between CAR and DR Congo. It will lay down the ground groundwork for preparatory phase necessary for effective Regional transboundary cooperation, ensuring that all parties, including the two countries can work together towards sustainable watershed management. It will also generate critical information necessary for the adoption of modern integrated approaches to managing water resources and balancing competing uses. Finally, the project will collaborate the GEF IW: LEARN which promotes transboundary water management through sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions. These efforts will contribute to the management of the Ubangui watershed, particularly with DR Congo.

Outcome 4: Knowledge and innovation are diffused at multiple sub-national, national and international scales, while project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated by a gender responsive M&E strategy.

Output 4.1 Communication, knowledge products, tools and approaches are developed and shared widely, duly screened for gender equality and women's empowerment

This output seeks to ensure effective communication and coordination at the national and regional levels with the other GEF 8 National projects, allowing an exchange of experiences and knowledge, especially of lessons learned and best practices on key issues. It also seeks to ensure the management of knowledge of the actions carried out in Components 1, 2, and 3 of this project, with adequate and coordinated communication in order to disseminate the Results, achievements, and lessons learned. Additionally, with GEF 8 resources, the project will support participation in regional and international events by local community representatives, local entrepreneurs and technical staff and policy makers meetings, as well as sharing knowledge and lessons across the GEF 8 Regional Coordination platform. It will also support exchange visits between other GEF 8 national projects in the region, including opportunities for south-south exchange.

Implementation mechanism: PMU generates the information, and the publications are developed through consultancies with PMU leadership

Output 4.2 Data and analytics, with due consideration for gender, to help officials at the Ubangui Sub-basin, prefecture and national level understand current and future water risks and better prepare for and manage those risks are enhanced.

Under this Output and Output 4.3, GEF 8 resources will be used to support university students to generate critical information necessary for the adoption of modern integrated approaches to managing water resources and balancing competing uses. GEF 8 resources will also be used to map and analyze spatial data related to the watershed; and to develop Hydrological Models, to simulate water flow and distribution, helping to predict the impacts of various management scenarios. It will also be used to help set up a basin-wide Ubangui Water Resources Information System (UbanWIS), to be located at the University of Bangui/Department of Geography. UbanWis will be an interactive, web-based data and information portal based on contemporary and historical spatial data, hydrological time series, earth observation information, etc. Currently, CICOS has some contemporary and historical hydrometeorological data and information from some sections of the Ubangui watershed. This UbanWIS will includes GIS/spatial data including remote sensing products such as land cover, rainfall, land use, flow forecasting and monitoring tools, environmental and socio-economic analysis and determination developed under this project. Finally, GEF 8 resource will be use to promote IW: LEARN activities with the view to showcase to a wider audience the progress and lessons from implementation of the project. Several knowledge products (developed in Outputs 1.2.1, 4.1) will be disseminated within the region as well as the wider transboundary management community. These knowledge products will be tailor-made to suit different audiences, among them policy makers, the scientific community, institutions of learning (both primary and tertiary) as well as communities.

Output 4.3 Inclusive Capacity building and awareness raising of governments and CSOs representatives in targeted areas of the Lobaye landscape, as well as on water- and climate-wise learning, planning and decision-making.

Under this output, Training on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to promote coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources, as the guiding principle for managing regional water resources, to enhance the technical and institutional capacities of all stakeholders involved.

Output 4.4 Operational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems implemented.

This Output will support adaptive management, learning and accountability to stakeholders and beneficiaries. It is through this output that the global environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project will be measured. It will deliver a M&E system that supports project impact including gender and youth mainstreaming and adherence to social and environmental safeguards, building on baseline best practices and lessons from other projects in CAR and in other countries where the GEF 8 CFB IP is implemented.

Implementation Mechanism: led by PMU, with the hiring of consultants to carry out midterm and final evaluations of the project.

Sustainability, Uptake and Replicability

Sustainability

Institutional, Financial and Economic Sustainability

The Project's deliverables and achievements are expected to be sustainable, since the project design contains several elements that create permanent structures and processes that will be sustained beyond the Project's lifetime. Indeed, the focus on creating a landscape-level, cross-sectoral, gender-responsive governance mechanism/platform (GSGM) involving relevant stakeholders (IP, local communities, youth) from provincial and local levels for participatory development and coordinated ILUMP implementation (Output 1.1.1), stakeholder capacity development for ILUMP (Output 1.1.2), en enabling framework for ILUMP (Output 1.1.3) and water resource governance (Output 1.2.1), establishing ann institutionalizing an ILUMP for the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape at the Prefecture and councils levels (Output 2.1.1), supporting Indigenous peoples, and local communities in transitioning from unsustainable practices to those that prioritize sustainability while ensuring ecosystem health, conserving biodiversity, and reducing land degradation (Output 2.2.2, Output 2.2.3): all these foster long term structures in support of sustainability. Strengthened capacity of government, Indigenous peoples, local communities, private sector, and civil society stakeholders at the national and local levels with improved tools for integrated land use planning, planning and management of protected areas, production areas

across the Basse-Lobaye landscape, will provide the conditions to reduce deforestation and ensure environmental sustainability. In addition, the project will provide financing for valuation of natural capital, and work to develop financial instruments such as biodiversity carbon credits or certificates as long-term solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions. This will provide incentives for biodiversity conservation, restoring degraded lands, improving sustainable production practices, and will contribute to financial sustainability supporting the project exit strategy.

Potential scaling up and Replication

The project has a significant potential for replication, and it is designed to be scaled up within the Central African Republic and other countries, facing similar environmental issues. Component 4 of the project has a built-in framework for replicability, which will serve for project monitoring and generate knowledge for continuous learning.

As part of the project's knowledge management actions that contribute to the scaling-up and replicability of the project's outcomes, a GEF 7 Congo IP project knowledge management platform has been operationalized, which will be further supported by the Regional coordination project under the GEF 8 Congo IP, and will be used by the project to share knowledge and information within the Central African Republic and among Congo Basin countries, allowing for greater appropriation of knowledge locally and increasing the sustainability of the project. In addition, lessons learned will be compiled, systematized, and disseminated in national and local languages through various communication channels, including local radios and TV, websites, information networks, forums, and publications, to support replication and scaling-up. Finally, the approach piloted by the project in the target areas, particularly with regard to strengthening the enabling framework for integrated land use management in Component 1, demonstrating implementation of such integrated approaches in various land use areas in Component 2, supporting the technical tools, technologies and practices for restoration and improved sustainable production practices, the training of stakeholders to use these tools and apply these practices in Component 3, enhancing knowledge flow and facilitating learning, through outreach and platform (e online platform) and cross-learning exchanges in Component 4, along piloting financial mechanisms, will enhance the durability of the project results and promote upscaling and replication of the project.

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South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The Congo IP is part of a broader GEF8 initiative titled “The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program”, aimed at conserving intact rainforests across the globe. Regional, national and even global-level cooperation frameworks and learning are foreseen in the project strategy, including the possibility of South-South and Triangular cooperation. These will be facilitated by the platforms established through the Congo IP Regional Coordination Child Project, with specific instances of collaboration already integrated into project activities. This project will build on platforms established through the Congo IP Regional Coordination Child Project, to bring the lessons learned from this project and to share best practices with other participating countries of the above-mentioned initiative. This would include close collaboration, knowledge sharing and exchange visits with other CFB IP countries that are implementing similar projects. It will also include participation in relevant regional and global events for information and lessons sharing and learning, and study visits.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Implementing Agency

- UNEP is the Implementing Agency for this project.

- UNEP's ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION oversees the project to ensure adherence to GEF policies and achievement of objectives.

- The Director of UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION supervises the project through an assigned Task Manager.

- UNEP liaises with the GEF Secretariat, reporting progress and any significant co-financing changes.

- UNEP annually rates project progress and ensures independent terminal evaluations.

Executing Agency

- The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) is the Executing Agency.

- The National Director (ND) ensures government contributions and accountability for project deliverables.

- UNEP and MESD will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), detailing roles, including WWF-CAR's execution of activities. As discussed, and agreed during the PPG phase, the PCA to be signed between MESD and UN Environment will include a clause which will allow UN Environment to transfer funds directly to WWF-CAR to execute its activities on the ground and to support local NGOs and other stakeholders such as SIAD-CA: Société des Industries Agricoles Durable-Centrafrique ; ACDEF – CAR: The African Conservation and Development Foundation ; and the local NGOs : OCDN: Organisation Centrafricaine pour la Défense de la Nature ; MEFP: La Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée ; REPALCA : Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de Centrafrique ; AFDD : The Association of Women for Sustainable Development in the Central African Republic, as Executing Partners) for the execution of activities. This arrangement was concluded to allow fluid execution of the activities with the communities and local partners.

- MESD will be responsible of submitting timely progress and financial reports to UN-Environment.

- MESD will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WWF-CAR and other partners for resource allocation and activity execution.

Detailed of the implementation arrangements of the project and their relationship to the Regional Congo IP can be found in in Appendix 7, and Appendix 5e_TORs_Project Staff.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

N/A

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Coordination with Ongoing initiatives and projects:

The project will build upon multiple regional projects and support global initiatives. The project will coordinate with relevant stakeholders including planned and ongoing projects and activities (GEF and non-GEF) in CAR, in the region and where relevant world-wide.

The project will work closely with the **Regional Congo IP Platform** to identify common practices to establish strategies for forest governance and shared views under **COMIFAC's Convergence Plan**. Through the development of appropriate KM Mechanisms

instrument (described in Component 4 activities) the results of this project will be shared widely with other peer GEF projects through regional and international knowledge platforms, UN Country Teams, political forums, events, etc.

The project will work in close collaboration with ongoing GEF initiatives as follows:

- The GEF 8 Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program: It aims to maintain the integrity of globally important and critical tropical primary forests. Collaboration will be ensured through the Congo IP Regional Platform, operationalized through the Regional Child Project under the Congo IP (GEF ID: 11248) “Amazon Congo Critical Forest Biomes: UNEP’s Regional Coordination Project for The Congo Basin Integrated Program (IP)”.

- UNDP/GEF funded Project (ID: 4318): Integrated Adaptation Programme to Combat the Effects of Climate Change on Agricultural Production and Food Security in CAR. Duration: 2021-2026. Through this project, SIAD-CA has managed to increase its nursery to a capacity of 100,000 trees. This project will build on SIAD-CA’s assets and know-how of this project to scale up its agroforestry activities in targeted degraded areas identified in this project.

- The Restoration Initiative (TRI): a joint FAO-UNEP-IUCN initiative, aims at supporting Forest and Land Restoration (FLR) efforts in 10 countries worldwide, including the Central African Republic (CAR). SIAD-CA is currently a technical partner for this project.

- The IFAD Project, funded by the Adaptation Fund: Increasing the Adaptation Capacity and Resilience of Rural Communities to Climate Change in the Central African Republic (2024-20XXX).

- The AfDB funded project: Development of Agricultural Value Chains in the Central African Republic: Total budget: Budget: US$ 12.34 million.

- The Human Capital Project funded by the WB. Total budget: US$50 million. It aims to improve access to health and education services, as well as promote employment opportunities that empower women and adolescent girls in targeted areas of the Central African Republic.

- The GEF funded Project (ID: 10771): Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic. Budget: US$ 8,507,067.00. Duration: 60 months. The project objective is to enhance resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms. The project is implemented by FAO.

- The GEF Project (ID: 10347): Scaling up ecological corridors and transboundary connectivity through integrated natural resources management in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park (GEF ID: 10347). The overall goal of this project, is to improve integrated natural resources management and sustainable rural livelihoods in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park.

Coordination mechanisms will be established with these and other ongoing initiatives in order to maximize the project impact and to build links with other national and local efforts. Previous experiences have demonstrated that such mechanisms are successful in empowering local stakeholders, further strengthening institutional capacity for implementation and monitoring, and fostering opportunities for sustainability.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Project Core Indicators	Expected at CEO Endorsement

1	**Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare)	18,200
2	**Marine protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare)	
3	Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare)	30,000
4	Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (hectare)	200,000
5	Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (hectare)	
6	**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric ton of CO_2e)	49, 098, 753
7	**Shared water ecosystems** under new or improved cooperative management (count)	One shared water ecosystems (Ubangui River)
8	Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)	
9	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments **disaggregated by sex** (count)	2,500 men 2,500 women

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators *(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)*

Core Indicator 1: The area includes the existing Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve: 18,200 ha.

Core Indicator 3 & 4: The focus areas are identified under Annex E1 and Appendix 17. During the PPG phase, Forest landscape integrity index scores, as measured by (i) the pressures observed (infrastructure, agriculture, loss of plant cover), (ii) deduced pressures, modeled according to the proximity of observed pressures, and (iii) change in forest connectivity, in combination with from data from field mission in the project area, was used for the identification of priority pilot intervention areas for forest and restoration, agroforestry to improve sustainable production practices.

Core Indicator 6: Using the EX-ACT analysis tool, the carbon mitigation potential is -49,098,753 tCO2-e and without the project, 1,139,554 tCO2-e. Over the 20-year project accounting period, estimated annual carbon balance ranges from -412 594.57 tCO2-e (1st year) to -2 888 161.97 tCO2-e (20th year), while cumulative carbon balance per year is between -412 594.57 tCO2-e (1st year) and -49 098 753.45 tCO2-e (20th year) for a total area of 230,000 ha.

Core Indicator 7: Improved water management and usage will benefit agriculture, water quality and availability and help to ensure adequate food security and water access.

Core Indicator 11: Similar to the Concept Note stage, a total of 5,000 beneficiaries are proposed, but currently it is foreseen that women benefitting from the project will constitute 50% of this total. This is in response to the gender transformative agenda proposed for the project since the Concept Note stage.

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
18200	18200	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
18200	18200	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Basse-Lobaye, UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve	2059	Protected Landscape/Seascape	18,200.00	18,200.00					

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50000	30000	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50,000.00	30,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
300000	35000	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
300,000.00	35,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	30152941	49098753	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	30,152,941	49,098,753		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2025		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Congo/Zaire			

Count	1	0	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Congo/Zaire	2			

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Congo/Zaire	2			

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Congo/Zaire	2			

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Congo/Zaire	2			

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,500	2,500		
Male	2,500	2,500		
Total	**5,000**	**5,000**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Core Indicator 1: The area includes the existing Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve: 18,200 ha.

Core Indicator 3 & 4: The focus areas are identified under Annex E1 and Appendix 18. During the PPG phase, Forest landscape integrity index scores, as measured by (i) the pressures observed (infrastructure, agriculture, loss of plant cover), (ii) deduced pressures, modeled according to the proximity of observed pressures, and (iii) change in forest connectivity, in combination with from data from field mission in the project area, was used for the identification of priority pilot intervention areas for forest and restoration, agroforestry to improve sustainable production practices.

Core Indicator 6: Using the EX-ACT analysis tool, the carbon mitigation potential is -14,112,519 tCO2-e and without the project, 180,886 tCO2-e. Over the 20-year project accounting period, estimated annual carbon balance ranges from -118 592.60 tCO2-e (1st year) to -830148.17 tCO2-e (20th year), while cumulative carbon balance per year is between -118 592.60 tCO2-e (1st year) and -14 112 518.81 tCO2-e (20th year) for a total area of 65,000 ha.

Core Indicator 7: Improved water management and usage will benefit agriculture, water quality and availability and help to ensure adequate food security and water access.

Core Indicator 11: Similar to the Concept Note stage, a total of 5,000 beneficiaries are proposed, but currently it is foreseen that women benefitting from the project will constitute 50% of this total. This is in response to the gender transformative agenda proposed for the project since the Concept Note stage.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	• Risks: Vulnerability to climate change impacts such as extreme weather events, floods, and droughts. • Mitigation: The project will promote sustainable land management practices, including ecological restoration and syntrophic agroforestry. These practices will enhance ecosystem resilience and contribute to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Environmental Risks and Mitigation Measures: 1. Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Sustainable Natural Resource Management •Risks: Potential conversion or degradation of habitats, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystem services. •Mitigation: The project focuses on ecosystem restoration using agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration techniques. It will update and implement the management plan for the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, ensuring the protection of natural resources and sustainable use of biodiversity. 3. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency •Risks: Potential release of pollutants, generation of waste, and use of hazardous materials. • Mitigation: The project will not involve activities that generate significant waste or use hazardous materials. It will discourage the use of invasive alien species and genetically modified organisms. 4. Community Health, Safety, and Security • Risks: Potential exposure to water-borne diseases, adverse impacts on natural resources, and engagement of security personnel. • Mitigation: The project will adopt safety and precautionary measures, minimize human presence in core wildlife areas, and ensure strict protocols to reduce disease transmission. It will

		support anti-poaching patrols and monitoring activities. 5. Cultural Heritage • Risks: Potential impacts on cultural heritage sites and utilization of cultural heritage for commercial purposes. • Mitigation: The project will support sustainable forest management and other activities that do not compromise cultural heritage sites. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be designed and implemented. Social Risks and Mitigation Measures 1. Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement • Risks: Potential economic displacement and restrictions on land or resource use. • Mitigation: The project will promote the empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities, ensuring access to forest resources. Livelihood restoration interventions will be implemented for affected persons. 2. Indigenous Peoples •Risks: Potential impacts on the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples. •Mitigation: The project will protect the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands and cultures. An Indigenous People's Plan will be prepared, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles will be applied. 3. Labor and Working Conditions • Risks: Potential non-compliance with labor laws and international commitments. • Mitigation: The project will abide by national labor laws and ILO conventions, promoting equal job opportunities and safe working conditions.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Risk description: Inter sectorial hinderances due: (a) to different approaches between involved decentralized institutions, councils, and (b) between the interests of indigenous peoples, local communities, private sector. Mitigation measures: The proposed gender responsive governance mechanism/platform, capacity development program for relevant government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at Prefectural and councils' levels involved in the integrated land use and management planning (Output 1.2); development of gender responsive guidelines and by-laws to ensure coherence and complementarity and to support integrated Land use management Plan (ILUMP) approach (Output 1.3), will act as a mitigation measure.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Risk description: Integrated Land-use planning and management designed but not funded. Mitigation measures: The project will finance valuation of natural capital, and explore biodiversity credits or certificates as solutions for financing intact nature or restoring lands to their ecological functions.
Technological	Moderate	Risk: Difficulties in accessing key data for an appropriate valuation of the cost incurred by nature and the monetary value to ecosystem goods and services. Mitigation Measures: Establish strong partnerships with local universities, research institutions, and international organizations to enhance data collection and sharing. Additionally, the project will implement capacity-building workshops to train local experts in advanced data collection and valuation techniques, ensuring a continuous and reliable flow of high-quality data necessary for robust economic valuation of ecosystem services.
Financial and Business Model		

EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Risk: A majority of project stakeholders including sectoral ministries do not have the right capacities in several thematic areas and project management disciplines. This problem significantly impacts sustainable natural resource management practices and economic development. Mitigation measures: Training of stakeholders in different thematic areas (eg. FLR, monitoring, LUP etc.), organizational capacity building of CSOs, NGOs and other local associations, reinforcing multi stakeholders' consultative platforms to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration, support to inter sectoral collaboration in project execution and management, strengthening landscape governance, promoting transboundary collaboration etc.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Risk and Mitigation measure: Very low as WWF-CAR has the necessary systems and safeguards in place to reduce this risk. As mentioned in Appendix 7: UNEP and MESD will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), in which the role of WWF-CAR in the Basse-Lobaye project execution will be specified. As discussed, during the PPG phase, the PCA to be signed between MESD and UNEP will include a clause which will allow UNEP to transfer funds directly to WWF-CAR to execute activities on the ground, and issue sub grant to local NGOs. This arrangement was concluded to allow fluid execution of the activities with the communities and local partners. The division of execution roles between MESD and WWF-CAR will be further specified during internalization process, and will be enclosed in the PCA.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Risk: Weak involvement of indigenous peoples, local communities in project execution. Mitigation measures: A detailed mapping and stakeholder engagement plan has been developed during project preparation. FPIC process was apply throughout the project design. Specific outputs of this project aimed at supporting Women, youth, minorities in value chain development. Capacity development and training needs and means for demonstration of nature-based activities that could incentivize community and stakeholder engagement are part of the project results framework
Other	Moderate	Insecurity risks: a possible external risk to the project is the incidence of insecurity in some parts of the landscape, which could affect project interventions. All risks, categories, and mitigation measures are further Annex F (SRIF)
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Risk: A majority of project stakeholders including sectoral ministries do not have the right capacities in several thematic areas and project management disciplines. This problem significantly impacts sustainable natural resource management practices and economic development. Mitigation measures: Training of stakeholders in different thematic areas (eg. FLR, monitoring, LUP etc.), organizational capacity building of CSOs, NGOs and other local associations, reinforcing multi stakeholders' consultative platforms to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration, support to inter sectoral collaboration in

		project execution and management, strengthening landscape governance, promoting transboundary collaboration etc.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project is also aligned with **the CAR' National Development Plan of the Central African Republic (PND-RCA)**, for the period 2024-2028, in particular with its strategic axes 4 which call for Value chain development in productive sectors for sustainable economic growth, and 5 on Environmental sustainability and resilience against climate change impacts through improved governance in environmental protection and mitigation.

The project is aligned with **the 2019 New Forest Policy for the period 2019-2035**: The Forest Code sets specific measures for Permanent and Non-permanent Forest Estate. In its art. 14 to 22, the Forest Code recognizes the customary land use rights of local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, as well as their rights to collect NTFPs for their own needs. The Forest Code sets the principle of participatory forest management for all kinds of forests (art. 152 to 168).

The project is aligned with Law N. 20.026 of 30 November 2020 on the Code of Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas in the Central African Republic: This law establishes the framework for the conservation and management of wildlife and protected areas in the country.

The project is aligned with **the water code established by Law No. 06.001 of April 12, 2006**, is a legal framework governing water resources management to ensure sustainable use and protection. It includes regulations on water usage, quality standards, and stakeholder responsibilities. The water and sanitation policy, adopted by Decree No. 21.167 of July 21, 2021, calls for various actors' engagement to address critical water resource issues and promotes integrated water resources management (IWRM).

The project is aligned with **the national spatial planning policy - Law N°09-003 of 16th January 2009**: This law outlines the framework for land and spatial planning, and includes several key components: (i) SNAT (Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire): This is the national land use plan, which sets the overall guidelines for spatial planning and development across the country; (ii) SRAT (Schéma Régional d'Aménagement du Territoire): These are regional land use plans that align with the national plan but focus on specific regional needs and priorities; (iii) DTAT (Document de Planification Territoriale et d'Aménagement du Territoire): These documents provide detailed planning and land use guidelines at various administrative levels; (iv) SAS (Schéma d'Aménagement et de Services); (v) SDAT (Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement du Territoire): This is the master plan for land use, providing detailed planning and development guidelines for specific areas. These components work together to ensure coordinated and sustainable development across different levels of governance.

The project is aligned with the **Mining-related Environmental Policies and Regulations**: The main policies and regulations governing the extractive sector in CAR are the Mining Code (Law 09.005 of 29 April 2009) and associated regulations (under Decree 09.126 of 2009). The Mining Code establishes rights and responsibilities concerning protected areas, relations with landowners, relations with other miners, health, safety and environment, including requirements for ESIA, consultations, EMPs and site rehabilitation.

The project is aligned with **the National Agricultural Investment, Food and Nutritional Security Program (PNIASAN)**, which is a reference framework for agricultural actions aimed at reducing poverty and food insecurity. Its scope includes agro-sylvo-pastoral activities, fisheries, nutrition, and emerging issues like environment, biodiversity, renewable energies, climate change, and agribusiness promotion.

At the regional level, the project is aligned with the **Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) Treaty, and its Convergence Plan, which** is the reference framework and coordination of all the interventions in the field of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa.

The project is aligned with **existing institutional instruments for regional cooperation between the CAR and the DRC for water governance and management of the Ubangui watersheds:** (i) The International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) created in 1999 which promote inland navigation and the integrated management of water resources (IWRM) ; (ii) "Les Agences de Bassins du secteur de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (ABSEA)", although not yet operational, it aims to promote the hydrographic basin/aquifer as an appropriate framework for knowledge, planning and management of water resources, through the coordination of related actions and through consultation, in order to prepare and to implement, the orientations and decisions taken by the government in the water domainr.; (iii) The bilateral cooperation mechanism between the CAR and the DRC, which allows the CAR and the DRC governments through bilateral diplomatic channels, particularly within the framework of the Joint Commissions, to harmonize their points of view, and coordinate their efforts on issues relating to water governance or the management of the Oubangui watershed. This mechanism provides a framework for utilizing advanced technologies and scientific research to help in monitoring and managing water resources more effectively. This includes the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and hydrological models, which are pre conditions for TDA.

The project is aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area of the **GEF-8 Programming Directions**, objective BD- 1 (to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems), sub-objectives BD 1.1 (Financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems), BD-1.2 (Sustainable use of biodiversity), BD-1.3 (Ecosystem restoration) and BD-1.4 (Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors). It is also aligned to Climate Change Focal Area, objective 1.4 (Promoting NbS with high mitigation potential). The project will also support Land Degradation Focal Area, objective LD-1 (Avoiding and reducing land degradation through sustainable land management) and Objective 2 (Reversing land degradation through landscape restoration).

The project will contribute significantly towards generating synergies among the three Rio Conventions regarding the implementation of CAR's commitments, specifically to Articles 8, 10 and 11 of the CBD and to goals A, B and D, and targets 1 (through project's outputs 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.2.1), 2 (output 2.2.2), 3 (output 1.2.1), 10 (output 2.2.3), 11 (output 2.2.2), 19 (output 2.3.4) and 21(outputs 4.1;4.2;4.3;4.4) of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework. It is aligned with CAR's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2030 on Conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management, and attention to drivers of pressure.

The project is also aligned with the reduction of land degradation, investment in land restoration of the UNCCD; and the SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. The hectares of land to be restored under the project will contribute to the 3.5 million hectares restoration pledge by the CAR Government under the Bonn Challenge/20x20 Initiative and are linked to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Last, the project follows Articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the UNFCCC, and CAR's National Determined Contribution (NDC) on both mitigation goals of reducing emissions from agriculture and livestock sectors and from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and on adaptation goals of strengthen climate change resilience in vulnerable municipalities and promote NbS to strengthen ecosystem conservation and restoration and reach zero net deforestation by 2030.

The project will also contribute to Priority 3, “Enhancing environmental sustainability, energy, and climate change resilience1” of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 for CAR. The project is consistent with the **Common Country Analysis (CCA) for the Central African Republic (CAR**). This project focus on areas such as biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation, which are critical for sustainable development and are consistent with the priorities identified in the CCA.

The project is aligned with the following direct outcomes in UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) Program of Work (PoW): *Nature action subprogram:* 2.1 : Enhanced global and regional policy frameworks for biodiversity and ecosystem services; 2.2 Improved management of transboundary freshwater ecosystems and associated benefits; 2.5: Strengthened conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; 2.6: Increased implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; 2.7: Enhanced ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation; 2.9: Improved policies and approaches for safeguarding ecosystems and their services; 2.11: Enhanced integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning and production sector activities; 2.13: Strengthened science-policy interfaces at global, regional, and national levels.

*Climate Action subprogram:*1.1 : Increased capacity of countries to implement adaptation measures; 1.2: Enhanced implementation of national commitments to greenhouse gas reductions; 1.3: Strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards; 1.4: Integrated climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; 1.5 Improved education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning; 1.6: Strengthened international cooperation for climate change mitigation; 1.7 Enhanced support for sustainable energy policies and practices.

For more details on the above refer to Appendix 3: Logical Framework corresponding to Annex C in this file.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B "Child project description"?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

Yes.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	3,582,102.00	322,389.00	3,904,491.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	895,526.00	80,597.00	976,123.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	895,526.00	80,597.00	976,123.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	Grant	1,011,943.00	91,075.00	1,103,018.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	1,194,034.00	107,463.00	1,301,497.00

UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	298,508.00	26,866.00	325,374.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	298,508.00	26,866.00	325,374.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**8,176,147.00**	**735,853.00**	**8,912,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount ($) 200000

PPG Agency Fee ($) 18000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	87,623.00	7,885.00	95,508.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	21,906.00	1,972.00	23,878.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	21,906.00	1,971.00	23,877.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	24,756.00	2,229.00	26,985.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	29,207.00	2,629.00	31,836.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	7,301.00	657.00	7,958.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	7,301.00	657.00	7,958.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**200,000.00**	**18,000.00**	**218,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,000,000.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
UNEP	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**6,000,000.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CFB Congo IP	GET	8,176,147.00	65407380
Total Project Cost		**8,176,147.00**	**65,407,380.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	22000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	12500000
Recipient Country Government	Moboma Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8500000
Recipient Country Government	Moboma Council	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3500000
Recipient Country Government	Pissa Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8500000
Recipient Country Government	Pissa Council	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3500000
Civil Society Organization	WWF-CAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3607380

	WWF-CAR	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3300000
Total Co-financing				**65,407,380.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Investment mobilized for co-financing the project has the following break-down:

To identify “Investment Mobilized”, potential partners were invited to indicate (i) the portion of their approved budget that will go to support the goals of the proposed project and (ii) the proportion from the identified amounts that will be used towards recurrent and operational expenditures, such as salaries, office space, utilities, etc. The sub-set of Co-Financing that meets the definition of “Investment Mobilized” was then identified by the Implementing Agency by removing the amounts for recurrent and operational expenditures. This investment mobilized was identified from: (i) the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through its scientific and technical activities linked to the protection of biodiversity, the promotion of biodiversity value chains, land restoration as well as carbon sequestration efforts through the promotion of sustainable land practices in the forest landscape of the Basse-Lobaye / US$ 12,500,000; (ii) the Moboma Council through its municipal activities linked to the protection of biodiversity, the promotion of biodiversity value chains, as well as to land restoration in the project area / US$ 3, 500, 000; (iii) the Pissa Council through its ongoing and planned linked to the protection of biodiversity, promotion of biodiversity value chains, as well as to land restoration in the project area contributing to GEBs, as well as to sustainable development of Indigenous peoples and local communities / US$ 3, 500, 000, and WWF CAR through its activities on conservation of key biodiversity areas and ecosystem services, sustainable use of natural resource / US$ 3,300,000.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	9/24/2024	Ersin Esen		Ersin.esen@un.org
Project Coordinator	9/24/2024	Andre Toham		Andre.toham@un.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Lambert GNAPELET	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTERE DE L’ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE	4/9/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

UN Environment Programme Logical Framework

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference* Relevant Programme of Work (PoW) Outcomes	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
Lasting and significant changes to which the project is expected to contribute	How contributions to the objective will be measured including quantity, quality, time .	Initial - Baseline for Objective indicator(s)	Mid-Point Target	End of project Target	How the information required to measure the indicator will be collected, when, and by whom	Assumptions and Risks that affect objective level -	Insert the Outcome(s) and indicator(s) from the Programme of Work to which this project directly contributes[1][1]	Insert relevant SDG target and indicator
Objective: To safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value ecosystems, from unsustainable resource use, as a result of effective government enabling capacity, community participation and resilient green livelihoods	GEF Core Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve, 18,200 ha	9,000 ha	18, 200 ha	Project M&E system METT application (at inception, mid-term and project end) Project reports on the components	ASSUMPTIONS: (1) Establishment of an enabling framework for safeguarding biodiversity, promoting SFM and combating land degradation, promoting healthy watershed management, and securing a nature based economy (2) There is a widespread adoption	Nature action subprogram: 2A, 2B, 2C Indicators: (i), (iii), (iv), (v) Climate action subprogram: 1B Indicators: ((i), (iv)	15.1.1 15.3.1

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference* Relevant Programme of Work (PoW) Outcomes	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
						of best management practices known to enhance carbon sequestration or reduce emissions, stable enabling environments to support these practices, and there are capabilities for accurate measurement and verification of carbon outcomes. - - - <u>RISKS:</u> (i) Integrated Land-use planning and management designed but not funded (ii) Inter sectorial hinderances due: (a) to different approaches between involved decentralized institutions, councils, and (b) between the interests of indigenous peoples, local communities, private sector. - (iii) A majority of project stakeholders including sectoral ministries do not have the right capacities in several thematic areas and project management disciplines. This problem significantly impacts sustainable natural resource management practices and economic development		
	GEF Core Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	GEF sub-Indicator 3.2) Area of forest and forest land under restoration	10,000 ha	30,000 ha	Application of FAO Exact Tool Project M&E system in GIS PIR and progress reports produced from the M&E system		[same as above]	15.1.1 15.3.1
	GEF Core Indicator 4) Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	GEF sub-Indicator 4.1) Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	10,000 ha	35,000 ha	Same as above		[same as above]	15.1.1 15.3.1
	GEF Core Indicator 6.5 Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct)	The FAO Exact tool version 9 was applied at CEO Endorsement stage, climate model 100 yrs AR6. The "System Boundaries" includes all areas listed in previous indicators and sums 65,000 ha. Tier 1 data was used. Capitalization		14, 112, 519 metric ton of CO2e (direct only)	Application of FAO Exact Tool Project M&E system		Climate Action subprogram: 1A, 1B, !C Indicators: (i), (iv)	13.2.2
	Core Indicator 7.4) Level of engagement in IW: LEARN through participation	No pre-diagnosis, tools and approaches preparatory to Transboundary cooperation for the Ubangui	Key knowledge products produced on hydrology, climate, land use,	Draft Strategic agreement for the management of the Ubangui watershed	Report on hydrology, climate, land use, and socio-economic factors		Nature action subprogram: 2B, 2C (Direct	6.5.1 6.5.2

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference* Relevant Programme of Work (PoW) Outcomes	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	and delivery of key products	watershed management	and socio-economic factors		Draft strategic agreement to support transboundary cooperation for the management of the Ubangui watershed	(iv) limited adoption of best practices due to economic, knowledge, barriers, fluctuations in policy and incentives that could destabilize efforts, along with challenges in accurately measuring and verifying carbon stock changes or emissions reductions, competition for land use, riven by economic pressures or policy changes, poses a risk to maintaining or expanding areas dedicated to carbon sequestration.	Outcomes: 2.3; 2.13) Indicators: (iii) Climate action subprogram: 1B Indicators: ((iii)	
	GEF Core Indicator 11) People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	Approximately, a total of 5,000 will be beneficiaries, with women constituting 50% of this total.		2,500 men 2,500 women	Stakeholder Engagement Plan and PPG reports, including those on community consultations Project reports and databases focusing on keeping a gendered record of stakeholder engagement.		Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	1.1.1 5.1.1 15.b.1(b)

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [2][2]	Relev SD targe an indica
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target		Assumption (A) / Risk (R		
Outcome 1.1: Ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape secured through improved Integrated land use	Indicator 1a) at least one participatory land use management mechanisms/platform (GSGM) established that promote connectivity, biodiversity	1a) Regulations/By-laws and methodologies that support integrated planning are nonexistent at	ILUMP governance platform (GSGM) operational at the Basse-	ILUMP governance platform (GSGM) operational at the Pissa and Moboma councils level	Meeting reports and related attendance list, workshop reports,	ASSUMPTIONS: A: The main institutions and stakeholders	Nature action subprogram: 2A, 2B, 2C	12.1.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [2][2]	Relev SD targe an indica
management and planning (ILUMP)	conservation and SLM Indicator 1b) 10 sets of meeting reports from cross-sectoral watershed coordination mechanism established to support transboundary Watershed cooperation Indicator 1c) Number of legal instruments, regulations, or technical guidelines developed to support the implementation of the ILUMP *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance women's share of project benefits.*	Basse-Lobaye Prefecture level 1b) ILUMP approach is non existent 1c) There is no previous experience of Women participation GSGM mechanism	Lobaye prefecture level		Gender Action Plan	participate actively in the proposed multi-sectoral governance system (GSGM). R: Low level of stakeholder engagement; low political will		
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Relev SDG target and indica**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 1.1.1. Landscape-level, cross-sectoral, gender-responsive governance mechanism/platform (GSGM) involving relevant stakeholders (IP, local communities, youth) from provincial and local levels for participatory development and coordinated ILUMP implementation	Indicator 2) Existence of a functional multi sectoral coordination mechanism/platform (GSGM) *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance women's participation in institutional processes and mechanisms.*	No functional mechanism is in place.	The multi sectoral coordination mechanism at the Prefecture level to oversee the ILUMP planning and implementation, is operational.	The multi sectoral coordination mechanism is decentralized at councils levels.	Project reports (PIR and Progress reports) on Component 1;	[same as above]	[same as above]	[same above]
Output 1.1.2: Gender responsive government stakeholders, private sector, IPLCs at	Indicator 3) Number and category of individuals within government stakeholders, IPLCs	NA – no baseline survey available	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the	Project reports (PIR and	A: Identification of needs and availability of staff to follow trainings R:	Nature action subprogram:	Same above

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [2][2]	Relev SD targe an indica
provincial and councils' levels capacitated for ILUMP.	trained in the implementation the ILUMP. *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance female participation in relevant training.*		baseline assessment.	baseline assessment.	Progress) reports	Inappropriate priorities -	2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 1.1.3: Relevant **policies** and regulations reviewed and gender responsive guidelines and by-laws developed **that ensure coherence** and support ILUMP approach	Indicator 4) Number of updated/new policies, regulations/by-laws that integrate biodiversity conservation, SLM and support ILUMP implementation	No by-laws supporting ILUMP implementation	At least one by-law supporting ILUMP approach and implementation	At least three by-laws supporting ILUMP approach and implementation	Project (PIR and progress) reports,	A: There is an active participation of stakeholders, IPLCs, local communities, private sector and governments in supporting application of by-laws R: There is no active participation of main stakeholders.	[same as above]	[same above]
Output 1.1.4: Landscape-level information and monitoring system established.	Indicator 5) number of staff from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing with improved capacities for Georeferenced programming in GIS	No tool to monitor land use mapping, land degradation and deforestation across the Basse-Lobaye	A GIS lab established at the Basse-Lobaye landscape level And at least 4 staff trained in Georeferenced programming in GIS		Maps produced to guide the ILUMP	A: There is an active participation of stakeholders, to provide data R: There is no active participation of main stakeholders. -	[same as above]	[same above]
Project Outcome and Outputs	**Outcome Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [3][3]**	**Relev SDG target and indica**

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [2][2]	Relev SD targe an indica
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Outcome 1.2: Enhanced Regional cooperation between CAR and DR Congo to promote water governance and healthy watershed management of the Ubangui Sub-Basin.	Indicator 6a) Number of multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues organized for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed Indicator 6b) Status of agreement to facilitate cross-sector, cross-country data exchange and a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed Indicator 6c) Gender aggregated number of university students benefitting from Project grants, to lay down the ground groundwork for preparatory phase necessary for effective Regional transboundary cooperation (also see Output 4.2) Indicator 6d) status of agreement on the platforms format in which data can be stored and accessed. Indicator 6e) Status of the system for continuous monitoring and sharing of real-time data.	NO watershed Agreement No cross-sector, cross-country data exchange and a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed No studies to inform the groundwork for preparatory phase necessary for effective Regional transboundary cooperation No existing platform for data sharing	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Ubangui Watershed management Agreement signed	A: The main institutions and stakeholders, including stakeholder involved in the management of the Ubangui watershed, participate actively in the proposed multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed. R: Low level of stakeholder engagement; low political will	Nature action subprogram: 2A, 2B, 2C,	6.5.2

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s) [2][2]	Relev SD targe an indica
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Releva SDG target and indica**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 1.2.1: Regional Cooperation between CAR and DR Congo for the management of the Ubangui Sub basin promoted.	Indicator 7a) No of knowledge products produced and disseminated Indicator 7b) Number of multi-stakeholder dialogues are organized for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed Indicator 7c) 10 sets of meeting reports from cross-sectoral watershed coordination mechanism established to support transboundary Watershed cooperation	Transboundary Water cooperation lacks data and tools to support its operationalization	Preliminary knowledge products from small grant to university students, on (i) hydrology, climate, land use, and socio-economic factors, (ii) Stakeholder Identification, (iii) the state of the watershed Agreement on platforms format in which data can be stored and accessed. Draft systems for continuous monitoring and sharing of real-time data. Draft agreement to facilitate cross-sector, cross-country data exchange and a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed.	Knowledge products finalized and published Systems for continuous monitoring and sharing of real-time data operational Agreement to facilitate cross-sector, cross-country data exchange and a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed.	Publications, briefing notes Reports from multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues meetings. Report formalizing agreement for monitoring and sharing of real-time data. Report formalizing agreement on the platforms format in which data can be stored and accessed. Agreement signed	[same as above]	[same as above]	[same above]

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target		-		
Outcome 2.1: Sustainability of the Basse-Lobaye Forest Landscape secured	Indicator 8a) Number of PA management plan updated and technically approved Indicator 8b) Number of PA management effectiveness assessments carried out METT score (METT score for Basse-Lobye Biosphere reserve) Indicator 8c) Status of the ILUMP of the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape Indicator 8d) Percentage of women participating in land use planning and management Indicator 8c) area restored Indicator 8d) area under sustainable production practices Indicator 8d) Surface of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS) with improved biodiversity and conservation values. *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance*	Basse-lobaye Management plan not updated No previous experience with Biodiversity credit schemes Restoration methodologies developed by SIAD-CA	Basse-Lobaye Management plan updated Draft ILUMP available 10,000 ha of landscape restored 10,000 ha of area of landscape under sustainable production practices	Management plan approved 30,000 ha area of degraded landscape restored 35,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable production practices	Project (PIR and Progress) reports M&E Reports	A: Development of professional capacities in responsible government entities and in stakeholder organizations is viable. R: The development of professional capacities in responsible government entities and in stakeholder organizations is constrained by a combination of factors.	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	**Outcome Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators**
	women's share of project benefits.	TBD as OECMs concept is new in the country and in the landscape						
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 2.1.1: An ILUMP for the Basse-Lobaye Forest landscape developed based on participatory processes and remotely-sensed data evidence.	Indicator 9a) Roadmap to develop a participatory integrated and use planning and management plan developed for the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape Indicator 1b) Status of the ILUMP of the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape Indicator 1b) Percentage of women in land use management mechanisms *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance women's share of project benefits.*	1a) ILUMP approach is non existent 1c) There is no previous experience of Women participation in land use planning	0	1 ILUMP approved for the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape	ILUMP Master plan Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Project (PIR and progress) Reports on component 2, including those on community consultations Training session reports	[same as above]	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 2.1.2: A strategic biodiversity vision developed to help harmonize, efforts to	Indicator 10) Action plan for the harmonization of efforts to address illegal wildlife trade with adjacent forests:	NA – no previous efforts to harmonize law enforcement efforts between the Basse-Laobye	Action plan to address illegal wildlife trade developed	Action plan is plan is operational	Reports of law enforcement efforts	A: Indigenous peoples, local communities provide FPIC for conservation corridors	[same as above]	[same as above]

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
address illegal wildlife trade with adjacent forests: The Ngotto Forest and the TNS.	The Ngotto Forest and the TNS *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance female participation in relevant training.*	forest landscape and the Ngotto, TNS landscapes		Results of the research on elephant collaring integrated into the ILUMP and Action plan to enhance ecological connectivity with adjacent forest landscapes	Reports of meetings with projects operating in the Ngotto and TNS forest landscapes Reports on research studies on collaring of elephants	being created adjacent to their territories, and the government has the political will to engage and support this process. R: There is no political will		
Output 2.1.3. Increased management effectiveness of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve	Indicator 11a) Management plan of the Basse-Lobaye Biopshere Reserve updated; Indicator 11b) Annual Operation Plan of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve Indicator 11c) METT score	Management plan developed by UNESCO need update No training of park staff	Management plan updated Equipment and Training provided to park staff for law enforcement	Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve staff have set up effective collaboration mechanisms with local stakeholders. Report on the physical demarcation of the park	Project (PIR and Progress) reports M&E Reports Document describing the collaboration mechanisms approved by protected area managers and local stakeholders	A: Indigenous peoples, local communities will provide FPIC for updated management plan, and corridors being designed. R: There is no support for the Management plan from IP, local communities and other actors.	[same as above]	[same as above]

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target		-		
Outcome 2.2: Remaining core biodiversity areas in the	Indicator 12a) Application of biodiversity credits schemes benefitting indigenous peoples and local	OECM is a new concept in CAR	TBD as OECMs concept is new in the landscape.	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Reports on OECMS identification and monitoring activities	A: Availability of robust data for an appropriate valuation of the cost incurred by nature and the	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6,	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
landscape are better protected, restored, connected and effectively managed	communities within forested landscapes, including and among them female beneficiaries. Indicator 12b) area of OECMs recognized		Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.		produced by projects partners Reports on best practices guidelines of the OECMs	monetary value to ecosystem goods and services. R: Methodologies for the application and monitoring of biodiversity credits schemes is weak. Difficulties in accessing key data for an appropriate valuation of the cost incurred by nature and the monetary value to ecosystem goods and services. (.	2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	15.1.2 15.2.1
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 2.2.1: Detailed mapping and designation of priority candidates' areas for recognition as OECMs, within the productive landscape	Indicator 13a) Report on recommendation of conservation actions for other critical conservation sites for consideration as OECMs; Indicator 13b) Best practices and guidelines for the upscaling of the OECMs.	OECM is a new concept on CAR	Report on recommendation of conservation actions for other critical conservation sites for consideration as OECMs is availalble	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	A: There is political will, and active participation opf Ips, local communities and private sectors R: There is no political will	(same as above)	(same as above)
Output 2.2.2. Gender responsive	Indicator 14a) Number of hectares restored	Degraded sites identified during PPG, where there is interest on the	Initial planting underway	Agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration	- Site visits	A: There are no climate related or procurement delays in	Nature action	15.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
Ecosystem restoration interventions implemented across 30,000 ha of degraded ecosystems in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape	Indicator 14b) 150 persons (50% female, 50% male) within the project area participating annually in field-based training programs covering ecological restoration, and/or fisheries management that mainstream SLM/SFM,	part of IPs, local communities to benefit from agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration Reforestation ongoing with SIAD_CAR under the FAO and UNDP GEF funded projects		underway in identified degraded sites	- GIS recording - Project reports and documentation; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	materials, equipment, labour, or climate hazards that prevent successful establishment of agroforestry in targeted sites. Other infrastructure, development priorities do not impede the restoration of biological corridor R: The security risk in the project area is well contained by CAR officials	subprogram: 2A, 2B, 2C Climate Action subprogram: 1A, 1B, 1C	
Output 2.2.3 Gender-responsive sustainable agricultural practices for targeted farms, designed and implemented in key productive sites	Indicator 15a) number of hectares under improved sustainable production practices Indicator 15b) 1,000 persons (50% female, 50% male) within the project area annually reporting improved food security as a direct result of project action on improving sustainable production practices Indicator 15b) 35,000 of degraded lands under improved sustainable production practices	Sites under consideration for improved production practices, identified during PPG phase	Application of the agroecology model developed by SIAD_CA on degraded areas/abandoned plantations, tthrough the deployment of regenerative agriculture and agroforestry techniques underway	Application of the agroecology model developed by SIAD_CA on degraded areas/abandoned plantations, tthrough the deployment of regenerative agriculture and agroforestry techniques underway	(Same as above)	(Same as above)	Nature action subprogram: 2A, 2B, 2C Climate Action subprogram: 1A, 1B, 1C	15.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	Indicator 15c) 150 persons (50% female, 50% male) inclduign extension services, Ips, local commiunities within the project area participating annually in field-based training programs covering sustainable production practices.							

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Outcome 2.3: Capacity and application of NCA developed in 2 priority sites within the landscape.	Indicator 16a) Number of experimental Ecosystem accounts established for NCA application in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape Indicator 16b) Number of trained key stakeholder on natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services.	No ecosystems accounts exist. No case studies or instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP countries relevant to Central African Republic yet.	At least one ecosystem account established At least 1 documented case of instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP on NCA application and integration in ILUMP	At least 2 ecosystems accounts established At least 4 instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP countries carried out and documented	Review of published and peer-reviewed case studies, reports, and official documents	A: Development of professional capacities in responsible government entities and in stakeholder organizations is viable. R: Availability of robust data for an appropriate valuation of the cost incurred by nature and the monetary value to ecosystem	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	Indicator 16c) Number of documented case of instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP countries demonstrating integration of NCA in ILUMP, and successful implementation and impact of Natural Capital Valuation, biodiversity-positive carbon credits, and nature certificate schemes. *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Number of project products screened for gender equality and women's empowerment.*					goods and services.		

Project Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 2.3.1. Experimental Ecosystem accounts established at landscape level and incorporated into decision making	Indicator 17a) Number of experimental Ecosystem accounts established for NCA application in the Basse-Lobaye forest landscape Indicator 17b) Number of trained key stakeholder on natural capital accounting and valuation of	0 hectares out of the approx. 300,000 ha that compose the System's Boundaries for this project.	At least one ecosystem account established At least 1 documented case of instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP on NCA application and	At least 2 ecosystems accounts established At least 4 instances of regional collaboration with other Congo Basin IP countries carried out and documented	Project (PIR and Progress) reports Reports on establishing Ecosystems accounts	[same as above]	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	ecosystem services.		integration in ILUMP					
Output 2.3.2. Technical assistance, gender responsive training and protocols provided to national and selected key stakeholders on NCA compilation for application in 2 priority sites within the landscape	Indicator 18) Number and category of individuals within government stakeholders, IPLCs trained on NCA.	No baseline available	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Project reports (PIR and Progress) reports	A: Identification of needs and availability of key stakeholders to follow trainings R: no political will	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	Same as above
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 2.3.3. ILU Management plan integrates NC values	Indicator 19a) Roadmap for the integration pf NC values into the ILUMP *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance women's share of project benefits.*	NCA integration into ILUMP approach is non existent	0	1 ILUMP approved which integrates NC values	ILUMP Master plan, including NC values	A: Development of professional capacities in responsible government entities and in stakeholder organizations is viable. R: Limited stakeholder engagement for capacity development	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1
Output 2.3.4. Investment pathways investigated to facilitate accessible business, organizational, and individual investments in landscape restoration and management through Biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates.	Indicator 20) Number of innovative nature finance project, including biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, developed to the benefits of Indigenous Peoples, local communities.	0	At least one Biodiversity-positive carbon credits project developed and submitted to donor	At least two innovative finance projects developed and submitted to donor	Project document	A: (i) Opportunities provided by the Libreville One forest summit and other donors are available; (ii) Metrics to measure the impacts developed to ensure that biodiversity-positive carbon credits not only offset carbon emissions but also contribute	(same as above)	(same as above)

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
						to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity R: Limited funding opportunities Metrics not yet fully developed		

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target		-		
Outcome 3. Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices, diversified and sustainable IPLCs' livelihoods	Indicator 21a) Percentage of indigenous peoples, local communities, including Women, youth trained on market/value chain assessments to support green enterprises development Indicator 21b) Number of Videos, toolboxes produced to support production of green entrepreneurship Indicator 21c) Percentage of	0	1 Video, toolbox produced to support production of green entrepreneurship Additional metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Metrics for targets to be developed on the basis of the baseline assessment.	Reports produced by project partners. Project's M&E progress reports	A: Project beneficiaries are able to increase their average economic benefit R: Indigenous peoples, local communities participating in the project do not achieve expected average income benefit due to internal and external factors.	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	women participants on South-South Exchange to learn about successful experiences in green enterprises opportunities and development Indicator 21d) Large-scale participatory mapping of lands and resources in the production basins of Moloukou, Moalé, Londo available Indicator 21e) Number of beneficiaries (indigenous peoples and local communities' members) with increased monetary income from Green business initiatives supported by the project. Indicator 21f) Number of Green enterprises initiatives that have strengthened Indigenous peoples, local communities' technical, financial, and/or commercial capacities, attributed to the project Indicator 21g) 2,500 male/2,500 female target beneficiaries reporting improved and diversified incomes as a result of project support Indicator 21e) Number of							

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	households directly benefiting from biodiversity friendly businesses and sustainable livelihood improvement approaches with an increase up to, or more than, 15% in average annual income *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Enhance women's share of project benefits.* (at least 40% of beneficiaries are women)							
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 3.1. Gender responsive investment and training plan for the promotion of economic activities around value chains for agroforestry, NTFPs, etc.	Indicator 22) Number of associative grouping of local green (NTFPs) business entrepreneurs, including indigenous peoples, local communities, involved in small scale green enterprises with new entrepreneurial skills in running productive businesses and integrating environmental aspects	0	At least 10	At least 20	(same as above)	A: There are markets available for the nature-based products and services from the associative grouping of local green (NTFPs) business entrepreneurs **R** : Limited scope of market opportunities for green products	Nature action subprogram : 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram : 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1
Output 3.2. Gender responsive diversified resilient livelihoods	Indicator 23a) Number of associative grouping of local green (NTFPs) business entrepreneurs,	[0	Trainings and capacity building initiatives on agroecological practices have been conducted.	By mid-term, at least 15 demo projects have started, disbursing	By project end, at least 40 demo projects are under implementation, disbursing	Project detailed reports for Component 3	[same as above]	[same as above]

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
options co-developed with IPLCs to support the emergence of new green business opportunities with private sector, particularly for women and youth	including indigenous peoples, local communities, involved in small scale green enterprises with new entrepreneurial skills in running productive businesses and integrating environmental aspects Indicator 23b) Percentage of local female entrepreneurs developing business plans to increase biodiversity products in the markets Indicator 23c) Percentage of associative grouping of local green business entrepreneurs with operational infrastructure (small processing, storage and marketing facilities), including storages warehouses and cold rooms, iimproved smokehouses for NTFPs conservation, motorized tricycles as a result of support from the project Indicator 23d) Percentage of IPs, local communities' producers, disaggregated by sex, converting to sustainable practices and using improved			approx. $500K and benefitting 58% women among the groups of indigenous peoples and local communities	approx. $400K and benefitting 58% women among the groups of indigenous peoples and local communities	Audit and verification of benefit sharing contracts at locality level, broken-down by gender		

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	varieties of agricultural seeds (groundnut, beans, taro and macabo seeds, etc.) to improve generation							

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target		-		
Outcome 4: Knowledge and innovation are diffused at multiple sub-national, national and international scales, while project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated by a gender sensitive M&E strategy	Indicator 24a) Number of Case studies / best practice knowledge products developed and disseminated, or events held, through national, regional, and global platforms, with at least one regional event and one published document related to the sustainable management of the Uabangui watershed. Indicator 24b) The number of cross border partnerships for information sharing and learning on IWRM best practices between CAR and DR Congo Indicator 24c) Number of knowledge	None – the project has not yet started.	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Review of published and peer-reviewed case studies, reports, and official documents Knowledge materials Communication strategy Interviews	A: The project can Generate and document good practices in an effective manner R: The good practices of the project are not codified correctly; there is no proper dissemination of these good practices; limited interaction with concurrent projects which limits sharing of good practices with those projects.	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	materials produced for appropriate audiences (governments, IPs, local communities) Number of public awareness campaigns on benefits of implementing ILUMP, restoration and improved sustainable production practices Indicator 24d) Number of instances where monitoring promotes adaptive management (e.g., adjustment in budget, project priorities, changes in messaging to resonate with audiences) *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Number of project products screened for gender equality and women's empowerment.*							
Project Outputs	**Output Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**		**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**	**Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators**
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target				
Output 4.1 Communication, knowledge	Indicator 25a) Project communication strategy is	None – the project has not	Targets to be developed during the	Targets to be developed during the	Identify instances where knowledge products resulting from	A: Improved knowledge and capacity building will lead to positive impacts	Nature action subprogram:	12.1.1 12.7.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
products, tools and approaches are developed and shared widely	elaborated and implemented Indicator 25b) Number of knowledge products produced and disseminated through regional data sharing platforms, IW: LEARN, education establishments, selected media Indicator 27c) number of joint exchange experience sharing and learning visits for indigenous peoples, local communities' Local entrepreneurs with their counterparts implementing similar interventions in other countries Indicator 27d) Number travel grants, including in governance of water resource, to representatives of the national and local government, to enable their participation in regional events to disseminate the project Results	yet started.	project's inception	project's inception	the project have been cited, referenced, or used by national, regional, and global stakeholders in their conservation programs, policy-making, or strategic planning. This can be done through citation analysis tools and direct feedback from stakeholders.	on issues related to biodiversity and land degradation. R: Knowledge products are poorly designed, joint exchange and learning visits do not take place as a result of slow travel procurement process	2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
	Gender Action Plan Indicator: Number of project products screened for gender equality and women's empowerment.							
Output 4.2 Data and analytics to help officials at the Ubangui Sub-basin, prefecture and national level understand current and future water risks and better prepare for and manage those risks are enhanced.	Indicator 26a) Number of learning briefs, publications and /or best practices white papers completed and disseminated Indicator 26b) Gender aggregated number of university students benefitting from Project grants, to generate critical information necessary to map and analyze spatial data related to the watershed, to develop Hydrological Models, to simulate water flow and distribution, for the adoption of modern integrated approaches to managing water resources and balancing competing uses. *Gender Action Plan Indicator: Number of project products screened for gender equality and women's empowerment.*	None – the project has not yet started.	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Component 4 reports	A: University students, are willing to engage and carry out apply research to help predict the impacts of various management scenarios on the Ubangui waterehed R: Partnership with the University of Bangui is not effectivee	[same as above]	[same as above]

Project Outcome and Outputs	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators
Output 4.3 Inclusive Capacity building and awareness raising of governments and CSOs representatives in targeted areas of the Lobaye landscape, as well as on water- and climate-wise learning, planning and decision-making. implemented.	Indicator 27) Gender aggregated number of people, trained on sustainable basin management, or acquaint with IWRM	None – the project has not yet started.	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Targets to be developed during the project's inception	Component 4 reports MTR and TE reports	A: Governments and CSOs representatives in targeted areas of the Basse-Lobaye landscape, are willing to engage and learn more about IWRM and other water- and climate-wise learning, R: Governments and CSOs representatives in targeted areas of the Basse-Lobaye landscape, are not motivated to engage	[same as above]	[same as above]
Output 4.4 Operational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems	Indicator 28) A participatory project M&E system is designed and implemented, as evidenced by completed reports produced against the M&E plan, including annual adaptive management workshops, PIR, project progress reports, quarterly financial reports, midterm evaluation, and terminal evaluation).	None – the project has not yet started.	Project (PIR, Progress) reports produced At least 2 annual adaptative management workshops held	All reports regularly produced At least 4 annual adaptative management workshops held	Monitoring reports, including but not limited to PIR, Progress Reports, midterm review, terminal evaluation	A: Rigorous monitoring will allow adaptive management of project R: M&E is very weak and does not allow adaptive management	Nature action subprogram: 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.13 Climate Action subprogram: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	12.1.1 12.7.1 13.3.1 15.1.2 15.2.1

[1] For projects with more than one relevant PoW outcome indicator, there should be at least one outcome indicator for each of the relevant PoW outcome indicators

[2] When a project is relevant to more than one PoW outcome indicator, provide outcomes and outputs for each indicator in order to enable budget details per output and PoW Outcome

[3] When a project is relevant to more than one PoW outcome indicator, provide outcomes and outputs for each indicator in order to enable budget details per output and PoW Outcome

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Travel on official business	33,000.00	33,000.00	
Contractual Services – International Consultant	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
Contractual Services – National Consultant	89,000.00	89,000.00	
Supplies, commodities, material	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Total	**200,000.00**	**150,000.00**	**50,000.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.6705899	17.8057003	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.6791501	17.8008995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.6884	17.8022995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.6932001	17.8033009	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.69766	17.8068008	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7007401	17.8061008	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.70314	17.8033009	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7062199	17.8015995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7264299	17.8022995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7418499	17.8026009	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7486999	17.8008995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.75418	17.8008995	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7565801	17.8050003	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.7572701	17.8080997	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.75179	17.8118992	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

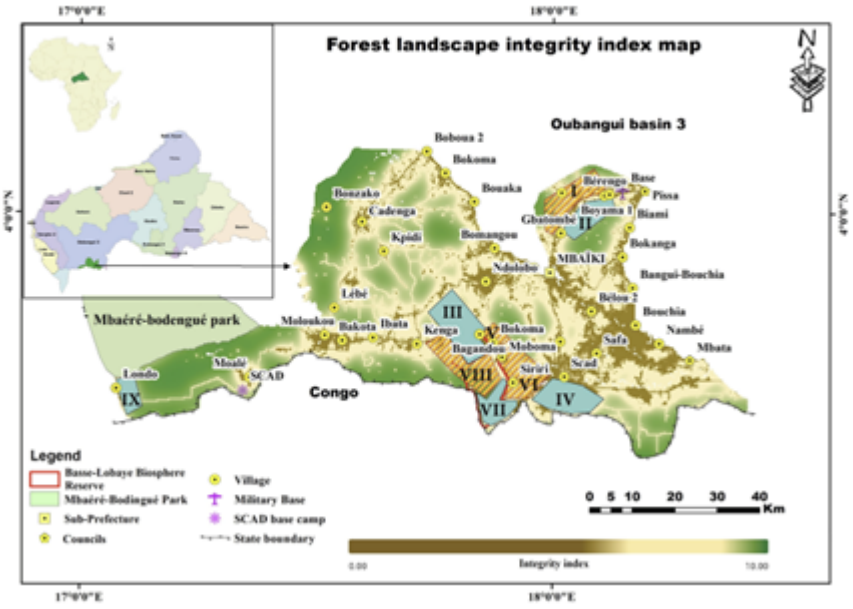
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Biosphère de la basse lobaye	3.74459	17.8201008	

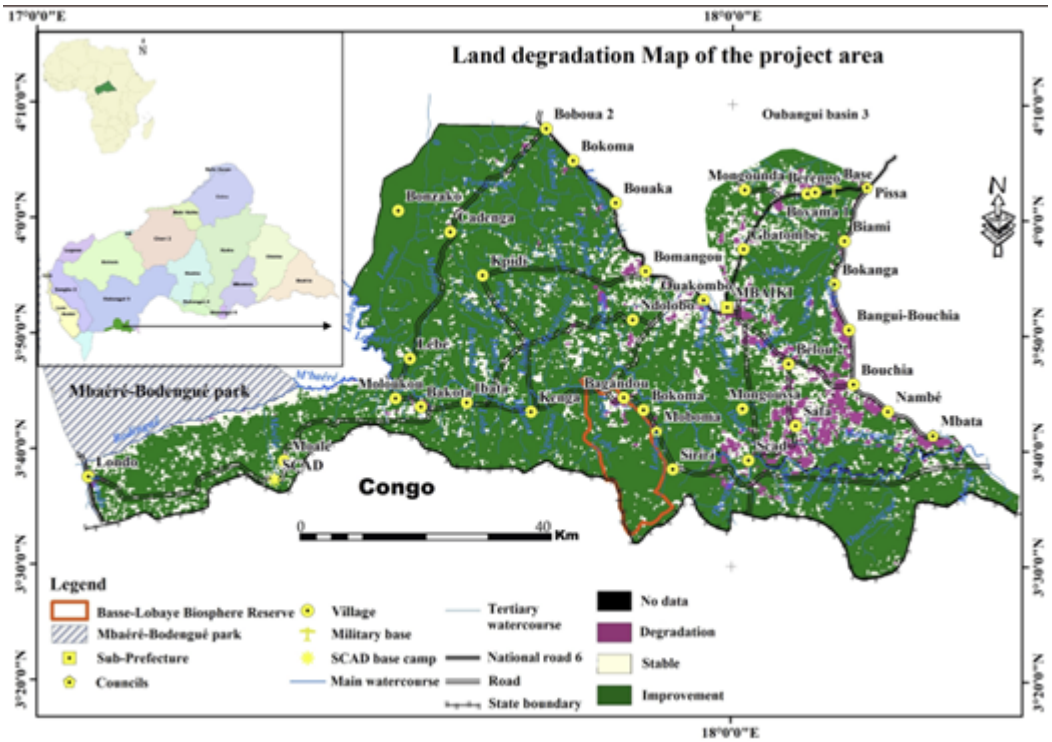
Location Description:

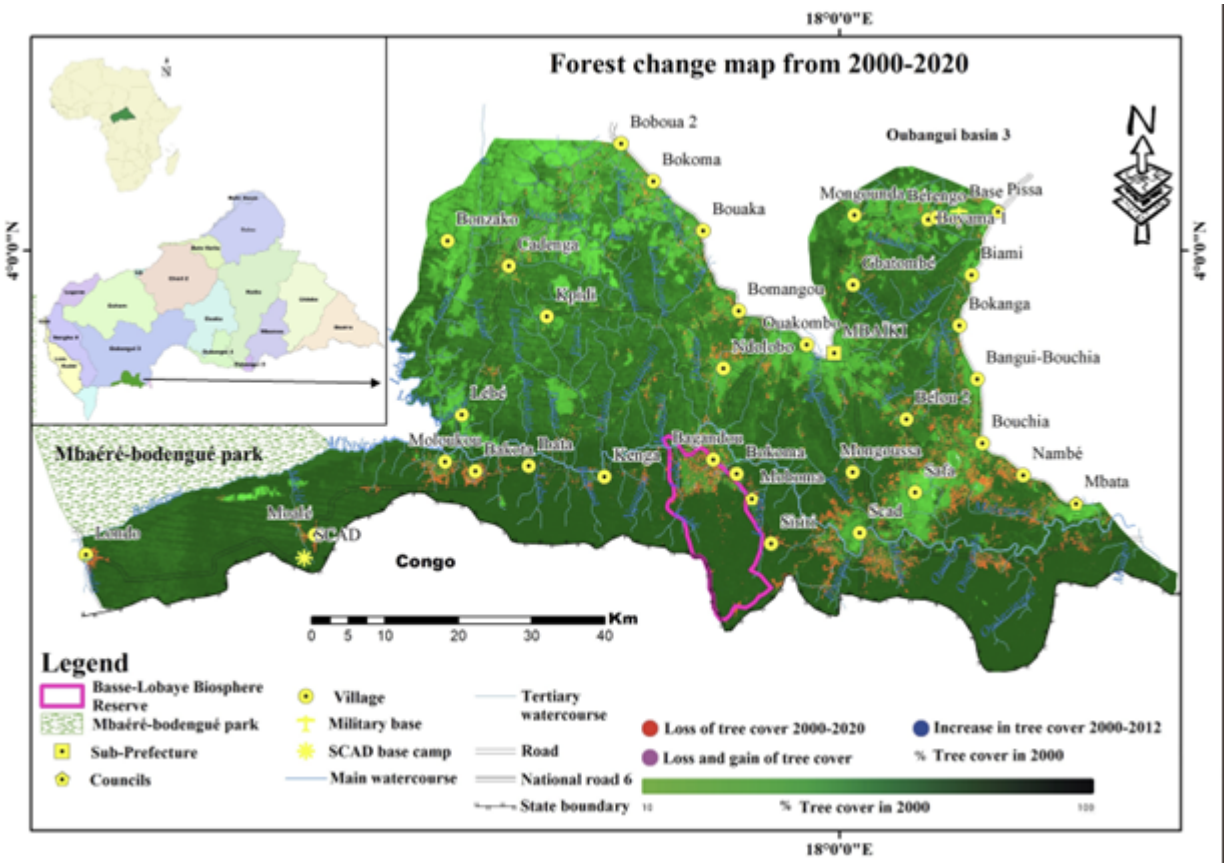
Activity Description:

Agroforestry and restoration

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.


Forest landscape integrity index map
Oubangui basin 3
Mbaéré-bodengué park
Congo
Legend
Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve
Mbaéré-Bodengué Park
Sub-Prefecture
Councils
Village
Military Base
SCAD base camp
State boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 Km
Integrity index


Land degradation Map of the project area
Oubangui basin 3
Mbaéré-Bodengué park
Congo
0 40 Km
Legend
Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve
Mbaéré-Bodengué park
Sub-Prefecture
Councils
Village
Military base
SCAD base camp
Main watercourse
Tertiary watercourse
National road 6
Road
State boundary
No data
Degradation
Stable
Improvement



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Appendix : Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
Works	…												
	…												
Goods	PMU Desktop equiment and accessories										24,000	24,000	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)
	Equipment under Output 1.1.4 (Activity 1.1.4.1: 3 Laptops, ArcGIS software, Printers, Plotter Printer for improved capacities for Georeferenced programming in GIS, to support ILUMP analyses, monitoring and enforcement), and Output 4.2 (Activity 4.2.1: to map and analyze spatial data related to the watershed; and develop Hydrological Models, to simulate water flow and distribution)	1,000						16,000	17,000			17,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Activity 4.1.3: Acquire appropriate hardware and software for storage and processing of the experiences and knowledge gained from project implementation							8,000	8,000			8,000	MESD
Vehicles	Vehicle (2)	11,250	11,250	7,500	7,500	7,500	22,500	22,500	90,000			90,000	
	Vehicle insurance	1,125	1,125	750	750	750	2,250	2,250	9,000			9,000	
	Vehicle fuel & maintenance	10,125	10,125	6,750	6,750	6,750	20,250	20,250	81,000	0		81,000	
	10 Moto Bikes for Field Project Execution in remote areas with no roads access to vehicle	3,750	3,750	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500	7,500	30,000			30,000	MESD
Grants/ Sub-grants	…											0	
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	…											0	

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Subgrant to University of Bangui to execute the following activities: 1. Pre -Diagnosis of the Ubangui Watershed: - Provide small grants to university students to conduct pre-diagnosis, which includes: o Data Collection: Gather data on hydrology, climate, land use, and socio-economic factors to design a monitoring network. o Stakeholder Identification: Identify relevant stakeholders. o Assessment of Current Conditions: Evaluate the existing state of the watershed, including water quality, quantity, and ecosystem health, to develop a strategic agreement for transboundary cooperation.	200,000	150,000						350,000			350,000	University of Bangui

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	2. Transboundary Management Dialogues: o Organize multi-sector, multistakeholder dialogues for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed. 3. Data Platform Agreement: o Reach an agreement on the format of platforms for data storage and access.												
	Sub-contract to WWF-CAR to deliver the following: (i) Carrying out targeted research studies (e.g. collaring of elephants applying indigenous people techniques in monitoring forest elephants.) to map elephant corridors; (ii) Update the Management Plan, lead its implementation, including undertaking the physical demarcation of the Biosphere Reserve; (iii) Provide training,			500,000	500,000				1,000,000			1,000,000	WWF_CAR

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	equipment to law enforcement agents to enhance their capacity to undertake wildlife monitoring and protection); (iv) Identify and recommend conservation actions for OECMs; (v) Develop OECMs best practices and guidelines)												
	Sub-Grant to SIAD-CAR and the Association of Women for Sustainable Development (AFDD) in the Central African Republic, to deliver (i) ecological restoration on 25,000 ha of degraded lands, and (ii) to implement improved sustainable production practices on 195,000 ha of abandoned plantations and degraded lands	19,590	19,590		1,755,648		39,180	53,090	1,887,098			1,887,098	SIAD-CAR
	Sub-Grant to local NGO: OCDN, to (i) deliver ecological restoration on				300,000				300,000			300,000	OCDN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	5,000 ha of degraded lands, and to (ii) implement improved sustainable production practices on 5,000 ha of abandoned plantations and degraded lands												
	Sub-Grant to ACDEF-CAR to enhance the capacity and infrastructure for local green businesses, market opportunities, improve agricultural productivity, and support sustainable livelihood development.						1,312,820	13,910	1,326,730			1,326,730	ACDEF-CAR
	Sub-contract to 'La Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée (MEFP)', and 'Le Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de Centrafrique (REPALCA)', to foster the rights of IPs within the landscape and enhance sustainable land management,	52,500		10,000	10,000		50,000		122,500			122,500	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	improve agricultural practices, and support green business development for local communities												
	Subgrants for capacity building of small local NGOs in the landscape	200,000					119,499		319,499			319,499	MESD
	Consultant to Execute Activity 1.1.1.1: Stock taking of lessons learned from previous cross-sectoral coordination undertaken in the country and in the region;	1,000							1,000			1,000	MESD
	Consultant to execute Activity 1.1.1.2: Development of rules and regulations for the operation of the GSGM and other administrative instruments for its institutionalization.	5,000							5,000			5,000	MESD
	Consultant to support Execution of Activity 1.1.1.3, especially the creation of community mobilization	5,000							5,000			5,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	strategy, and development of participatory conflict management strategy												
	Consultant to execute Activity 1.1.2.1, on Capacity assessment of stakeholders for ILUMP design and implementation	6,000							6,000			6,000	MESD
	Consultant to carry out Activity 1.1.3.1 to review coherence of cross-sectoral policies, plans, strategies, tools, and regulatory frameworks	5,000							5,000			5,000	MESD
	Consultant to develop the overall project' communication strategy, ILUMP communication strategy and an awareness raising	1,000						3,000	4,000			4,000	MESD
Consultants	Consultant to suuport execution of Activity 2.1.1.1 leading to the design and and approval of Integrated Land Use Management Plan (ILUMP)			48,000					48,000			48,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Consultant to Execute the following activities: (i) Consultancy to estbalish experimental Ecosystem accounts at landscape level; (ii) Conduct a training needs assessment on the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) methodology and tools to identify existing knowledge and capacity gaps. Based on this assessment, create a standard curriculum on NCA for national institutionalization, equipping participants with the theoretical background and skills to establish and use NC accounts for various purposes; (iii) Update the Integrated Land Use Management Plan (ILUMP) by incorporating current trends in natural					30,000			30,000			30,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	capital within the Basse-Lobaye ecosystems												
	Consultant to support Execution of Output 2.3.4 (Activity 2.3.4.1) to develop innovative nature finance approaches project, including on biodiversity-positive carbon credits and nature certificates, to the benefits of IPs, local communities.					10,000			10,000			10,000	MESD
	Consultants to develop an ESIA, ESMP, biodiversity management plans, IPPs, Heritage Management Plans and Labor Management Procedures to mitigate biodiversity, climate, community health, safety and security,	6,750	6,750	4,500	4,500	4,500	13,500	13,500	54,000			54,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	cultural heritage, indigenous peoples, and labor related risks												
	Chief Technical Advisor	68,700	68,700	45,800	45,800	45,800	137,400	137,400	549,600		50,400	600,000	MESD
	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert									82,800		82,800	MESD
	Gender, Safeguards and Indigenous peoples' specialist	10,000	8,900	5,000	5,000	8,900	18,900	18,900	75,600			75,600	MESD
	Communication Officer	10,000	8,900	5,000	5,000	8,900	18,900	18,900	75,600			75,600	MESD
	Field Operation Team Pissa HQ	4,000	3,200	2,000	3,000	2,200	7,200	7,200	28,800			28,800	MESD
	Field Operation Team Mintom Moboma HQ	4,000	3,200	2,000	3,000	2,200	7,200	7,200	28,800			28,800	MESD
	Finance & adminsitration Coordinator										95,852	95,852	MESD
	Accountant and logistic Assitant										35,784	35,784	MESD
	2 Drivers										44,304	44,304	MESD
	Consultant to provide training (Activity 1.1.4.1) on Georeferenced programming in GIS, to decentralized structure of the MESD,	5,000							5,000			5,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	the Ministry of Water,												
	Forests Hunting Output 2.3.2: Provide training to key stakeholder on natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services.					5,000		30,000	35,000			35,000	MESD
	Activity 4.3.1: Provide support for training and practices on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to promote coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources, and capacity Building, to enhance the technical and institutional capacities of all stakeholders involved in the management of the Ubangui Watershed.							25,000	25,000			25,000	MESD
	Activity 1.2.1.2: Multi-sector, multistakeholder dialogues are organized for the transboundary management of the Ubangui watershed;	340,320							340,320			340,320	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4* *Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Activity 1.2.1.4: Defining a system for continuous monitoring and sharing of real-time data. Activity 1.2.1.5: Draft agreement to facilitate crosssector, cross-country data exchange and a concerted management of the Ubangui watershed												
	Consultations and meetings to obtain stakeholders's Free, Prior and Inform Consent (FPIC) (Pissa and Moboma Councils) in support to Activity 2.1.1.1 leading to the design and approval of Integrated Land Use Management Plan (ILUMP)	100,000		10,000					110,000			110,000	MESD
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Activity 2.3.2.2 Support south-south exchanges to learn from emerging best practices in other countries in the Congo Basin and beyond, to broaden capacity and understanding of stakeholder on NCA application					8,000			8,000			8,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Activity 4.1.4: Provide financial and logistical support through travel grants to representatives of the PMU, the national government, and the beneficiaries to participate in the annual meetings coordinated by the GEF 8 UNEP Regional Coordination project							47,000	47,000			47,000	MESD
	Activity 4.1.5: Organize joint exchange experience sharing and learning visits for indigenous peoples, local communities' Local entrepreneurs with their counterparts implementing similar interventions in other countries							45,000	45,000			45,000	MESD
	Activity 4.1.6: Manage travel grants, including in governance of water resource, so that representatives of the national and local government, as well as other strategic actors, are able to participate in at least three regional workshops in the project							55,000	55,000			55,000	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	lifetime, in order to exchange experiences, and to disseminate the project Results												
	Project inception workshop									25,000		25,000	MESD
	Activity 4.4.3 Organize annual adaptive management workshops to evaluate the Project Results and analyze whether adjustments to the project strategy are required (6 workshops)									60,000		60,000	MESD
	Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools), including: at Project Inception Mid-point and End-point measurements of project outcome indicators, (through Activity 4.4.1).								0	34,000		34,000	MESD
	Project steering committee meeting									90,000		90,000	MESD
Travel	National travel for PMU for Project Coordination	10,000	28,460	30,000	20,000	10,000	40,000		138,460	60,000		198,460	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Field Operation Team / Local supervisors travel to oversee and coordinate activities implemented by field executing partners.	10,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	10,000		44,000			44,000	MESD
Office Supplies	Office Costs and Telephone										60,000	60,000	MESD
	Office furniture and equipment										36,500	36,500	MESD
Other Operating Costs	Support for Output 4.1 (Activity 4.1.2: Products that systematize information, allow the dissemination of achievements and lessons learned, relevant project knowledge products '(for example, best practices manual, brochures, videos / tutorials, among others), to share with regional and global platform							30,000	30,000			30,000	MESD
	Activity 4.2.2: Provide support for publication of project results /technical briefing notes, and for relevant stakeholders' participation in GEF IW: LEARN (International Waters Learning and Resource Network)									25,000		25,000	MESD
	Bank Charges										0	0	MESD

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*			*Component 3*	*Component 4 Sub-Total*		*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3*	*Outcome 4*					
	Audits costs										42,500	42,500	MESD
	External Mid Term Review (Activity 4.4.2)									20,000		20,000	MESD
	External Terminal Evaluation (Activity 4.4.2)									40,000		40,000	MESD
Grand Total		1,091,110	330,950	686,800	2,674,448	158,000	1,827,099	581,600	7,350,007	436,800	389,340	8,176,147	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.