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GEF/R2016-0010/1

August 19, 2016

<p>Closing Date: Friday, September 2, 2016 at 6 p.m.</p>

FROM: Acting Vice President and Corporate Secretary

Gabon - Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management Project

Project Appraisal Document

Attached is the Project Appraisal Document regarding a proposed grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to Gabon for a Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management Project (GEF/R2016-0010), which is being processed on an absence-of-objection basis.

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Document of
The World Bank

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Report No: PAD1693

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT APPRAISAL DOCUMENT

ON A

PROPOSED GRANT
FROM THE
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

IN THE AMOUNT OF US\$9,055,046

TO THE

GABONESE REPUBLIC

FOR A

WILDLIFE AND HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

August 11, 2016

Environment & Natural Resources Global Practice
AFRICA

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(Exchange Rate Effective March 31, 2016)

Currency Unit = XAF
XAF 578.16 = US\$1

FISCAL YEAR

January 1 – December 31

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFD	French Development Agency (<i>Agence Française de Développement</i>)
ANPN	National Agency of National Parks (<i>Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux</i>)
BD	Biodiversity
CCGL	Local Management Consultative Committee (<i>Comité Consultatif de Gestion Locale</i>)
CDC	National Deposit Bank (<i>Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations</i>)
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CPS	Country Partnership Strategy
DA	Designated Account
DGFAP	Directorate General for Fauna and Protected Areas (<i>Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées</i>) within the Ministry in charge of Environment and Forests
DGPA	General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture (<i>Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture</i>)
DL	Disbursement Letter
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DP	Development Partner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information System
EOI	Expression Of Interest
EPI	Elephant Protection Initiative
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FM	Financial Management
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
GRS	Grievance Redress Service (of the WBG)
GWP	Global Wildlife Program
HEC	Human-Elephant Conflict
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICB	International Competitive Bidding
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IDA	International Development Association
IFR	Interim Financial Report
IGAD	Gabon Institute for Development Support (<i>Institut Gabonais d'Appui au Développement</i>)
IPF	Investment Project Financing

IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan (<i>Plan des Populations Locales et Sensibles</i>)
IRET	Tropical Ecological Research Institute (<i>Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale</i>)
ISR	Implementation Status and Results
IWT	International Wildlife Trade
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFA	Multi-Focal Area
MFEPRNM	Ministry of Forest, Environment, Natural Resources and Sea (<i>Ministère de la Forêt, de l'Environnement, de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles et de la Mer</i>)
MIS	Management Information System
NCB	National Competitive Bidding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIAP	National Ivory Action Plan
OHADA	Organization for the Harmonization of Business Laws in Africa (<i>Organisation pour l'Harmonisation du Droit des Affaires en Afrique</i>)
OP/BP	Operational Policy/Bank Policy (of the WBG)
PA	Protected Area
PDO	Project Development Objective
PF	Process Framework
PFM	Public Financial Management
PIKE	Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PLR	Performance and Learning Review
PIU	Project Implementing Unit
PNAT	Land Use Plan (<i>Plan d'Affectation des Terres</i>)
POM	Project Operational Manual
PROLAB	Anti-Poaching Program (<i>Programme de Lutte Anti-Braconnage</i>)
PSGE	Strategic Roadmap for an Emerging Gabon (<i>Plan Stratégique Gabon Emergent</i>)
RAS	Reimbursable Advisory Services
RGPH	Population General Census (<i>Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat</i>)
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
STAR	System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (of GEF)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNGA	United National General Assembly
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
US\$	US Dollars
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WHECMP	Wildlife and Human Elephant Conflict Management Project
WWF	World Wildlife Foundation
XAF	Central African CFA Franc

Regional Vice President:	Makhtar Diop
Country Director:	Elisabeth Huybens
Senior Global Practice Director:	Paula Caballero
Practice Manager:	Benoit Bosquet
Task Team Leaders:	Salimata D. Folléa/Anders Jensen

GABON

WILDLIFE AND HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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PAD DATA SHEET

Gabon

Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management Project (P157249)

PROJECT APPRAISAL DOCUMENT

AFRICA

Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice

Report No.: PAD1693

Basic Information			
Project ID P157249	EA Category B - Partial Assessment	Team Leader(s) Salimata D. Follea, Anders Jensen	
Lending Instrument Investment Project Financing	Fragile and/or Capacity Constraints []		
	Financial Intermediaries []		
	Series of Projects []		
Project Implementation Start Date August 29, 2016	Project Implementation End Date December 31, 2021		
Expected Effectiveness Date November 29, 2016	Expected Closing Date December 31, 2021		
Joint IFC No	GEF Focal Area Biodiversity		
Practice Manager/Manager Benoit Bosquet	Senior Global Practice Director Paula Caballero	Country Director Elisabeth Huybens	Regional Vice President Makhtar Diop
Borrower: Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Economie, la Promotion des Investissements et de la Prospective			
Responsible Agency: Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux			
Contact: Telephone No.:	Lee White 2417840063	Title: Email:	Executive Secretary lwhite@parcsgabon.ga
Project Financing Data(in US\$ Million)			
[] Loan	[] IDA Grant	[] Guarantee	
[] Credit	[X] Grant	[] Other	

Total Project Cost:	9.05 ¹	Total Bank Financing:	0.00						
Financing Gap:	0.00								
Financing Source		Amount (US\$ Million)							
Borrower		0.00							
Global Environment Facility (GEF)		9.05							
Total		9.05							
Expected Disbursements (in US\$ Million)									
Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022			
Annual	.40	1.00	2.00	2.50	2.75	.40			
Cumulative	.40	1.40	3.40	5.90	8.65	9.05			
Institutional Data									
Practice Area (Lead)									
Environment & Natural Resources									
Contributing Practice Areas									
Climate Change, Gender, Governance									
Cross Cutting Topics									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change <input type="checkbox"/> Fragile, Conflict & Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs <input type="checkbox"/> Public Private Partnership									
Sectors / Climate Change									
Sector (Maximum 5 and total percent must equal 100)									
Major Sector		Sector	%	Adaptation Co-benefits %		Mitigation Co-benefits %			
Agriculture, fishing, and forestry		Forestry	100	10		10			
Total			100						
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that there is no Adaptation and Mitigation Climate Change Co-benefits information applicable to this project.									
Themes									
Theme (Maximum 5 and total percent must equal 100)									
Major theme		Theme					%		

¹ The exact amount is US\$9,055,046.

Environment and natural resources management	Biodiversity	100
Total		100
Proposed Global Environmental Objective(s)		
The PDO is to reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones.		
Components		
Component Name	Cost (US\$ Millions)	
Support to National Ivory Action Plan implementation	1.14	
Support for integrated landscape management and mitigation of human-elephant conflicts	5.88	
Transboundary parks co-management (Mayumba-Conkouati) (Gabon-Congo)	1.20	
Project Coordination, management and monitoring and evaluation	0.83	
Systematic Operations Risk- Rating Tool (SORT)		
Risk Category	Rating	
1. Political and Governance	High	
2. Macroeconomic	Substantial	
3. Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate	
4. Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial	
5. Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Moderate	
6. Fiduciary	Moderate	
7. Environment and Social	Substantial	
8. Stakeholders	Moderate	
9. Other		
OVERALL	Substantial	
Compliance		
Policy		
Does the project depart from the CAS in content or in other significant respects?	Yes []	No [X]
Does the project require any waivers of Bank policies?	Yes []	No [X]
Have these been approved by Bank management?	Yes []	No []
Is approval for any policy waiver sought from the Board?	Yes []	No [X]
Does the project meet the Regional criteria for readiness for implementation?	Yes [X]	No []
Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No

Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		X	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X	
Forests OP/BP 4.36			X
Pest Management OP 4.09			X
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11			X
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		X	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37			X
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50			X
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60			X
Legal Covenants			
Name	Recurrent	Due Date	Frequency
Recruitment of an external auditor Schedule 2, Section II, B4		04/28/2017	
Description of Covenant The Recipient shall recruit, not later than five (5) months after the Effective Date, the external auditor referred to Section 2.07 (b) of the Standard Conditions in accordance with Section III of Schedule 2 of the Agreement and pursuant to terms of reference satisfactory to the World Bank.			
Upgrade the accounting software at ANPN, Schedule 2, Section II, B5		12/29/2016	
Description of Covenant The Recipient shall, not later than one (1) month after the Effective Date, upgrade its computerized accounting system for the Project, in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.			
Update of the Project Implementation Manual, Schedule 2, Section I, B2		12/29/2016	
Description of Covenant The Recipient shall cause the Project Implementation Entity to update, not later than one (1) month after the Effective Date, the Project Implementation Manual to include detailed policies and procedures on the intended purposes of equipment provided for under Part III of the Project; adequate mitigation and safeguards measures to ensure that said equipment are not misused; adequate training provided to users; and arrangements for monitoring the activities involving of said equipment.			
Establishment of the Project Steering Committee, Schedule 2, Section I, A1		12/29/2016	
Description of Covenant The Recipient shall, not later than one (1) month after the Effective Date, establish and thereafter maintain, throughout the Project implementation period with composition, mandate and resources satisfactory to the World Bank, a steering committee to be chaired by the ministry in charge of economy and comprised of representatives of the ministries in charge of forests, environment, protection of natural resources and sea, and key stakeholders, to be responsible for approving policy guidelines and providing overall supervision of the Project's implementation; (ii) approving the Annual Work Plan; (iii) approving the annual			

Procurement Plan; and (iv) reviewing the Project annual implementation performance and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary (the “Steering Committee”).

Conditions

Source Of Fund	Name	Type
GEF	Delivery of the Agreement, Article IV, 4.01 (a)	Effectiveness

Description of Condition

The execution and delivery of the Grant Agreement on behalf of the Recipient has been duly authorized or ratified by all necessary Government al action.

GEF	Project Implementing Entity, Article IV, 4.01 (b)	Effectiveness
-----	---	---------------

If the World Bank so requests, the condition of the Project Implementing Entity, as represented or warranted to the World Bank at the date of the Grant Agreement, has undergone no material adverse change after such date.

GEF	Subsidiary Agreement execution, Article IV, 4.01 (c)	Effectiveness
-----	--	---------------

Description of Condition

The Subsidiary Agreement referred to in Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 to the Grant Agreement has been executed on behalf of the Recipient and the Project Implementing Entity.

GEF	Grant Agreement authorization, Article IV, 4.02 (a)	Effectiveness
-----	---	---------------

Description of Condition

On behalf of the Recipient, the Grant Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by, and executed and delivered on its behalf and is legally binding upon it in accordance with its terms.

GEF	Subsidiary Agreement authorization, Article IV, 4.02 (b)	Effectiveness
-----	--	---------------

The Subsidiary Agreement referred to in Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 to the Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by the Recipient and the Implementing Entity and is legally binding upon each such party in accordance with its terms.

Team Composition

World Bank Staff

Name	Role	Title	Specialization	Unit
Salimata D. Follea	Team Leader (ADM Responsible)	Natural Resources Mgmt. Spec.	Team Leader	GEN07
Anders Jensen	Co-Team Leader	Sr. M&E Specialist	M&E	GENDR
Claudia Sobrevila	Team member	Senior Biodiversity Specialist	Biodiversity	GEN07
Kouami Hounsinnou Messan	Team Member	Senior Procurement Specialist	Procurement	GGO07
Aissatou Diallo	Team Member	Senior Finance Officer	Financial Management	WFALA
Abdoulaye Gadiéré	Team Member	Senior Environmental Specialist	Env. Safeguards	GEN07

Celestin Adjalou Niamien	Team Member	Sr Financial Management Specialist	Financial Management	GGO13	
Kristyna Bishop	Team Member	Senior Social Development Specialist	Social Safeguards	GSU01	
Maya Abi Karam	Team Member	Senior Counsel	Legal	LEGAM	
Sonia Vanecia Boga	Team Member	Team Assistant	Admin support	AFMGA	
Virginie A. Vaselopulos	Team Member	Senior Program Assistant	Admin support	GEN07	
Extended Team					
Name	Title	Office Phone		Location	
Cynthia Cartier	Sr. Env Economist, Consultant			France	
Gratien Boni	Sr. Social Dev Specialist, Consultant			Benin	
Romain Pierre Beville	NRM consultant			Gabon	
Locations					
Country	First Administrative Division	Location	Planned	Actual	Comments
Gabon	Nyanga	Province de la Nyanga		X	
Gabon	Ngounie	Province de la Ngounie		X	

I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context

1. Gabon is a coastal country of central Africa, bordered by Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon (to the north), the Republic of the Congo (to the east and south), and the Atlantic Ocean (to the west). It covers 267,667 square kilometers, of which 88 percent are forests. The population is estimated at 1.688 million (2014), of which 50 percent are under 19 years of age. Gabon is one of Africa's most urbanized countries: more than 85 percent of its population lives in urban centers, predominantly in Libreville (the capital), Port-Gentil (the economic capital), and Franceville (a mining region) while the rural population is widely dispersed over the hinterland in villages and small towns.
2. The country is resource-rich, well endowed with arable land, forest, and mineral resources. It has extraordinary biodiversity as well as rich deposits of magnesium and iron ore. It is the fifth-largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa and the second-largest exporter of manganese. With a GDP per capita estimated at US\$9,450 in 2015 (5.5 times higher than the Sub-Saharan Africa average), it is one of Africa's few middle-income countries. However, due to high income inequality, poverty remains high; the last national household survey (2005) showed a poverty rate of 24.4 percent, based on the World Bank international poverty threshold for middle income countries of US\$3.1 per day (purchasing power parity basis). In terms of the UNDP Human Development Index, Gabon ranks 110 out of 188 countries (UNDP Human Development Report 2015).
3. In 2009 the Gabonese President presented a new economic vision: Emerging Gabon. The strategic road map for an Emerging Gabon (*Plan Stratégique Gabon Emergent*—PSGE) aims at modernizing the country and making it an emerging economy by 2025. It is based on accelerating growth and reducing poverty but also looks to capitalize on Gabon's comparative advantages at both the regional and global levels. The strategy is built on three pillars:
 - Industrial Gabon (*Gabon Industriel*) aims to develop Gabon into a metallurgic and industrial center of excellence (optimizing oil and mining, construction, building materials, and agro-industrial transformation).
 - Green Gabon (*Gabon Vert*) with three major goals: (i) instituting sustainable forest management and transforming Gabon into a global leader in certified tropical timber production; (ii) developing agriculture and livestock farming to improve food security; and (iii) creating sustainable and responsible fisheries.
 - Gabon Services (*Gabon des Services*) with the objective of making Gabon a center of excellence in business, ecotourism, and value-added services such as higher education and research, health, media, and information technologies.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

4. The country contains three of the world's globally important ecoregions, and it has a particularly high level of biodiversity and a large number of endemic species. Forests cover 88 percent of the country, which account for approximately 15 percent of the Congo Basin rainforests.

These forests are one of the last strongholds for the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*); with an estimated elephant population of 40,000², they are thought to be home to 50 percent of all remaining forest elephants in Africa. Gabon is also an important country for the conservation of the Western lowland gorilla and chimpanzees. This biodiversity is protected through a network of protected areas that includes 13 national parks created in 2001, totaling 1,293,000 ha; together with park buffer zones, protected areas cover 15 percent of Gabon's territory.

5. The management authority for Gabon's national parks is the National Agency of National Parks (*Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux*, ANPN). A public legal entity with administrative and financial autonomy, ANPN was created under Law 003/2007 on National Parks. Reporting directly to the President of Gabon, ANPN is responsible for the implementation of Government policy for national parks, and it leads on all issues related to national parks. It works with Government partners and international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to implement park management plans and programs within park boundaries. Outside of national parks, biodiversity protection is the responsibility of the Directorate General for Fauna and Protected Areas (DGFAP), which is within the Ministry of Forest, Environment, Natural Resources and the Sea (*Ministère de la Forêt, de l'Environnement, de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles et de la Mer*, MFEPRNM). Due to this delineation of responsibility, important populations of elephant, gorilla and other species residing outside national parks – within forestry and oil concessions, and on village lands – are protected through regulations developed by the DGFAP. However, given species mobility across jurisdictions, ANPN and the DGFAP are required to coordinate their activities to fulfill their respective mandates.

6. Gabon's wealth in biodiversity is primarily due to its long-standing political stability, but also due to low anthropogenic pressure on natural resources. With a per capita forest area of 15 hectares, the population pressure on forest resources in Gabon is significantly lower than in most African countries. However, Gabon's natural resource wealth is currently under threat, with wildlife populations declining and forests illegally exploited. Elephant populations are being targeted for their ivory, while other species are targeted to supply the commercial bush meat trade.

7. Forest elephants are declining at a rate of about 9 percent per year. Elephant poaching is known to be particularly problematic in the northeast where Gabon shares borders with Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo. Poachers are known to cross the borders into Gabon in gangs of 30 or 40. Loaded with equipment (tents, satellite phones, rifles, chain saws for tusks, scales for weighing tusks), they can hunt illegally for a month or more. They use the Baka (indigenous forest dwellers) as hunters, guides, and porters. In 2011, the scope of the poaching problem became apparent when some 6,000 people were found living in an illegal gold mining camp in Minkébé national park in the northeast of the country. The army was dispatched to remove them. Subsequent research in Minkébé concluded that about 11,000 elephants had been killed between 2004 and

² Maisels, F et al. 2013. Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa. Plos One, Vol. 8 (3). <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0059469>.

2012.³ Other intelligence indicates that a corridor stretching from Gabon's northeast to its southwest is one of Africa's primary ivory smuggling routes for moving illegal ivory off the continent.⁴

8. Gabon's Forestry Law (No. 016/01 December 2001) provides for protection of species, including elephants. Hunting these species is banned, but low penalties for poaching convictions are not sufficient to deter individuals. The offense is a "wildlife infraction" with a maximum sentence of six months, and a fine of XAF 10,000,000 (US\$6,000). However, offenders typically do not receive the maximum sentence. Given that current price estimates for ivory range from US\$2,000 to US\$3,000/kg⁵, these fines, even if applied, are not an effective deterrent. A new Forestry Law with more substantial penalties has been drafted and is currently under review. This new draft law contains a minimum three-year sentence for poaching. Corruption also reportedly facilitates the ivory trade in Gabon. The Government is working actively to reduce this phenomenon.

9. Gabon's elephants are under siege by poachers, but they are equally unwelcome to Gabon's rural communities. As elephants migrate away from the poachers, and rural human communities expand, elephant and human populations are increasingly coming into contact. In farming communities that border elephant habitat or lie within elephant migration corridors, elephants damage crops and villages, and sometimes kill people. A recent field mission into the areas targeted by this project documented repeated crop destruction and three deaths. Farmers are not protected against crop loss. Their current approaches to elephant deterrence are ineffective. They want solutions to the Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) problems because they see elephants as enemies to their livelihoods, if not their lives.

10. Poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and the HEC in rural communities in and around national parks, also threaten Gabon's potential for wildlife tourism development. Although ecotourism is not currently an important source of national revenue, its development – particularly high-end ecotourism – is a priority for economic diversification in the Gabon Services component of the PSGE. The Government is upgrading infrastructure to enable the tourism sector to grow, and is partnering with the private sector to develop tourism products that capitalize on the country's natural resource wealth: the focus for tourism sector development is on Gabon's network of national parks.

11. The country's objectives for tourism development create a strong national incentive for protecting its wealth of biodiversity. The Government of Gabon is hence committed to tackling poaching and illegal wildlife trade as well as improving protected area management. The strategy is comprehensive: it involves actions to stop poaching and trafficking; reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products; and engage communities in protected area management while enhancing their livelihoods in ways that link community responsibility and accountability to conservation outcomes.

³ANPN. 2013. At http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/preliminary_results_of_minkebe_pilot_study.pdf

⁴ IUCN. 2012. Elephants in the Dust: The African Elephant Crisis. Figure 14: Primary and secondary ivory smuggling routes in Africa based on a wide range of sources including both ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System) seizures, and criminal intelligence.

⁵ <http://conservationmagazine.org/2015/01/can-there-ever-be-a-legal-ivory-trade/>

12. To develop the strategy, the Government mandated a special investigation into the role of corruption in ivory smuggling. UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes) conducted a comprehensive national assessment to develop evidence-based recommendations and actions for legislation, law enforcement, prosecution, and the judiciary, using the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit. The result of the investigation is the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP). The NIAP is a consensus document for administrative planning to facilitate communication between partners involved in wildlife crime prevention. It provides technical guidance to strengthen the regulatory framework, survey techniques, and anti-fraud operations. DGFAP and ANPN are jointly responsible for its implementation. In June 2012, the Government of Gabon set alight a confiscated stockpile of over 4,536 kg of elephant ivory, representing about 850 illegally killed elephants. Consistent with the NIAP, Gabon is including recognition of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) into the on-going revision of the Forestry Law; and a new ivory storage facility has been established pending the destruction of stocks accumulated since the June 2012 burn, including 200 kg seized in December 2015.

13. Gabon has played a prominent role in several regional and international summits and meetings to address the escalating crisis in illegal wildlife trade. The most significant meeting was the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in February 2014, where representatives from 46 countries agreed on a declaration to stop illegal wildlife trade around the world, and the president of Gabon, along with the presidents of Chad, Botswana, Tanzania and Ethiopia, launched the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI). A post-London summit took place on March 25, 2015, in Botswana.

C. Higher Level Objectives to which the Project Contributes

14. The Performance and Learning Review (PLR) (report # 95842-GA, March 9, 2016), which extended the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) from FY2012-2016 to FY2012-2018, sets in motion a portfolio of activities that also strengthen the three strategic development pillars of the CPS. These pillars now become: (i) governance and public sector capacity; (ii) increasing competitiveness and employment; and (iii) human development and environmental sustainability. Gender equity is a cross-cutting theme of the PLR. As stated in the CPS (para. 77), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources will continue to support conservation of biological diversity in Gabon through investments in selected national parks and the strengthening of the management of the parks network, other protected areas and production forests, and other ecosystems. The project falls under the third pillar on “Human Development and Environmental Sustainability.” It will contribute to the fifth outcome for “improved transparency and sustainability in natural resource management,” and directly contribute to various indicators and milestones in the results matrix of the CPS. Certain activities within this project will also positively impact gender equity. This project supports human development and environmental sustainability by building national and local capacity to protect elephants from people and vice versa. Gabon’s elephant population, an important natural asset, is under threat, which in turn threatens Gabon’s opportunities for tourism sector development. In addition, poaching pressure constrains the natural movement of elephant

herds forcing them into more encounters with rural communities and a higher incidence of human-elephant conflict. An increase in HEC means an increase in crop damage, thus threatening the main source of income for rural communities. As women hold the primary responsibility for food production, they suffer disproportionately from crop loss. Women will, therefore, particularly benefit from the HEC mitigation activities of this project. By strengthening public sector capacities so that poaching pressure on elephants is reduced, the project serves to not only protect an important national natural asset, but it also supports communities and farmers through better protecting rural livelihoods and assisting communities directly in developing effective, long-term solutions to their HEC problems.

15. **National Climate Plan and National Land Use Plan.** In 2010, Gabon created a National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, which has since produced a National Climate Plan. The Plan includes strategies to control Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and improve climate change adaptation capacity. In conjunction with the National Climate Plan, the country is finalizing a national land use plan (*Plan National d’Affectation des Terres*, PNAT). Currently, unclear land tenure and overlapping resource use rights, create conflicts and prevent strategic land use planning for optimal resource allocation and climate change adaptation planning. This GEF project can contribute to both Plans by providing updated information on key areas.⁶

16. Primary activities within this project involve the development of a management information system (MIS) for natural resources and human-elephant conflict data and information. Although elephant data and information is emphasized in this project, the MIS developed herein operationalizes an information infrastructure for all natural resource data. Furthermore, the establishment of a HEC database will provide socioeconomic data on rural communities that is currently unavailable. Lastly, an important objective of this project is to identify and map elephant corridors and develop a corridor management plan for the protection of both elephants and communities. The corridor information will inform the PNAT, promoting better land use planning for resource protection that reduces both human and wildlife vulnerability.

17. **The World Bank’s Prosperity and Poverty Reduction Goal:** The project aligns with the World Bank’s twin goals of shared prosperity and extreme poverty reduction. Despite Gabon’s high per capita income (US\$9,450 in 2015), its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) progress is lagging. Poverty data are out of date but estimates suggest that the poverty rate has fallen slightly, based on the World Bank international poverty threshold for middle income countries of US\$3.1 per day. Estimates suggest that by 2014 the share of the population living in poverty had fallen only slightly to 22.7 percent (World Bank 2015). The next national household survey is planned for 2016 with results expected to be available in 2017. New data will allow for detailed disaggregation by geographic area and economic activity, aiding policymakers in designing and monitoring poverty

⁶ In the context of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), Gabon has pledged to keep 2025 GHG emissions at least 50 percent below business-as-usual levels, which corresponds to a 3 percent decrease in emissions relative to 2000 levels. This will be achieved primarily through a land management program, but also by setting up a domestic carbon offset market. Land management programs will achieve most of the cuts (92 percent); the remainder will come from reduced flaring in the oil and gas sector, and higher energy efficiencies and hydropower production.

reduction strategies. It will also allow for the study of evolving issues, such as rural depopulation, the urban informal economy, and the impact of natural resource extraction.

18. At the local level, this project will implement human-elephants conflict prevention and mitigation measures to secure communities' crops for their subsistence and livelihoods, and facilitate access to bigger urban markets for better flow of their crops thereby providing opportunities to raise local incomes.

19. With respect to shared prosperity, Gabon's wealth is embodied in its large stock of natural resources, which has very high income-generating potential. The country's development strategy targets shared prosperity from the sustainable development of that potential. This project supports the sustainable development of natural resources by those living closest to the resources, so that they benefit directly from growing returns on the country's natural wealth.

20. **GEF-6 Strategy.** The goal of the GEF-6 Strategy is "to maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society." Program 3 of the Strategy targets that goal by "preventing extinction of known threatened species." For Program 3, the GEF is taking a programmatic approach to generate a series of interconnected projects under a common objective. Thus its Global Wildlife Program (GWP) focuses on stopping illegal wildlife trade in Africa and Asia.⁷ The associated funding envelope will support a number of nationally initiated "child" projects, of which this project is the first.

21. The activities of this project are consistent with those indicated for the GWP and link to certain indicators in the GWP results framework, including through support to national anti-poaching strategies: the implementation of the Gabon National Ivory Action Plan is the focus of Component 1. Activities to strengthen protected area management and law enforcement at national, local, and regional levels are contained, respectively, in Components 1, 2, and 3. The GWP also targets communities in terms of increasing their capacity to live with and manage wildlife. Activities in Component 2 aim to reduce human-wildlife conflict and to strengthen local community governance structures to better manage local resources.

22. As indicated in the endorsement letter, dated October 8, 2015, the Government of Gabon decided to use the total envelope available under the GEF-6 STAR⁸ allocation to support this project. The project will contribute to the GEF Biodiversity (BD), Land degradation (LD) and Multi-Focal Area (MFA) focal areas.

⁷ The GWP is formally the "Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development". Approved in June 2015, it is a seven-year US\$90 million multi-agency Program involving 18 African and Asian countries. Its objective is to promote wildlife conservation and crime prevention, and sustainable development to reduce impacts to threatened species from IWT. Hence, the Program supports country investments to reduce wildlife crime (through national and international collaboration, law enforcement, demand reduction); to incentivize communities to manage wildlife for sustainable livelihood development (tourism, enhanced resource use, reduced HEC); and for interagency collaboration for an integrated landscape approach to ecosystem and species protection.

⁸ System for Transparent Allocation of Resources.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

A. PDO

23. The PDO is to reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones.

24. The objectives will be achieved through (i) strengthened anti-poaching activities, thereby securing elephants in their habitat and limiting crop destruction; and (ii) strengthened HEC prevention and mitigation measures, thereby securing communities' crops and livelihoods against elephant raiding.

Project Beneficiaries

25. Besides its overall benefit in terms of biodiversity from elephant conservation at the national and regional levels, the project will directly benefit the communities living in and around the four target zones, which include national parks, buffer and periphery zones. These are rural communities that suffer crop loss due to elephant incursions. The project will provide direct livelihood benefits for these communities in two ways: (i) by mapping elephant corridors and protecting them against poachers thereby limiting elephant movement into settled areas; and (ii) by increasing direct measures in and around communities to prevent HEC and mitigate the negative impacts of such encounters in order to help maintain and develop communities' livelihood resource.

26. About 15 percent of the estimated 8,500 people⁹ living in a number of small villages in the four target zones are the ones most heavily affected by HEC. Data are drawn from the number of complaints related to crop destruction by elephants reported by the population to DGFAP at the time of project preparation (year 2015 to February 2016) and have been used to plan interventions supported by the project. Total complaints for the four national parks by the end of February 2016 were estimated at 247. Based on an average household size of five, this amounts to approximately 1,235 direct beneficiaries of improved HEC management. (This is a high-end estimate and thus a more conservative estimate of 1,000 has been used in the results framework.)

27. In terms of capacity building for parks surveillance and poaching prevention, the project beneficiaries at national level will be ANPN and DGFAP (including through training of field agents - park wardens and eco-guards), and the justice sector. The project will also bring capacity benefits to community governance structures, including the Local Management Consultative Committee (*Comité Consultatif de Gestion Locale*).

PDO Level Results Indicators

- i. Proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) in targeted national parks (disaggregated by national park);
- ii. Reported incidents of human-elephant conflicts in the target zones;

⁹ Population estimates provided by ANPN, from the General Population and Habitat Census (*Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat*, RGPH), and WWF.

- iii. Stage of development of corridor management plans by corridor;
- iv. Satisfaction by target beneficiaries of project interventions (percent of which female);
- v. Direct project beneficiaries, (percent of which female).

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Components

28. The project is organized around four main components, the collective aim of which is to support the Government of Gabon in its efforts to reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones, and in so doing to improve crop protection and farm income benefits in local communities. Elephants are an important natural asset for the country with the potential to generate national – and rural – income through the eventual development of ecotourism. This natural asset, and any future income benefits it is likely to generate, is currently under threat due to poaching for ivory. Moreover, elephants straying outside their natural habitat as a result of poaching represent a real risk to community livelihoods because their movement into settled areas often results in destroyed crops and reduced farm incomes. By improving the targeted parks surveillance – thus reducing both the poaching threat to elephants and the number and negative impact of HEC – community income benefits and livelihoods will be substantially enhanced.

29. The project is designed around the four main components below whose collective interventions summarized below will contribute to the overall objective of reducing elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones.

30. Component 1 will develop the national tools and measures for elephant management through the implementation of the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP). The NIAP entails (i) increasing knowledge on elephant populations, their movement and HEC; (ii) strengthening enforcement of wildlife protection laws; and (iii) communication and public awareness about elephant poaching/ivory trafficking and its negative impacts. HEC knowledge will help Government and communities identify the most effective means to reduce HEC. Strengthened law enforcement will contribute to poaching reduction and, thereby, reduce elephant migration into areas that may contain human settlements. Finally, the communication and public awareness campaigns will help communities understand the long-term implications of elephant poaching.

31. Component 2 will enhance surveillance inside the target zones through the implementation of the ANPN-designed parks management plans, involving all stakeholders. ANPN/DGFAP will increase surveillance and develop management plans for elephant corridors in order to reduce poaching. In addition, corridor management planning provides an essential element to reducing HEC through land use planning that ensures human settlements are outside of the identified corridors. The component will also strengthen local bodies' (CCGLs) capacity to co-manage local resources, and provide communities with opportunities for enhanced livelihood. New HEC mitigation techniques will be tested and evaluated under Component 2. Women will benefit from

HEC protection that increases farm yields, and small infrastructure improvements that alleviate daily tasks and improve access to local markets.

32. Component 3 will support the development of cross-border anti-poaching activities through the effective implementation of the cross-border cooperation agreement that was signed in 2010 but is not yet effective.

33. Component 4 will provide for overall project management, as well as coordination with other donor projects that include similar activities in different areas of the country.

34. The four national parks targeted by the project, namely: Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, Mayumba and Waka, are located in the southwest quadrant of the country. The project complements a similar project financed by the French Development Agency (*Agence Française de Développement*, AFD), which focuses on the national parks in the northeast of the country. It also complements projects financed by USFWS and WWF, which have on-going anti-poaching activities in the project's target zones. Annex 2 provides more detail about the project and its complementarity with other projects.

Component 1: Support to the National Ivory Action Plan implementation (GEF US\$1.14¹⁰ million)

35. The objective of this component is to build the institutional and operational capacity of the DGFAP and ANPN to implement the NIAP. In so doing, this component will develop the tools needed to improve the surveillance of national parks and the effectiveness of strategies to stop wildlife poaching, ivory trafficking, and related corruption. To that end, capacity will be built for the management of data and information relating to elephant populations, HEC, and wildlife-related criminality (particularly, ivory trafficking). Capacity to implement wildlife laws and regulations will be strengthened through the provision of expert training in investigative techniques and policing procedures for wildlife crime case development and prosecution.

36. This component is divided into three sub-components.

Sub-component 1.1: Developing elephant database (US\$0.22 million)

37. This sub-component will develop a centrally located and accessible management information system (MIS) for natural resources. This national database will consolidate existing but disparate data, and ensure its continuous monitoring and update with current data and information.

38. ***Output 1.1.1 National natural resource database (US\$0.12 million).*** The MIS will provide the infrastructure for all natural resource data, but within the context of this project, the data prioritized for collection and update will be those related to elephants, particularly:

- i. elephant populations – numbers, density, mortality, genetics, and seasonal movements;
- ii. criminality – poachers, middlemen, and IWT networks from Africa-to-Asia; regional and international ivory seizures and prosecutions; poaching prevention efforts and the role of local communities in that prevention;

¹⁰ This represents, US\$1,142,046.

- iii. HEC – prevalence, impacts, and effectiveness of mitigation measures undertaken and tested.

39. Activities will include assistance to ANPN and DGFAP in collecting existing data and creation of an MIS that accommodates both quantitative and qualitative data, and ensures its quality and integration into a centralized databank to be located at ANPN. Using a metadata catalogue, the MIS will allow users appropriate access to consult natural resource-related data. Data manipulation, update, monitoring, and evaluation will be the responsibility of ANPN. Sensitive data to inform intelligence such as ivory trafficking criminal networks will be highly protected, as is currently the case at ANPN.

40. ***Output 1.1.2 National HEC database (US\$0.10 million).*** Complementary to the national database, an HEC database will be developed. HEC data and information output from component 2.2 will be systematically collected for evaluation and analysis. Hence, technical assistance will be provided to: (i) develop a data reporting methodology; (ii) create the national HEC database; (iii) train an HEC database manager; (iv) train HEC field teams in using the data collection methodology; and (v) put in place centralized mechanisms to analyze HEC data at both national and regional levels in terms of area and population affected, gender-specific impacts of HEC, economic losses, etc.

Sub-component 1.2: Strengthen implementation of wildlife protection laws (US\$0.59million)

41. The goal of this sub-component is to increase the capacity of Gabon to implement wildlife laws and regulations. Supported by a World Bank technical assistance project, the Forestry Code – which contains the wildlife protection provisions – is currently under revision. The Ministry in charge of Forests is working towards its finalization and adoption, as it will contain a strengthened legal framework for wildlife protection that respects the provisions of CITES. With respect to this goal, this sub-component will strengthen the capacity of key authorities implicated in wildlife protection to police, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime.

42. CITES recommends that countries undertake genetic analysis of seized ivory to determine its provenance. The results of such analyses inform regional police intelligence networks, and can be used as evidence in the development of credible cases for prosecution. Activities under objective 1.2.1 will build on work led by ANPN to develop a genetic method to trace the sources of ivory seized in Gabon; a method that allows greater geographical precision than existing methods currently used across Africa. In some cases, this method achieves traceability to the original carcass. The genetic fingerprint afforded by ivory sampling and analysis is also a permanent marking system that will improve the national management of seized ivory.

43. ***Output 1.2.1 Strengthened capacity to determine the provenance of ivory (US\$0.32 million).*** The project will enhance the capacity of an existing genetic laboratory located at the tropical ecological research institute (*IRET: Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale*) through provision of laboratory equipment to undertake genetic analyses of ivory. Currently an international elephant genetics expert paid by ANPN is working at IRET with the support of a national scientist. This expert will train national lab assistants for knowledge transfer so that local capacity and responsibility will be created for sustainability of research and results. The project will also examine

with IRET the feasibility of developing specific genetic analysis modules to include them in relevant science degree curricula.

44. Other activities will contribute to the development of a network of laboratories – expert in ivory genetic analysis – in countries on both the supply and demand side of the ivory trade. Data exchanges will be facilitated by the genetic method being developed by ANPN, which is reproducible in any laboratory. Discussions on collaboration have already been initiated with laboratories in Southeast Asia, Kenya, and Botswana. At the regional level, the development of a forensic network for wildlife is being planned between Gabon and Botswana, as part of a project supported by UNODC.

45. ***Output 1.2.2 Strengthened law enforcement efforts in the national parks (US\$0.27 million).*** Expert training will be provided for increased capacity in forensics and wildlife crime investigation. UNODC professionals will deliver training sessions to park wardens, park eco-guards, and police involved in environmental law enforcement. The training will build skills in securing the crime scene for evidence collection, information handling and investigation, appropriate interrogation, conducting investigations, techniques for developing and using intelligence, preparing well-documented cases for successful prosecution, and monitoring and providing support to court proceedings. The “Elephant Crime Intelligence System Assessment”, commissioned by the World Bank, provides a good resource for understanding best practices for information handling and intelligence development. This document will be shared with the UNODC trainers.

46. Training in Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid (DNA) sampling to trace ivory provenance will complement the activities under Output 1.2.1 that operationalize a laboratory specialized in ivory genetics.

47. To strengthen judiciary capacity to prosecute wildlife crime, UNODC will deliver specific training for the judiciary (prosecutors and investigating judges) covering topics including environmental laws and regulations, wildlife crime information, investigation techniques, forensic intelligence, etc. Local magistrates training under the project will be part of the broader effort towards their specialization in the application of environmental law, which has been undertaken in Gabon, including the possible creation of a corps of specialized judges in environmental law, which is currently being studied with the help of the AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon”.

Sub-component 1.3: Education, information and communication (US\$0.34 million)

48. As noted within the Gabon NIAP, communication and awareness can play a decisive role in the fight against poaching and ivory trafficking. A communication strategy is to be developed under the AFD Project Eléphant Gabon. To avoid duplication of effort, education, information and communication activities under this GEF-financed project will be coordinated with those of Project Eléphant. Those activities will target preferentially the four priority sites to raise awareness about the illegal trade in wildlife, its impacts, Government initiatives underway to stop it, and positive actions that ordinary citizens can do to help stop it. As part of the prevention efforts, a specific communication program targeting school children will also be developed.

Component 2: Support for integrated landscape management and mitigation of human-elephant conflicts (GEF US\$5.88 million)

49. The objective of this component is to support implementation of park management plans, which include HEC management activities. The component contains interventions to enhance park surveillance and sustain or re-establish elephant habitat connectivity (corridors) at the landscape level – with the support of local communities and other stakeholders. Habitat connectivity contributes to elephant conservation, improves protected area resilience and sustainability by reducing pressures on biodiversity, and helps to reduce HEC through providing data for land use planning for locating future human settlements. Wildlife corridors facilitate wildlife migration and adaptation to changing circumstances, such as climate change or changes in predator behavior. In the case of elephants, the predators are poachers, and elephants tend to migrate away from where they are being killed. Securing corridors for elephant passage can reduce HEC by preventing elephant migration outside and human settlement inside those corridors. Engaging all stakeholders (local communities, wildlife protection authorities, economic operators) in an integrated landscape approach to protected area management can thus improve strategic planning for wildlife management.

50. The component will be implemented through two sub-components: (i) protecting areas and wildlife management; and, (ii) human-elephant conflicts (HEC) mitigation efforts.

Sub-component 2.1: Protected areas and wildlife management (US\$4.88 million)

51. This sub-component aims to: (i) strengthen parks surveillance capacity; (ii) identify and map out the existing elephant routes between the national parks of Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou, Mayumba and Waka, as well as cross-border Gabon-Congo animal corridors, in order to identify the areas in which human settlements should be discouraged and thereby prevent future HEC; (iii) strengthen the capacity of Local Management Consultative Committees (*Comités Consultatifs de Gestion Locale* - CCGLs) to better participate in the management of the target parks; and (iv) support local communities by enhancing livelihood opportunities, thereby reducing human pressure on the parks.

52. ***Output 2.1.1 Strengthened ANPN surveillance capacity (US\$3.48 million).*** In the target parks and their peripheries, the project will increase the numbers of trained and equipped patrols in all the target zones, improve the base camp in Waka NP and rehabilitate access roads to the Moukalaba-Doudou NP and Waka NP. The human and physical resources provided by the project are those that are prioritized in ANPN park management plans.

53. Forty-five eco-guards will be recruited to reinforce the patrols in the four parks. Supported by the project, the training of these new recruits will be provided by international experts including UNODC. Through previous initiatives, UNODC and INTERPOL experts have provided training to police and eco-guards in Gabon. Under this project, on-site training will be delivered to the new recruits. To ensure that the training leads to sustainable improvement in surveillance capacity, training sessions will be repeated to reinforce skills and highlight particular themes.

54. The strengthening of ANPN capacity will also include rehabilitation and equipment of

surveillance and base camp, transportation equipment, eco-guards equipment, and the clearing of access roads interrupted by rain gullies and/or fallen trees. This concerns two routes of 40 and 150 kilometers respectively, to access Moukalaba-Doudou NP and Waka NP.

55. **Output 2.1.2 Identification of elephant corridors (US\$0.60 million).** Two studies currently underway will help to obtain this output: The Genetic Structure of Forest Elephants in Gabon (ANPN study supported by the EU 2014-2015); and the Identification of Potential Animal Corridors between the National Parks (collaborative study of ANPN and Panthera).¹¹ The first study uses genetic information to predict likely elephant movement; the second uses camera-traps. The different approaches used in these two studies to determine animal movements are complementary and will be combined to identify elephant corridors.

56. Once the elephant corridors are identified, a management plan for their protection will be developed by ANPN/DGFAP to inform the national land use plan (*Plan National d'Affectation des Terres, PNAT*) that is being prepared by the national climate change committee (*Conseil National Climat*). Provisions for the protection of wildlife corridors are included in the latest draft of the new Forestry Code, which is expected to be approved by Gabonese Parliament in 2017.

57. Information about the seasonal distribution of elephants is an effective way to plan anti-poaching and HEC mitigation activities. Preliminary information on seasonal distribution patterns is available for the Loango national park and the Gamba corridor; it will be supplemented with more information as a result of research work under this sub-component.

58. The project will also provide technical assistance to map cross-border elephant corridors (Congo-Gabon), and improve and augment through research activities, scientific information on elephant behavior and distribution in this region, and develop an action plan that can be operationalized by both countries to protect animal corridors crossing the Gabon-Congo border between the Mayumba NP (Gabon) and the Coukouati NP (Congo) (see Component 3 below).

59. It is expected that corridor identification and mapping will take up to two years following which ANPN and DGFAP will undertake the development of the management plans that will be an output of this component. ANPN will raise funding for the implementation of the corridor management plans, which is outside the scope of this project.

60. **Output 2.1.3 Strengthened capacity of CCGLs to co-manage local resources. (US\$0.30 million).** The CCGL is the Local Management Consultative Committee – the governance structure at the community level. The CCGLs of communities in the target zones are of mixed capacity to manage the natural resources within their purview. Through training and information sessions delivered locally to CCGLs, ANPN and DGFAP will: (i) strengthen management capacity; (ii) raise awareness as to the rationale and objectives for conservation; and (iii) raise awareness as to the rights and obligations of local communities in natural resource management. This will enable community representatives to – in turn – inform and guide their community members in natural resource management. Building capacity within local community governance structures (i.e.,

¹¹ For ANPN/Panthera collaborative study, the National parks Ivindo and Mwagna are finished; Moukalaba-Doudou and Waka will be surveyed next.

within the CCGLs) will provide a means for national and provincial governments to diffuse environmental information (law, regulations, sustainable uses, etc.) and eventually mainstream a conservation ethic.

61. Strengthening CCGL capacity will be achieved by enabling the operations of CCGL offices through provision of equipment, supplies, training; and support for regular (bi-annual) meetings. Training activities will take the approach of “training of trainers”: ANPN/DGFAP agents will be trained to deliver training to CCGL and related local organizations.

62. ***Output 2.1.4 Support to local communities for enhancing livelihoods and improved access to basic needs in order to reduce human pressure on the target parks (US\$0.50 million).***

63. The main income-generating activity of villagers around the targeted parks is agriculture. Due to the lack and poor condition of roads, these farmers – who are mostly women – have little access to larger towns and markets and the increased income and opportunities such access can afford. Furthermore, during the dry season, some villages adjacent to the target NPs, particularly around Waka, depend on rivers within the park to meet their water needs because village water sources are in disrepair. These incursions into the park can lead to wildlife encounters, thereby exacerbating human-wildlife conflict. In the medium to long term, the “landlocked” situation of the villages, coupled with lack of water during the dry season, may also threaten park integrity.

64. The rehabilitation of access roads for enhanced parks patrolling will also benefit communities by increasing access to markets and improving the flow of goods (crops) as well as making goods and services in larger markets more accessible. The project will also supply a barge for river crossing, which will benefit local villages by, again, improving local movement and reducing isolation. Women will directly benefit from better access to local markets to sell their produce, as they are predominantly involved in farming and cash crop production. They are also likely to take advantage of better access to urban services, such as health and family services, which will become more accessible due to faster and more economical transportation. The project will work with communities to improve safe access to potable water through, for example, the provision of equipment such as new water pumps, water hoses, and water containers. Water pumps in particular will significantly benefit women because fetching water is usually their task.

Sub-component 2.2: Human-elephant conflicts (HEC) mitigation efforts (US\$1 million)

65. The purpose of this sub-component is to bring sustained support to HEC mitigation in rural communities wherein techniques of HEC mitigation are tested and evaluated for their effectiveness. This sub-component will benefit local communities with a fairly large emphasis on women who are primarily responsible for agricultural production in the targeted areas and are therefore most affected by HEC.

66. In designing the project, experiences with HEC mitigation techniques in South Asia and East Africa were reviewed for possible replication in Gabon. Communities in all four national park zones were also visited and consulted about their experiences with HEC mitigation. The results of these consultations showed that HEC mitigation techniques typically used elsewhere and in Gabon

include chili cartridges, firecrackers, gas lamps, scarecrows, noise, different types of fences, farmers' sensitization on elephant behavior and all-night surveillance. These measures have proven to be ineffective when implemented alone. However, combinations of several of them in the right way, including the use of fences together with community rangers for all night surveillance, have been successful so far in some countries in east Africa (e.g., Kenya). Building upon this positive experience, the national action plan for HEC, and the FAO toolkit, the project will test new proposed measures that include grouping farmed plots together behind a common barrier, supplemented by improved warning and noise-making devices, and 24-hour surveillance by community rangers.

67. These measures will be undertaken in local communities in the target zones and monitored for their effectiveness. An HEC monitoring protocol (to be developed in sub-component 1.1) will provide information to evaluate the relative success of the different mitigation measures corrective actions. HEC data and information collected as a result of the HEC experience will feed back the dedicated national HEC database under sub-component 1.1.

Component 3: Transboundary parks co-management (Mayumba-Conkouati) (Gabon-Congo) (GEF US\$1.20 million).

68. This component will enhance the co-management of the transboundary areas of the Mayumba National Park (Gabon) and Konkouati National Park (Congo) for better surveillance of elephant movements across the Gabon and Congo border. Activities under this component will enhance Gabonese patrols and rehabilitate surveillance outposts on the Gabon side of the border; and facilitate information exchange and mixed patrols across the border.

Sub-Component 3.1 Operationalize the Mayumba-Conkouati cooperation agreement (US\$0.20 million)

69. In 2010, the Governments of Gabon and Congo signed a cooperation agreement for the Mayumba-Conkouati transboundary parks. This component will operationalize that agreement by initiating cooperation for the management of the protected areas on both sides of the border. To that end, activities under this sub-component involve establishing regular cross-border meetings between ANPN/DGFAP agents responsible for Mayumba NP, and their Congolese counterparts responsible for Konkouati NP. The goal of the meetings is to implement a cooperation protocol for sharing information and intelligence on IWT activities, and for conducting joint patrols. Meetings are anticipated to occur quarterly, with each country hosting two meetings per year. A special kick-off meeting hosted in Gabon will be held at the start of the project to operationalize the agreement with a cooperation protocol. Under this sub-component, the project will support the Mayumba-Conkouati meetings.

Sub-Component 3.2 Strengthen transboundary parks surveillance effort (US\$1 million)

70. This sub-component will reinforce the surveillance of the Gabon southwestern border zone that includes the Mayumba NP and its periphery, extending beyond the park buffer zone to the Congo border (Konkouati NP). The above-referenced agreement between the two countries allows

for anti-poaching activities, scientific research, ecological monitoring, ecotourism, but the specific protocols to realize the respective activities have not been operationalized. This sub-component will therefore develop a protocol for anti-poaching activities. The project will finance patrol efforts on the Gabon side of the border through provision of vehicles, operating costs of mobile patrol brigade, and the construction of park and surveillance post. Similar activities on the Congo side are on-going and supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Component 4: Project coordination, monitoring and evaluation (GEF US\$0.84million)

71. This component supports the overall daily administration of the project. A project coordinator is needed to synergize the activities of this project and those of similar and complementary projects underway or soon to be underway within ANPN.

72. Similar to this GEF project, the AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon” contains anti-poaching and HEC mitigation activities. It includes capacity building activities at the national level, and it targets national parks and their peripheries in the northeast (Minkébé, Mwagna, and Ivindo). An EU project will target Lopé NP. WWF-Gabon is working in Loango and Moukalaba Doudou NPs – the same zones targeted by this project; and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) supports various Government capacity building and environmental management activities at the national and local levels. Given the complementarity of these projects, a dedicated project coordinator can ensure effective coordination of their various activities thereby maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication. Since protected areas (PAs) management is the responsibility of ANPN, and since the other complementary PA projects are managed by ANPN, a designated project coordinator will be appointed by and situated within ANPN. DGFAP will designate a deputy coordinator for the project who will work hand in hand with the ANPN coordinator.

73. Project administration ensures that regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is carried out and that results are fed back into decision making on project implementation. Within ANPN, the technical unit responsible for administering wildlife and biodiversity projects financed by Government and development partners will be responsible for the administration of this project. The capacity of this unit will be enhanced with the dedicated project coordinator, and supported by the ANPN fiduciary unit composed of a Senior Financial Management Specialist, a Procurement Assistant, and an M&E Specialist. A procurement assistant will be recruited. Wildlife, biodiversity, forensic and HEC specialists will also be recruited as short-term consultants to support implementation of the project technical components. Depending on the needs, additional resource persons may be trained to support the project. Furthermore, a protocol will be established between ANPN and DGFAP for anti-poaching activities on project sites, through joint patrols and surveillance, and for addressing HEC issues.

B. Project Financing

74. The five-year project is prepared as an Investment Project Financing (IPF) operation to be implemented over five years and financed with a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Total project financing requirements are estimated at US\$9.05 million (exclusive of the Government's in-kind contribution of US\$4.4 million covering DGFAP and ANPN staff salaries, and parallel financing from AFD Elephant project of US\$11.3 million equivalent and US\$35 million from US Fish and Wildlife¹²).

75. The table below summarizes project cost by component (exclusive of the in-kind and parallel financing indicated above).

Project Cost and Financing

Project Components	Project cost	% Financing
1. Support to National Ivory Action Plan implementation	1 142 046	13%
1.1 Developing elephant database	220 000	
1.2 Strengthen the implementation of wildlife protection laws	587 000	
1.3 Education, information and communication	335 046	
2. Support for integrated landscape management and mitigation of HEC	5 876 000	65%
2.1 Protected areas and wildlife management	4 876 000	
2.2 HEC mitigation efforts	1 000 000	
3. Transboundary parks co-management	1 200 000	13%
3.1 Operationalize the Mayumba-Conkouati cooperation agreement	200 000	
3.2 Strengthen border surveillance effort	1 000 000	
4. Project coordination, management and monitoring and evaluation	837 000	9%
Total Project Costs	9 055 046	100
Total Financing Required	9 055 046	

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

76. ANPN is institutionally responsible for national park management. Outside of the national parks, management and wildlife law enforcement is the responsibility of the DGFAP, which is within MFEPRNM. As this GEF project targets both national parks, buffer zones and their periphery zones, both ANPN and DGFAP are necessarily implicated in project activities. Consequently, both ANPN and DGFAP will be involved in the implementation of this project.

77. In addition to this GEF project, other PA and anti-poaching donor projects are underway in Gabon, most of which are being implemented through ANPN.

¹² Contribution of US Fish and Wildlife is US\$7 million per year for the duration of the project.

B. Results Monitoring and Evaluation

78. M&E is supported under component 1 (support to NIAP) and Component 4 (project management and M&E). This is undertaken to ensure accountability for the use of funds and ensure progress towards effective wildlife and park management in Gabon and contribution to GEF Global Wildlife Program (GWP) objectives. Central to this is the conservation of viable elephant populations and reduction of threats to elephants and human-elephant conflicts. M&E is also undertaken for project management purposes and provision of timely data and information to allow for timely self-evaluation and to take corrective measures if needed. Furthermore, M&E is vital to learning and transparency and provides a platform of evidence to inform policy. Annual validation of the progress towards objectives will take place. Main users will be project managers and decision makers in ANPN and DGFAP as well as stakeholders outside of the Government sector in park and wildlife management, including local and international NGOs and development partners as well as the international community at large.

79. The project has five PDO indicators. One of these is the core indicator on direct project beneficiaries. In the list of PDO indicators, Indicator Four captures demand-side accountability and citizen engagement dimensions in respect of satisfaction of target beneficiaries with interventions to reduce human-elephant conflicts and provision of community equipment. The satisfaction indicator is further disaggregated by sex; i.e., percentage of females satisfied with the project interventions, as females are disproportionately affected by human-elephant conflicts and are main users of community infrastructure. In Table 1 (Annex 1), each of the PDO indicators is defined and its significance described especially in relation to the goals and objectives of the GWP indicators. In addition, sets of intermediate indicators for each component have been selected. PDO and intermediate indicators were selected to balance the number of results areas that are considered critical to keep the project on track and to maintain a streamlined design of the project, i.e. practicality and manageability.

80. The project will use existing data sources and tools that are in use for wildlife and park management, i.e. the SMART reporting tool and protected area management effectiveness tracking tool¹³. Furthermore, data from administrative records will be used; i.e., complaints of elephant destruction submitted to DGFAP, chief conservators' reports of destruction by elephants and reports of training providers. Field surveys will be conducted to capture the perception of satisfaction with project interventions. Project and activity records will be used to estimate direct project beneficiaries.

81. Practical aspects of measuring, monitoring, and verifying results have been considered, and clear arrangements for monitoring are laid out in the results framework in Annex 1. The Project will not use a dedicated/stand-alone M&E system. The M&E function will be assumed by ANPN,

¹³ Baselines for the management effectiveness indicator based on the protected area management effectiveness tracking tool (PAMETT), are established in 2015 as part of project preparation and considerably lower than the end-of-project data for the GEF-4 project (P070232) in the same national parks (as reported in the Implementation Completion and Results report of 2013). The discrepancy can probably partly be attributed to a set of problems including budget shortfalls and lack of staff (especially for patrols) and the qualitative nature of the METT methodology where subjectivity is hard to avoid.

which has the overall responsibility and coordinating role in M&E for the project. ANPN will ensure monitoring and facilitate data collection, analysis and presentation of project results and communicate these to the task team. A dedicated and qualified M&E officer is in place.

C. Sustainability

82. The project is consistent with Gabon's stated development priorities: the "Gabon Vert" pillar of the PSGE prioritizes sustainable management of natural resources; and Action 82 under that pillar calls for the strengthening of the means to stop poaching. Moreover, the Government has made high profile commitments to the two principal objectives of this project: anti-poaching and reduced HEC. Regarding poaching, Gabon endorsed and actively supports the Elephant Protection Initiative launched at the 2014 London Conference on IWT. In July 2015, Gabon co-sponsored with Germany a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife, which also recognizes the broader impacts of wildlife crime, including undermining of good governance, the rule of law, and the wellbeing of communities.¹⁴ Regarding HEC, in 2012 the Council of Ministers adopted a National HEC Strategy and Action Plan. In July 2015, a high level national forum was held to validate and commit to the HEC Action Plan. In short, since the project aligns with Gabon's stated priorities and its actions on those priorities, it is likely that Gabon will take ownership of the project and sustain its outcomes.

83. Beyond intentions and plans, other factors critical to the sustainability of the project concern capacity. Resources – human, equipment, financial – are limited in both the DGFAP and the ANPN. As such, this project builds the long-term capacity of these institutions and their agents to better protect elephants and rural populations. Capacity building is central to the project in terms of managing data and information; implementing, monitoring, and evaluating HEC measures; and skill development for wildlife law enforcement, intelligence-based investigation, and effective prosecution. The project is designed such that capacity development is sustainable. Regarding the MIS, the technical assistant that puts the system in place will train a junior assistant, both of whom will be absorbed by ANPN at the end of the project. Regarding HEC, the junior assistant will develop and implement a HEC database to be used by ANPN and DGFAP teams who are charged with monitoring and evaluating HEC information, as they test various HEC mitigation measures. These individuals will have increased capacity, and they are part of both ANPN and DGFAP. Regarding law enforcement, project activities include equipment, recruitment of eco-guards and training. Although the equipment will not last in the long-term, the benefits of the training will, and the new eco-guards will be absorbed into ANPN at the end of the project. Furthermore, after project completion, the ANPN will take over maintenance of the access roads being cleared under the aegis of the current project.

84. Similarly, at the local level the project strives to build capacity. The project will test several HEC mitigation measures in communities in the target zones, working with farmers and communities to find appropriate solutions. In doing so, the project takes care to strengthen local community governance structures – the CCGL. The approach is to build CCGL capacity to become

an intermediary between national and provincial governments, and community members. In this way, environmental and natural resource management information can more easily pass between them, and Government can more effectively support communities in the management of their local resources. By rehabilitating roads, the project will also build community capacity to circulate, thereby reducing the isolation of certain communities. With strengthened governance structures, communities will be better able to maintain road access.

85. An overriding consideration is the urgency attached to the sustainability of this project's outcomes, which is acknowledged by both Gabon and the global community. Hence the UNGA resolution on wildlife crime, and the GEF Global Wildlife Program. The Government and its ministries, the donors, ICCWC, FAO, and international NGOs recognize the urgency. This project is one of a number that aim to protect Gabon's natural resources. There is an obvious and large committed momentum, which will ensure that this project's outcomes are sustained and replicated.

V. KEY RISKS

A. Overall Risk Rating

RISK CATEGORY	Rating
1. Political and Governance	High
2. Macroeconomic	Substantial
3. Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate
4. Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial
5. Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Moderate
6. Fiduciary	Moderate
7. Environment and Social	Substantial
8. Stakeholders	Moderate
OVERALL	Substantial

B. Explanation and Mitigation Measures

86. **Political and Governance - High:** The main risk associated with this project may be enforcement and corruption given the important amounts of money associated with the ivory trade. However, there are mitigating elements. For example, China and the United States announced an agreement to enact “nearly complete bans” on the import and export of ivory.¹⁵ This agreement will strengthen international enforcement, which could in turn support the goals of this project. Furthermore, activities under Component 1.2 Output 1.2.2 will provide capacity strengthening to Gabon's judiciary for the enforcement and prosecution of the country's environmental laws and regulations. Another political and governance risk factor is linked to upcoming elections in Gabon,

¹⁵ Announced September 25, 2015. See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/25/fact-sheet-president-xi-jinpings-state-visit-united-states>.

and the possibility that a change in leadership could change national objectives. However, given the expressed commitment by all political parties to tackling poaching and reducing HEC, it is unlikely that a change in Government would alter these commitments. A final risk factor relates to the Congo and its participation in activities under Component 3 for cross-border cooperation in park surveillance. Evidence that the Congo is very likely to participate in cross-border activities is drawn from experience in the TRIDOM program, wherein the Congo works with Gabon in the northeast cross-border park areas, and from the Congo's participation in the GEF GWP. With respect to the latter, similar to this project, the Congo has two child projects in the GWP. Hence, it would appear that the Congo is equally committed to reducing poaching and cooperating across borders to do so.

87. **Macro-economic – Substantial:** The country's dependence on oil revenue is a significant macroeconomic risk because Gabon is vulnerable to external shocks. The recent drop in international oil prices and the subsequent impact on Gabon's fiscal situation, public spending, and employment, underline this point. In view of the current outlook, where oil prices are projected to remain low in 2015 and likely also 2016, the World Bank will continue working closely with the Government to adjust spending and investment levels.

88. **Sectoral Strategy & Policies – Moderate:** The lack of Government funding of the environment and NRM sector due to decreasing Government budget caused by the fall of oil prices is a risk. Gabon has been methodically assessing and developing policies/strategies/programs/plans for the different aspects of the environmental sector and raising donor funds to complement Government funding in support of the sector. Furthermore, the country is taking the lead in biodiversity management in the region with increased interest from the international community. In the long run, the country is planning to set up a conservation trust fund for sustainable financing of the sector.

89. **Technical design of project – Substantial:** The project design might be considered to be too ambitious with heavy procurement due to too many activities. The project annual procurement plans will be developed in such a way that activities can be regrouped in limited lots to facilitate acquisition of goods and services. HEC mitigation techniques will be tested for their effectiveness. In advance, it is not known with certainty what overall level of effectiveness can be expected. To ensure that HEC is reduced as much as possible, implementation of HEC mitigation techniques will be responsive to farmer feedback and ready to adapt such techniques as appropriate.

90. **Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability – Moderate:** There is a risk of weak coordination and limited collaboration between the ANPN and DGFAP to jointly implement the project. The DGFAP has a mandate of fauna protection and management of the country's protected areas buffer zones, but has weak capacities and has never implemented a World Bank-financed project. ANPN is the agency responsible for the country's protected areas with experience in managing World Bank projects (closed GEF-financed PARCs project and currently implements two components of the GEF-financed wetlands management project). To mitigate a potential conflict of sharing of responsibility between DFFAP and ANPN, the World Bank team ensured full involvement of both parties in project preparation, including the development of project implementation manuals that define clear roles and responsibilities of each actor. Furthermore,

both parties agreed that ANPN would take the lead in coordinating the project with a deputy coordinator from DGFAP. At implementation stage, annual budgeted work plans will be elaborated by both parties; and execution of activities in the field will be done jointly and in a complementary manner based on the mandate of each party.

91. **Fiduciary – Moderate:** ANPN current organization for fiduciary management is adequate to handle the project activities. The institution has established a Financial Management (FM) and Procurement unit. However, additional actions need to be taken in order to reinforce it. Indeed the accounting software will need some additional adjustments to be able to record the financial aspects of the project and reporting needs. In addition, an external auditor will be recruited on time to avoid any delay in the submission of the audit reports. In terms of procurement, the organization will be strengthened with an additional procurement assistant with knowledge of World Bank procurement policies and procedures.

92. **Environmental and Social –Substantial:** The project is to enhance the quality of management of the four targeted national parks to reduce risks associated with poaching and HEC. As such, the project is expected to have major positive outcomes in terms of environmental sustainability with respect to elephant. The social dimensions of the project include HEC mitigation actions, provision of water pumping equipment, improved river crossing capacity (barge), and rehabilitated access roads. These activities all have positive social impacts. However, the project also aims to modify social behavior in order to reduce elephant poaching. To the extent that communities currently benefit from wildlife including elephant poaching, the project may cause negative impacts on their incomes and livelihoods. To increase the likelihood that communities remain supportive of the project, HEC mitigation activities will be informed by community feedback and adapted accordingly. The project will strive for high HEC mitigation effectiveness, which, in turn, should reduce the motivation of communities to allow poaching on community land.

93. **Stakeholders – Moderate:** Stakeholders include: (i) communities living inside or around the project sites that are directly affected by HEC; and (ii) extractive industries operating in the project sites. There are risks of social tensions between these stakeholders due to possible reluctance of extractive industries to participate in addressing HEC. To mitigate this risk, communities and extractive industries operating in or near the targeted national parks will be consulted for corridors identification and plans development. Community governance structures (CCGLs) will be strengthened to improve their capacity to manage local resources and improve social engagement. HEC mitigation support to communities will be sustained through regular visits from ANPN/DGFAP HEC agents. Most of the large operators in the southwest area have Corporate Social Responsibility policies and undertake anti-poaching efforts.

VI. APPRAISAL SUMMARY

A. Economic and Financial Analysis

94. The project will produce mostly non-quantifiable national and local benefits from strengthened institutional and operational capacity to protect elephants and reduce human-elephant conflict (HEC) in rural communities. Measurable but indeterminate socio-economic benefits will accrue to communities in range areas through improved mitigation of farmer-elephant conflict and crop loss.

95. **National priorities.** With respect to elephant protection, the benefits of this project are in the institutional strengthening and capacity development for ANPN and DGFAP associated with the priority measures outlined in the NIAP. The goal of the NIAP is to intensify Gabon's fight against elephant poaching and ivory trafficking such that over a five-year period (by 2020) this illegal activity is reduced by 80 percent. To that end, the NIAP identifies priority measures: development of stricter wildlife legislation; creation of a reliable information network; increased law enforcement capacity in range areas; increased community awareness of the negative national impacts of the ivory trade; and collaboration between national (inter-ministerial, inter-agency, NGOs, Development Partners (DPs) and international (Congo) stakeholders. Activities of this project are variously implicated in all of these priority measures with the exception of legislation development, which is already well advanced.

96. With respect to HEC mitigation, project benefits are in capacity development both nationally and locally associated with the implementation of the National HEC Strategy (2012) and Action Plan (2015) to mitigate HEC by 2018. Top priority actions identified in the Strategy include improving data and information; identifying and implementing appropriate crop protection practices; testing innovative technologies; and supporting local community organizations. With a focus on four target zones, activities in this project support all of these HEC priorities.

97. Apart from capacity development, the project's HEC mitigation measures will also boost farm incomes in the target zones. Data as to the amount of annual crop loss currently experienced by farmers is unavailable, but is varyingly reported in terms of "enormous" or frequent "total" destruction. Walker (2010)¹⁶ estimated that on average Gabonese farmers expect annual crop losses of 35 percent. The project targets those farmers that are most affected so it is likely that the percentage for destruction is much higher.

98. However, data on how much is farmed, and consequently how much is a risk, is unavailable. The project will improve farm incomes as a result of reduced crop loss from elephant raiding, but it will also provide Government with better estimates of rural incomes and the cost of HEC – a (planning) capacity benefit.

99. Wildlife management capacity benefits arise from project activities for elephant corridor identification. Technical assistance to ANPN and DGFAP will allow corridor mapping to connect

¹⁶ Walker, KL. (2010). Moving Away from Prescriptive Pachyderm Palliatives: Toward an Integrated Assessment of Farmer-Elephant Conflict in Gabon. A PhD dissertation submitted to the University of Michigan.

the targeted national parks and their peripheries. Corridor identification is a method to protect elephants from people and vice versa. It is in fact listed as a priority in the national HEC strategy because it will inform land use planning for agricultural zoning – an HEC mitigation measure – and for elephant corridor protection.

100. ***GEF-6 Biodiversity priorities and rationale for public sector involvement.*** Through activities to prevent the extinction of elephants in Gabon, this project supports Objective 2 of the GEF Biodiversity Strategy: to reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity. Elephant populations are declining across Africa, in the Congo Basin, and in Gabon. The biggest threat to elephants comes from poachers. A secondary threat stems from HEC in human settlements. Unaddressed, poachers and HEC both endanger the species: the first because elephant slaughter by poachers is reaching unprecedented levels overwhelming the policing capacity of national governments; the second because HEC undermines the willingness of local communities to engage in elephant conservation. The impact of the potential loss of elephant is – in the first place – its intrinsic value to humanity. However, the impact goes beyond its intrinsic value. Impacts also include weakened institutions and governance systems for protected area management, reduced tourism revenue potential, and transformed ecosystems because the dynamism of elephants generally increases the biodiversity of their habitats. Elephants are essentially a public sector good that requires public sector protection.

101. ***Value Added of GEF financing.*** This project builds on completed and ongoing protected area management initiatives in Gabon; and it enables synergies with other donor partner projects. An important value added of the project is its support to ANPN and DGFAP to implement priority activities already identified in the management plans for Moukalaba-Doudou, Mayumba, Loango, and Waka NPs and their respective buffer zones. As ANPN's capacity to implement its management plans expands, so does the protection coverage of Gabon's parks.

102. Key value added of this project also stems from its synergy with the AFD project of €10 million (US\$11.3 million): Project "Eléphant Gabon". The two projects allow complementary coverage of Gabon's national park areas: the AFD project focuses on parks in the northeast of the country while the World Bank project focuses on parks in the southwest. Together the projects enable a two-pronged approach to tackle seven of the national parks that fall within the NE-SW corridor of country. This NE-SW corridor is a primary route for the ivory trade.

B. Technical

103. This project is a child project of the GEF Global Wildlife Program (GWP), and consequently, its design is consistent with the analytical research that forms the basis of that Program. Given the critical issues that negatively affect wildlife conservation, the GWP proposes a theory of change with three types of interventions that, respectively, stop poaching, stop trafficking, and reduce demand. The interventions in this project mirror those proposed by the GWP. To stop poaching, project activities target strengthened law enforcement, community benefits, and landscape planning. To stop trafficking, project activities support forensic capacity development, national and international collaboration, and private sector engagement. To reduce (ivory) demand, as a supply country, the project includes education and communication activities.

104. Institutionally, operationally, and technically the project is solid. Its activities are designed to build on existing capacities in ANPN and DGFAP, and to ensure that incremental capacity benefits from the project are sustained. This is true for activities that target law enforcement strengthening, as well as for those that target HEC mitigation. The activities capitalize on what has been done. When the project is closed, new capacity will be in place to maintain the momentum. The project provides adequate financing for training, technical assistance, and capacity building to implementing agencies and communities. Importantly, the designated ANPN project coordinator will oversee its implementation so that its activities complement and synergize with activities of other donor projects having similar objectives.

105. Project activities that target strengthened law enforcement have been developed with expert assistance. The UNODC – which is, along with the World Bank, a founding member of ICCWC – has been developing park surveillance technology and capacity in ANPN since 2014. UNODC experts were consulted as to the necessary next steps for law enforcement capacity development in Gabon, and project activities were developed accordingly. The strengthening of the existing IRET genetics laboratory capacity, for example, is a necessary next step for developing investigative capacity. Field training, another necessity, will be repeated over the course of the project, to ensure policing and investigative skills are acquired for the long-term.

106. Project activities targeting HEC mitigation, which benefit communities, were designed based on the considerable strategizing and action planning work that has already been done by DGFAP, ANPN, and other Government ministries. Additionally, for this project, field research was undertaken, and communities were visited to discuss their HEC issues. The recommendations from that fieldwork are consistent with the Government’s HEC action plan. Moreover, the guiding tool for the HEC mitigation activities is the FAO Toolkit (used by countries affected by HEC since 2010). DGFAP and ANPN already have some experience implementing the Toolkit; hence, this project builds on that capacity. Special attention is also devoted to local governance structures, to build local capacity to manage local resources.

107. As advised in the GWP, the project (Component 2) takes a landscape management approach to identifying activities that improve wildlife protection and promote community participation. Collaborative landscape management will have a greater chance of success in protecting elephants than resource management where stakeholders are treated in isolation. This project adopts the landscape approach by (expertly) identifying elephant corridors, and developing management plans that will inform the national land use planning currently underway (PNAT). Corridor identification and protection involves collaboration with various stakeholders including the private sector companies operating in park peripheries, agricultural authorities and farmers, communities, and international counterparts in the Congo.

C. Financial Management

108. Project management will be incorporated within the current structure of ANPN, which will take responsibility for all fiduciary aspects of the project, including planning, budgeting, disbursements, accounting, reporting for project resources, and procurement.

109. In line with the financial management policies of OP/BP 10.00 on IPF, ANPN's financial management arrangements have been assessed and are acceptable to the World Bank.

110. The objective of the assessment was to determine whether, (i) ANPN have adequate financial management arrangements to ensure that the project funds will be used for the intended purposes in an efficient and economical way; (ii) the financial reports will be prepared in an accurate, reliable, and timely manner; and (iii) the project's assets will be safeguarded.

111. The assessment concludes that the ANPN financial management system is adequate to handle project financial management. ANPN is currently co-implementing the GEF 5 Wetlands Management Project (P143914) and had implemented the now closed Strengthening Capacity for Managing National Parks and Biodiversity Project (P070232). No significant FM issues were identified that could have significantly undermined ANPN's ability to properly manage the new project funds. In addition, the internal control procedures to be followed for managing project resources have already been documented in the PIM developed during project preparation and ANPN has adequate staff, including a number of accountants under the supervision of one seasoned chief accountant (familiar with World Bank financial procedures). Furthermore, the accounting software installed at ANPN for the management of the ongoing project that is under a multi-projects version could fit the accounting and reporting needs of this project provided some additional adjustments are made.

112. It is therefore considered that the proposed financial management arrangements within ANPN comply with the World Bank's requirements under OP/BP10.00 and would provide reasonable assurance that the project funds will be used for intended purposes in an efficient and economical manner.

113. However the FM risk is rated moderate given the need to put in place measures to strengthen the current arrangement that will consist of: (i) the updating of the accounting software at ANPN to fit accounting and reporting needs of the project; and (ii) the recruitment of an external auditor acceptable to the World Bank.

114. The World Bank FM team will support the accounting team and provide training as needed on financial management procedures. The detailed financial management arrangements are described in the FM section of Annex 3.

115. FM Conditions and FM covenants:

- (i) Update the computerized accounting software at ANPN to fit accounting and reporting needs of the project not later than one month after effectiveness.
- (ii) Recruit an external financial auditor acceptable to the World Bank, five months after effectiveness.

D. Procurement

116. A brief summary of the procurement capacity assessment and project procurement arrangements, including a mitigation action plan are provided in Annex 3.

117. Procurement for this project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank

‘Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers’ dated January 2011, revised July 2014; ‘Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credit & Grants by World Bank Borrowers’, dated January 2011, revised July 2014; and the provisions stipulated in the Grant Agreement.

118. **Procurement capacity assessment of the implementation arrangement of ANPN.** A procurement risk and management assessment of the capacity of the ANPN for the purposes of the project was carried out. The assessment indicated that the procurement risk for the implementation of the project is rated high due the lack of a qualified Senior Procurement Specialist at ANPN. There is however a Procurement Assistant (PM) on board. It was agreed that the newly recruited Procurement Specialist for the Wetlands Project (P143914) will be also be responsible for this project together with the current PA. Furthermore, the project implementation manual including a procurement section will need to be finalized and approved by the WorldBank one month after effectiveness. An action plan to mitigate procurement risks has been agreed upon with ANPN, its satisfactory implementation will reduce procurement risk from high to substantial.

119. A draft procurement plan for the first 18 months of project implementation was prepared and approved by the World Bank prior to negotiations. Through the course of project implementation, the procurement plan will be updated (at least annually) subject to the approval of the project team, to reflect implementation needs and improvements in institutional capacity. The procurement plan will be available in the project database and a summary will be disclosed on the World Bank’s external website following project approval by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors.

E. Social (including Safeguards)

120. The project is expected to have overall positive social impacts especially for the communities living near the national parks. The project is not expected to require any land acquisition or resettlement of people. However, given the nature of the project, there may be restrictions on access to natural resources in these protected areas due to improved enforcement of the laws relating to national parks and the park management plans. Therefore OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement has been triggered and a Process Framework has been prepared and disclosed in-country and at the Infoshop per the requirements of the policy respectively on March 18 and 21, 2016. The Process Framework includes screening criteria and guidance regarding how to manage restrictions on use and a social communication strategy will also be financed in order to assist communities with understanding their rights in the national parks. OP/BP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples Policy is also triggered as indigenous peoples are present in the project area, notably the Babongo on the northern perimeter of the Waka National Park. In order to more precisely identify these populations and determine what sort of measures might need to be taken to minimize any negative impact and/or ensure that they will benefit from project activities in culturally appropriate ways, an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) (PPLS in French) was prepared and disclosed in country and at the Infoshop on March 18 and March 21, 2016 prior to appraisal per the requirements of the policy. The IPP was prepared with the participation of the Babongo communities and reflects their

development priorities.

F. Environment (including Safeguards)

121. From the environmental and social perspective, wildlife and human-elephant conflicts management project is a category B-partial assessment. No significant negative environmental and social impacts are expected. The environmental and social impacts of the activities supported through Sub-component 2 will be limited, reversible and small scale. The project will promote sound HEC management as well as national parks natural resources management in the four targeted parks (Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, Mayumba and Waka).

122. The project triggers four safeguards namely: OP/BP 4.01 “Environmental assessment” and OP/BP 4.04 “Natural Habitats”; OP/BP 4.12 “Involuntary Resettlement” and OP/BP 4.10 “Indigenous People”

123. As the exact locations of future investments are unknown to date, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed. That instrument concluded that the project will lead to significant positive impacts in the targeted areas through reducing conflicts between human and elephants, safeguarding biodiversity, strengthening of national and local capacities for protected areas management; creating jobs; increasing income as well as improving access to water.

124. Among the potential adverse impacts that may occur are: restricted access to resources (collection of wildlife resources for food and traditional rites) due to better surveillance of national parks by agents; reduced crop expansion areas; and shortfall on national park resources activities. To avoid, reduce or compensate those potential adverse impacts a master Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been developed and included in the ESMF.

125. The ESMF has been consulted upon and disclosed in-country on March 18, 2016 and at the Infoshop on March 21, 2016. The ESMF outlines an environmental and social screening process, including institutional responsibilities for screening, review and clearance, and implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures, for future investments. This screening process consists of: (i) an environmental and social screening form to determine potential adverse environmental and social impacts and record the outcome of consultations; (ii) an environmental and social checklist with generic mitigation measures to be adapted to the specific investment; (iii) a summary of the World Bank safeguard policies; (iv) an environmental and social management plan (ESMP), including environmental monitoring indicators and capacity building activities; (v) environmental guidelines for contractors; and (vi) generic environmental impact assessment terms of reference. It is also designed to serve as a guide for developing limited ESIA's and ESMPs as needed.

126. A process Framework and an Indigenous Peoples Action Plan have also been developed and consulted upon and disclosed in-country on March 18 and at the Infoshop on March 21, 2016

127. The preparation of the safeguards instruments was subject to a large consultation process including national consultation and the participants expressed their overall support for the project and did not raise significant issues.

G. World Bank Grievance Redress

128. Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and World Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate GRS, please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org.

ANNEX 1: RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

Gabon

Wildlife and human-elephant conflicts management project (P157249)

Project Development Objective (PDO): to reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones												
PDO Level Indicators	Core	UoM	Baseline	YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4	YR 5	Frequency	Data sources and methodology	Responsibility for data collection	Description / comments
PDO Indicator 1: Proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) in targeted national parks (disaggregated by national park)	☐	%	TBD (2015)	30	25	20	15	10	Annual	Field-level observations using the SMART tool for reporting	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets.
										Estimation by national parks chief conservators		The data that we have for the 2015 baseline is not reliable and therefore this baseline will be established early in project implementation.
												For further details, refer to Table 1 below.
Moukalaba-Doudou			TBD	15	10	8	5	3				
Loango			TBD	5	4	3	2	1				
Mayumba			TBD	10	8	6	4	2				
Waka			TBD	50	30	10	5	2				
PDO Indicator 2: Reported incidents of human-elephant conflicts in the target zones	☐	Number	247 (2015)	214	175	135	110	107	Annual	Review of formal complaints to Regional Directorate of Water and Forests	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets.
										Reports of incidences by national parks chief conservators		Target zones include the four national parks, buffer zones and periphery zones of national parks (as defined in the national park management plans).
				For further details, refer to Table 1 below.								

IR Indicator 2.4: Annual awareness raising campaigns by Local Management Consultative Committee (CCGL):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num ber	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	Annual	Review of CCGL activities	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets.
Moukalaba-Doudou				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Loango				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Mayumba				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Waka				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
IR Indicator 2.5: Operators in the target zones having a management plan for wildlife under implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num ber	0	6	8	10	12	15	15	15	15	Annual	Direct observation in the field and review of management plans	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets. Operators are commercial entities using natural resources. Target zones include buffer zones, periphery zones, corridors and other zones related to the four national parks. Presently, number of operators are: Mayumbo 3, Moukalaba-Doudou 3, Loango 9 (hereof 3 oil and forestry related), and Waka 0.
IR Indicator 2.6: Area brought under enhanced biodiversity protection (ha)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ha	0	0	0	0	0	701,00	0	0	0	Annual	Assessment of management effectiveness using the PAMETT tool	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets. Enhanced biodiversity protection is based on a PAMETT score of 75% or more of the total possible score, i.e. highly functioning management system as per the core sector indicators guidelines. It is estimated that three of the four national parks will achieve the 75 score at the end of the project: Moukalaba-Doudou, Loango and Mayumba. The end-of-project for this indicator is the total area of these parks.
Component 3: Transboundary parks co-management															
IR Indicator 3.1: Border area covered by patrols (ANPN, DGFAP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	%	0	15	25	40	45	50	50	50	50	Annual	Extrapolation of patrol intensity using the SMART tool for reporting to maps of national parks and calculation of proportion of area	ANPN M&E function	Annual targets.
IR Indicator 3.2: Joint patrols in national parks Mayumba (Gabon) /Konkouati (Congo)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Num ber	0	6	18	30	42	50	50	50	50	Annual	Account based on the SMART tool for reporting	ANPN M&E function	Cumulative targets.

Table 1: PDO indicators, their definition and significance

Indicator	Definition/description	Significance
<p><u>PDO indicator One</u>: Proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) in the target zones</p>	<p>PIKE is defined as the number of illegally killed elephants found divided by the total number of elephant carcasses encountered by SMART patrols or other means. The target zones are the four national parks.</p> <p>While PIKE provides a sensitive measure of poaching trends, it may be affected by a number of potential biases related to data quality, carcass detection probabilities, variation in natural mortality rates and other factors. Hence, results need to be interpreted with caution. Quantitative PIKE results need to be triangulated with quantitative and qualitative information from other sources to ensure confidence as to the robustness of the results.</p>	<p>This indicator relates to the PDO outcome on reduced poaching and directly to the GWP Outcome 1: Reduction in elephants, rhinos, and big cat poaching rates and indicator 1.1: Reduction in poaching rates of target species at program sites. Reduction in PIKE is an outcome of improved management and especially increase in coverage and effectiveness of patrols in the four national parks targeted by the project. Coupled with estimates of population size (done bi-annually by the project) and natural mortality rates, PIKE can be used to estimate numbers of elephants killed and absolute poaching rates. A decrease in PIKE will in most cases mean lower poaching rates.</p>
<p><u>PDO indicator Two</u>: Reported incidents of human-elephant conflicts in the target zones</p>	<p>Reported incidence of human-elephant conflicts include mainly destruction of harvests (crops) and damage to human being including also deaths. Reports include formal complaints logged as well as the chief conservators' reports on the number of damages to crops and humans.</p>	<p>This indicator relates to the PDO outcome on reduced HEC and directly to GWP Outcome 2: Increased community engagement to live with, manage, and benefit from wildlife and the indicator 2.2: Decrease in human-wildlife conflict (HWC) as measured by incident reports. Destruction of harvests has significant effects on agricultural livelihoods. Presently, many of the protective measures are insufficient and/or are costly. It reflects an outcome of improved management and especially the provision of additional protection against destruction. A reduction of these conflicts will contribute to a reduction in the number of elephants killed in self-defense and less risk to human lives.</p>
<p><u>PDO Indicator Three</u>: Stage of development of corridor management plans by corridor</p>	<p>Corridor management plans are comprehensive land use plans defined in the Forest Code (currently under preparation). They go beyond traditional land use plans, as they will determine areas where for example infrastructure activities in a legal sense are prohibited and will also lead to demarcation of the corridors. Consultations will include all stakeholders including a validation of the final management plans by all of them. Three corridors are prioritized for study.</p>	<p>The indicator relates to the PDO outcome reduced poaching and reduced HEC and indirectly to GWP Outcome 3: Increase in integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services and sustain wildlife by Government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men and indicator 3.1: Increase in the number of policies, plans, and regulatory frameworks that support low GHG development (compared to baseline levels at start of project). It is in essence an output indicator capturing a long process of preparation and consultations and validation where actual implementation of the plans will not commence during the project period. With preparation of these plans, awareness on elephant movements outside of the parks will be created and in turn reduce the poaching and other threats to elephants, and the indicator is a proxy indicator for improved management of elephants.</p>

Indicator	Definition/description	Significance
PDO Indicator Four.: Satisfaction by target beneficiaries of project interventions	Satisfaction with project interventions focuses on HEC and perception whether interventions are effective and meet the demand of project beneficiaries and will be solicited through a semi-structured questionnaire. Project beneficiaries include commercial farmers, 'associations', subsistence farmers, and farmers (paid labor) in the four national parks and their buffer zones and periphery zones.	This indicator relates to the PDO outcomes on reduced HEC and captures the demand-side social accountability aspects of the proposed interventions. It is a citizen engagement indicator as it captures the perception of satisfaction by project beneficiaries and a gender indicator as it is sex disaggregated and women are disproportionately affected by loss of agricultural harvests due to destruction by elephants.
PDO Indicator Five.: Direct project beneficiaries (of which female)	This is a core indicator of the WBG. A 'beneficiary' in the broadest sense is anyone who is benefiting from a project/program. In particular in the context of World Bank-financed operations, direct project beneficiaries are people or groups who directly derive benefits from an intervention and is as such pitched at the activity level.	

ANNEX 2: DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Gabon: Wildlife and Human Elephant Conflicts Management Project (WHECMP)

PDO

1. The PDO is to reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones.
2. This will be achieved simultaneously through (i) strengthened anti-poaching activities, thereby securing elephants in their habitat and limiting crop destruction; and (ii) strengthened HEC prevention and mitigation measures, thereby securing communities' crops and livelihoods against elephant raiding.
3. The project will focus on four national parks and their peripheries: Waka, Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, and Mayumba.

Capacity Development

4. National level capacity development will occur primarily in ANPN and DGFAP – the national institutions responsible for environmental law enforcement and HEC in protected areas and their peripheries. At ANPN, a management information system (MIS) for natural resource data will be created and the expertise to maintain it will be developed. Capacity to implement the national HEC strategy will be developed at both ANPN and DGFAP. Training in intelligence-led IWT investigation will build capacity for ANPN and DGFAP agents and police involved in wildlife law enforcement. Support to an existing laboratory specialized and equipped in determining the provenance of ivory will facilitate crime investigations, and contribute to regional investigations of ivory trafficking networks.
5. Local level capacity development is provided for a number of groups. Local ANPN and DGFAP agents, police, and members of judiciary will all receive training in wildlife law enforcement that uses intelligence-led investigation methods for effective prosecution. Community governance structures (CCGLs) will be strengthened for greater administrative capacity to manage local resources and to support wildlife law enforcement efforts. The CCGL will also be strengthened such that it can act as an intermediary between ANPN/DGFAP agents and community members to facilitate the exchange of environmental and HEC information. Isolated communities will benefit from improved access to infrastructure; particularly, roads that better link them to each other and to larger urban centers, markets and services. Small farmers will benefit from the testing and implementation of several HEC measures, improving their capacity to protect their crops and their incomes.

Complementary Projects

6. In Gabon, various projects to improve protected area and wildlife management are underway, or soon to be underway. Donor partners including the AFD, USFWS, the EU, and WWF Netherlands support the majority of these. This World Bank implemented GEF project will be one of two in Gabon. The GEF Sustainable Management of Critical Wetland Ecosystems (P143914) is a five-year project that became effective in August 2014. One of the target zones in the Wetland Ecosystems project (Loango NP) overlaps with a target zone in this project. For this GEF project, a project coordinator will be designated to ensure that related activities of these various projects are complementary, synergistic, and never duplicated.

7. For the most part, the activities within these various projects are complementary, targeting different national parks, different species, or emphasizing different objectives such as tourism development, anti-poaching, wetland protection, and institutional capacity building in Government agencies involved in environmental management. The project that most closely mirrors this project is AFD's Project "Eléphant Gabon". Like this project its emphasis is elephant protection and it has an HEC mitigation component. It is also in the early stages of start-up. However, the two projects are quite complementary in that they target different areas of the country: this project targets national parks in the southwest; the AFD project targets those in the northeast. Where there are activity intersections at the national level, regarding, for example, communication and education activities, or the support to the existing IRET genetic laboratory for ivory genetics, the respective project activities will be coordinated to avoid duplication and maximize synergies.

8. Another complementary project is the WWF Southern Gabon Landscape Conservation Program underway in the Gamba Complex,¹⁷ which includes two of this project's target zones (Moukalaba Doudou NP and Loango NP and their peripheries). WWF has been the main NGO working in this southwestern region since the 1980s, and is consequently a major conservation driver in the area. It is involved, for example, in developing wildlife inventories, providing technical assistance and training for SMART monitoring systems. It has developed strong working relationships with Government (ANPN, MFERPN), the Smithsonian Institute, private sector industries, and other NGOs active in the area (WCS and TNC). WWF has been particularly instrumental in building public-private sector partnerships. For example, PROLAB (*PROgramme de Lutte Anti-Braconnage*) is an anti-poaching partnership program between WWF, DGFAP, and local forestry and oil companies, to conduct anti-poaching patrols throughout the logging and oil concessions in the corridor between the Moukalaba Doudou and Loango NPs. PROLAB also conducts awareness activities with villagers and workers on wildlife laws.¹⁸ This GEF project,

¹⁷ The Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati Landscape is transnational and centered on the Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou and Mayumba National Parks in Gabon and the Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of Congo. The WWF project focuses on the Gabon end of the landscape.

¹⁸ PROLAB is financed by certain economic operators in the area as part of their Social Corporate Responsibility policies. It is only one of a few public-private partnerships negotiated by WWF in the Gamba Complex.

with activities in the same areas as WWF Gabon, will benefit from WWF's experience, and will pursue synergies and complementarities with WWF work.

9. The USFWS-Gabon cooperative agreement supports a number of initiatives for protected area management including Gabon Bleu – a coordination platform to address illegal and unregulated fishing in Gabon marine waters; capacity building in ANPN and DGPA; and park periphery protection. USFWS is active in three of the target zones as this GEF project: the NPs of Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, and Mayumba. It supports the implementation of local management plans including tourism development. USFWS has developed a strong working relationship with ANPN in the support of institutional capacity strengthening. For example, it supports ANPN's HEC and EIA services, as well as surveillance effort in protected areas and their peripheries. As with the other complementary projects, activities in this GEF project will be coordinated with those of USFWS.

Project Components

Component 1: National Ivory Action Plan implementation (GEF US\$1.14 million).

10. The objective of this component is to strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of DGFAP and ANPN to implement the NIAP. To that end, capacity will be built for the management of data and information relating to elephant populations, HEC, and wildlife criminality (particularly, ivory trafficking). Capacity to implement wildlife laws and regulations will be strengthened through the provision of expert training in investigative techniques and policing procedures for wildlife crime case development and prosecution.

Sub-component 1.1: Developing elephant database (US\$0.22 million)

11. This sub-component will develop a centrally located management information system (MIS) for natural resources. This national database will consolidate existing but disparate data, and ensure its continuous monitoring and update with current data and information.

12. Output 1.1.1 National natural resource database (US\$0.12 million). The MIS will provide the infrastructure for all natural resource data, but within the context of this project, data prioritized for assemblage and perpetual update are those related to elephant, particularly:

- (a) elephant populations – numbers, density, mortality, genetics, seasonal movements;
- (b) criminality – poachers, middlemen, and IWT networks from Africa-to-Asia; regional and international ivory seizures and prosecutions; poaching prevention efforts and the implication of local communities in that prevention;
- (c) HEC – prevalence, impacts, and the relative effectiveness of mitigation measures undertaken and tested.

13. Various activities in this project will produce data that feed into the above national database. Under Sub-component 1.2 (Output 1.2.1), an elephant genetics database will be created to help

IWT investigations and research on elephant behavior; Sub-component 2.1 (Output 2.1.2) will provide information on elephant corridors and distribution; and Sub-component 2.2, will collect data and information on HEC impacts and mitigation measures for evaluation purposes. All of these data will enlarge Gabon's natural resource database and facilitate the management and protection of its elephant.

14. Led by ANPN and the CNC (*Conseil National Climat*), biodiversity inventory development is ongoing in Gabon. Supported by Duke University, among others, inventory work has involved LiDAR remote sensing technology and ground-proofing methods to map the country's biodiversity. To date, the country's northeast has been mapped using LiDAR technology. There are also localized and targeted ongoing data collection initiatives by the Smithsonian Institute and NGOs including WWF, the, TNC, and WCS. Data and information relating to elephant trafficking crime within Gabon has and continues to increase as a result of policing and monitoring capacity developing within ANPN through the use of SMART by eco-guards in the national parks, and through support from UNODC experts who have operationalized within ANPN a "Operations Centre" that tracks and records in real time eco-guard movements and encounters. Information related to HEC has been developing in both DGFAP and ANPN as a result of the national HEC strategy; but it will be much further developed under Component 2.1 of this project.

15. Activities will include assistance to ANPN and DGFAP in collecting existing data and creation of an MIS that accommodates both quantitative and qualitative data, and ensures its quality and integration into a centralized databank to be located at ANPN. Using a metadata catalogue, the MIS will allow users appropriate access to consult natural resource-related data. Data manipulation, update, monitoring, and evaluation will be the responsibility of ANPN. Sensitive data to inform intelligence such as ivory trafficking criminal networks will be highly protected, as is currently the case at ANPN.

16. The establishment of a MIS to centralize an accessible national database will be achieved by the provision of a senior technical assistant specialized in both MIS and natural resources data. In the final year of the project, the senior technical assistant will be absorbed into ANPN.

17. Output 1.1.2 National HEC database (US\$0.10 million). Complementary to the national database, a HEC database will be developed. HEC data and information output from component 2.1 will be systematically collected for evaluation and analysis. Hence, technical assistance will be provided to: (i) develop a data reporting methodology; (ii) create the national HEC database; (iii) train a HEC database manager; (iv) train the HEC field teams in using the data collection methodology; and (v) put in place centralized mechanisms to analyze HEC data at both national and regional levels in terms of area and population affected, gender-specific HEC impacts, economic losses, etc.

Sub-component 1.2: Strengthen implementation of wildlife protection laws (US\$0.59million)

18. The goal of this sub-component is to increase the capacity of Gabon to implement wildlife laws and regulations. Supported by a World Bank TA, the Forestry Code – which contains the wildlife protection provisions – is currently under revision. DGFAP is working towards its finalization and adoption, as it will contain a strengthened legal framework for wildlife protection that respects the provisions of CITES. With respect to this goal, this sub-component will strengthen the capacity of key authorities implicated in wildlife protection to police, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime.

19. Activities in this sub-component will aim both to reinforce a specialized laboratory and to develop skills for effective law enforcement. ANPN investigative capacity will be increased by strengthening the capacity of an existing genetic laboratory in determining the provenance of seized ivory. Skill development will target the key authorities involved in wildlife law enforcement including ANPN and DGFAP agents, police (local, national, judicial), and the judiciary. ANPN and DGFAP agents and police will be trained in crime scene analysis, information gathering (such as ivory sampling, questioning), and intelligence-led investigation and policing (forensics, strategic surveillance, network identification, follow-up, etc.). Within the judiciary, local judges and prosecutors will be provided with training in environmental law, relevant ancillary law, and prosecution strategies.

20. Output 1.2.1 Strengthened capacity to determine the provenance of ivory (US\$0.32 million).

The capacity of the existing genetic laboratory located at the tropical ecological research institute *IRET (Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale)* will be enhanced through provision of laboratory equipment and personnel to undertake genetic analyses of ivory. Currently an international elephant genetics expert paid by ANPN is working at IRET with the support of a national scientist. The expert will train national lab assistants for knowledge transfer so that local capacity and responsibility will be created for sustainability of research and results. The project will also examine with IRET the feasibility of developing specific genetic analysis modules to include them in relevant science degree curricula.

21. CITES recommends that countries undertake genetic analysis of seized ivory to determine its provenance (COP14 and COP16). The results of such analyses inform regional police intelligence networks, and can be used as evidence in the development of credible cases for prosecution. In this project, activities to realize Objective 1.2.1 build on work led by ANPN to develop a genetic method to trace the sources of ivory seized in Gabon; a method that allows greater geographical precision than existing methods currently used across Africa. In some cases, this method achieves traceability to the original carcass. The genetic fingerprint afforded by ivory sampling and analysis is also a permanent marking system to strengthen the national management system of seized ivory.

22. Other activities will contribute to the development of a network of laboratories – expert in ivory genetic analysis – in countries on both the supply and demand side of the ivory trade. Data exchanges will be facilitated by the genetic method being developed by ANPN, which is

reproducible in any laboratory. Discussions on collaboration have already been initiated with laboratories in Southeast Asia, Kenya, and Botswana. At the regional level, the development of a forensic network for wildlife is being planned between Gabon and Botswana, as part of a project supported by UNODC.

23. *Output 1.2.2 Strengthened law enforcement efforts in the national parks (US\$0.27 million).*

Expert training will be provided for increased capacity in forensics and wildlife crime investigation. UNODC professionals will deliver training sessions to park wardens, park eco-guards, and police involved in environmental law enforcement. The training will build skills in securing the crime scene for evidence collection, information handling and investigation, appropriate interrogation, conducting investigations, techniques for developing and using intelligence, preparing well-documented cases for successful prosecution, and monitoring and providing support to court proceedings. The “Elephant Crime Intelligence System Assessment”, commissioned by the World Bank provides a good resource for understanding best practices for information handling and intelligence development. This document will be shared with the UNODC trainers.

24. Training in Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid (DNA) sampling to trace ivory provenance will complement the activities under Output 1.2.1 that operationalize a laboratory specialized in ivory genetics.

25. In order to strengthening judiciary capacity to prosecute wildlife crime, UNODC will deliver specific training for the judiciary (prosecutors and investigating judges) covering topics including environmental laws and regulations, wildlife crime information, investigation techniques, forensic intelligence, etc. Local magistrates training under the project will be part of the broader effort towards their specialization in the application of environmental law, which has been undertaken in Gabon, including the possible creation of a corps of specialized judges in environmental law, which is currently studied with the help of the AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon”. It will target magistrates in the Court of Mouila, the capital of Ngounie province; and in the Court of Tchibanga, capital of Nyanga province. These two courts are in the southwest of country – the target area of the project.

26. The training sessions will be of a frequency and duration that increases the likelihood that information is absorbed and skills are developed. For park wardens, eco-guards and police, training sessions will be delivered yearly in the first four years of the project. Each session will be 2-3 weeks in length, highlighting different themes while reinforcing skills acquired in previous sessions. Training to the judiciary will be delivered in the first two years of the project, in sessions of 2-3 days in length.

Sub-component 1.3: Education, information and communication (US\$0.33 million)

27. As noted within the Gabon NIAP, communication and awareness can play a decisive role in the fight against poaching and ivory trafficking. A communication strategy is to be developed under the AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon”. To avoid duplication of effort, education, information

and communication activities in the project will be coordinated with those of Project Eléphant. Those activities will target preferentially the four priority sites. They will raise awareness about the illegal trade in wildlife, its impacts, Government initiatives underway to stop it, and positive actions that ordinary citizens can do to help stop it. As part of the prevention efforts, a specific communication program targeting school children will also be developed.

28. The development and implementation of information, education and communication activities will be supported by the provision of technical assistance in each year of the project. The participation of local NGOs involved in communication and awareness-raising on environmental issues (including WWF, Program, and Ibonga) is anticipated.

Component 2: Support for integrated landscape management and mitigation of HEC (GEF US\$5.88 million).

29. This component contains interventions that sustain or re-establish elephant habitat connectivity at the landscape level – with the support of local communities and other stakeholders. Habitat connectivity contributes to elephant conservation, while also improving protected area resilience and sustainability by reducing pressures on biodiversity and human populations. Wildlife corridors facilitate wildlife migration and adaptation to changing circumstances, such as climate change or changes in predator behavior. In the case of elephants, the main predators are poachers, and elephants tend to migrate away from where they are being killed. Securing corridors for elephant passage can reduce HEC by discouraging human settlements inside those corridors. Engaging all stakeholders (local communities, wildlife protection authorities, economic operators) in an integrated landscape approach to protected area management can thus improve strategic planning for wildlife management.

30. In support of landscape management and community participation, Component 2 will be implemented through two sub-components. The first targets improved wildlife protection through strengthened surveillance, corridor identification, improved capacity of local community governance structures (CCGLs); and the second supports local communities for enhancing livelihood and improved access to basic needs in order to reduce human pressure on the target parks.

Sub-component 2.1: Protected areas and wildlife management (US\$4.88 million)

31. This sub-component contains activities to improve the protection of wildlife in the targeted parks and their peripheries. The four objectives of this sub-component are: (i) strengthening of parks surveillance capacity; (ii) identifying and mapping out the existing elephant routes between the national parks of Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou, Mayumba and Waka, as well as cross-border Gabon-Congo animal corridors, in order to identify the areas in which new human settlements should be discouraged, thereby preventing future HEC; (iii) strengthening the capacity of Local Management Consultative Committees (CCGLs) to better participate in the management of the target parks; and (iv) support improved livelihood opportunities for local communities to help reduce human pressure and impacts on the parks.

32. Output 2.1.1 Strengthened ANPN surveillance capacity (US\$3.48 million). In the target parks and their peripheries, the project will increase the numbers of trained and equipped patrols in all the target zones, and improve the base camp in Waka NP. The human and physical resources provided by the project to meet this objective are those that are prioritized in ANPN park management plans.

33. Forty-five eco-guards will be recruited as contractual staff and fully paid by the project for three years; the fourth year, the project will support 50 percent of their salaries with ANPN providing the remaining 50 percent. In the fifth year, the positions will be integrated within ANPN as full-time civil servant positions, fully paid by ANPN. Supported by the project, the training of these new recruits will be provided by international experts from UNODC. Through previous initiatives, UNODC (and INTERPOL) experts have conducted training for police and eco-guards in Gabon. Under this project, on location training will be delivered to new recruits for the targeted parks (and their peripheries) in the southwest part of the country. To ensure that the training leads to sustainable improvement in surveillance capacity, training sessions will be repeated to reinforce skills and highlight different themes.

34. Transportation equipment supplied by the project involves the acquisition of four vehicles and one boat: two vehicles for Waka, and one each for Mayumba and Moukalaba-Doudou; and a motorized boat for Waka. The addition transportation capacity will facilitate increased access and surveillance of the parks. The project will also equip the eco-guards with surveillance, navigation, and documentation equipment such as binoculars, GPS, digital cameras, compasses, etc.

35. In Waka national park, the project will rehabilitate the surveillance and base camp at Oghabi. The base camp will also be provisioned by the project with necessary basic living equipment (refrigerators, hotplates, kettles, beds, etc.).

36. The AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon” is similarly strengthening surveillance capacity in the national parks, but with priority to the parks in the northeast of the country. ANPN has a list of needed surveillance equipment and construction for all its parks. Given the project budget and focus on the four targeted parks, this GEF project is supporting ANPN’s highest priority human resource, equipment, and infrastructure rehabilitation needs.

37. Output 2.1.2 Identification of elephant corridors (US\$0.60 million). Two studies currently underway will help to obtain this output: The Genetic Structure of Forest Elephants in Gabon (ANPN study supported by the EU 2014-2015); and the Identification of Potential Animal Corridors between the National Parks (collaborative study of ANPN and Panthera)¹⁹. The first study uses genetic information to predict likely elephant movement; the second uses camera-traps. The different approaches used in these two studies to determine animal movements are complementary and will be combined to identify elephant corridors.

¹⁹ For ANPN/Panther collaborative study, the National parks Ivindo and Mwagna are finished; Moukalaba-Doudou and Waka will be next surveyed.

38. The genetic approach, also known as “landscape genetics” establishes the relationship between gene flow (genetic data) and landscape features (GIS data) to model zones that are permeable and those that are barriers to gene flow. This allows the development of a “landscape resistance” map. The model is then used to identify the historical corridors (before the recent anthropogenic landscape changes) to predict the impact of different types of land use, and to assess areas to preserve or restore as corridors.

39. Fine-scale sampling (using faeces) within and between parks is necessary for the genetic approach. However, the genetic markers, sampling techniques, DNA extraction, and genotyping has already been developed as part of the ANPN/EU work; consequently, capacity development in conducting laboratory analyzes in Libreville through the IRET (*Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale*) has already been started.²⁰ The project will thus expand that nascent capacity.

40. Complementing the genetic approach, elephant corridors in the target park areas will also be mapped using, where appropriate, camera-traps, collars, and other indicators of elephant use. Camera-traps allow the identification of high-use areas, and individual identification and tracking, taking into account the presence of other mammals using the same areas/corridors. Collaring allows close study of the movement of individuals, but does not provide information that can be considered representative of the population.

41. Monitoring the progress in mapping the corridors will be measured in terms of completed tasks: TOR methodology development; installation of equipment; data acquisition (cameras, collaring, genetics); data analysis, identification and mapping; evaluation of threats facing each park; draft management plans; consultation; national level validation for integration in PNAT; and finally presentation to local level.

42. For the WHECM project, priority zones for elephant corridor research are:

- (a) Waka National Park and the protected area complex of Gamba (Loango)– areas significantly impacted by oil palm plantations;
- (b) Loango and Moukalaba-Doudou national parks – elephants are known to move between these two parks. Research here will support and augment genetic studies and population monitoring already underway (or completed) in these zones.
- (c) Mayumba national park and Conkouati national park in the Republic of the Congo; and Mayumba national park and the border areas of Ndéndé-Mabamda-Moulengui Bindza in Gabon.

43. Once the elephant corridors are identified, a management plan for their protection will be developed by ANPN/DGFAP to inform the national land use plan (*Plan national d’affectation des terres*, PNAT) that is being prepared by the national climate change committee (*Conseil National*

²⁰ The IRET (Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale) is a network of senior researchers located at the Gabon research institute CENAREST (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique*).

Climat). Provisions for the protection of wildlife corridors are included in the latest draft of the new Forestry Code, approval of which is expected for 2017.

44. Information about the seasonal distribution of elephants is an effective way to plan anti-poaching and HEC mitigation activities. Preliminary information on seasonal distribution patterns is available for the Loango national park and the Gamba corridor; it will be supplemented with more information as a result of research work under this sub-component. Methodologies employed to determine seasonal distribution include: repeated monitoring throughout the year to document density variations and levels of occupation (presence/absence); camera-traps to monitor density variations or track individuals; collaring a small number of individuals; and aerial surveillance. The approach in this project will rely on existing national information and data, from data collected in various studies, and from the SMART database. Priority research areas are:

- (a) zones *most affected* by poaching and/or HEC – to the north and east of Moukalaba-Doudou national park, and the periphery of Mayumba national park; and
- (b) zones *least studied* – to the east of Loango national park; and the coastal zone of Moukalaba-Doudou national park.

45. Information developed on the seasonal distribution of elephants will inform HEC mitigation activities (sub-component 2.2).

46. Implicating economic operators in park peripheries in wildlife protection is necessary to secure wildlife corridors. Forestry, petroleum, and mining companies are granted concessions to operate in the peripheries of the national parks. Wildlife corridors cross their concessions, as do poachers in search of wildlife. Certain operators are more proactive in protecting wildlife than others, but all are required by legislation to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and provide the associated impact mitigation plan for the protection of wildlife and other natural resources in their concessions. However, compliance has been shown to be weak.²¹

47. The starting point for engaging local operators in corridor protection is to assess to what extent they have fulfilled their legislative obligations for environmental protection and, where there are deficiencies, assist them in realizing those obligations through best practices. DGFAP is responsible for monitoring compliance with the legislation, while ANPN has some capacity to help operators with impact assessments and mitigation plans. In these respective capacities to engage local operators, DGFAP and ANPN will provide input to the development of a corridor protection plan.

48. Under this project, activities for elephant corridor protection will involve technical assistance for corridor identification, elephant seasonal distribution, and the development of a corridor protection plan. Equipment supplied by the project will include, as appropriate to the study method undertaken in any particular area: camera-traps, collars transmitters, sampling material, and

²¹ WCS (2010) research on operator legislative compliance in the northeast of Gabon found that in general compliance with the legislation is weak.

disposable laboratory equipment for genetic analyses. The corridor-related research and plan development will be conducted during the first half of the project.

49. The project will also provide technical assistance to map cross-border elephant corridors (Congo-Gabon), improve and augment through research activities scientific information on elephant behavior and distribution in this region, and develop an action plan that can be operationalized by both countries to protect animal corridors crossing the Gabon-Congo border between the Mayumba NP (Gabon) and the Conkouati NP (Congo). (See Component 3 below).

50. It is expected that corridors identification and mapping will take up to two years following which ANPN and DGFAP will undertake the development of the management plans that will be an output of this component. ANPN will raise funding for the implementation of the corridors management plans, which is out of the scope of this project.

51. *Output 2.1.3 Strengthened capacity of CCGLs to co-manage local resources. (US\$0.30 million).* The CCGL (*Comité Consultatif de Gestion Locale*) is the Local Management Consultative Committee – the governance structure at the community level. The CCGLs of communities in the target zones are of mixed capacity to manage the natural resources within their purview. Through training and information sessions delivered locally to CCGLs, ANPN and DGFAP will: strengthen management capacity; raise awareness as to the rationale and objectives for conservation; and raise awareness as to the rights and obligations of local communities in natural resource management. This approach enables community representatives to – in turn – inform and guide their community members in natural resource management. Building capacity within local community governance structures (i.e., within the CCGLs) provides a means for national and provincial Governments to diffuse environmental information (law, regulations, sustainable uses, etc.), and eventually mainstream a conservation ethic.

52. Strengthening CCGL capacity will be achieved by enabling the operations of CCGL offices through provision of equipment, supplies, training; and support for regular (bi-annual) meetings. Training activities will take the approach of “training the trainers”: ANPN/DGFAP agents will be trained to deliver training to CCGL and related local organizations. The content of this training will be thematic: (i) HEC monitoring and evaluation; (ii) functional aspects of associations and committees; (iii) management of contracts related to village land management; (iv) consultation on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) that may have implications for village environmental resources; (v) awareness-raising as to the provisions in the local management plans for employment, community facilities, community projects, resource payments, potential income generating activities, etc.

53. *Output 2.1.4 Support to local communities for enhancing livelihoods and improved access to basic needs in order to reduce human pressure on the target parks (US\$0.50 million).*

54. The field research undertaken for this project coupled with discussions with ANPN and DGFAP allowed the identification of priority villages for basic equipment. These are villages that are isolated, with limited access to each other and to the services and markets of nearby larger urban centers.

55. Villages in the buffer zone of Waka national park are particularly isolated due to lack of usable roads with viable stream crossings, and to the lack of a means to cross the river Ngounié. Waka villages are also in need of better access to water. Villages around Moukalaba Doudou are similarly constrained by limited access to roads and stream crossings, and functioning water equipment.

56. The main income-generating activity in these villages is agriculture. It is practiced by women who have little access to markets of neighboring bigger towns to sell their crops and benefit from incomes, due to the poor condition of access roads. Furthermore, some villages adjacent to target NPs, in particular around Waka, are dependent upon rivers within the park during the dry season and must enter the park for their water needs because village water sources are in disrepair. These incursions into the park can lead to wildlife encounters that can exacerbate human-wildlife conflict. In the medium to long term, the “landlocked” situation of the villages coupled with lack of water during the dry season may threaten park integrity.

57. The rehabilitation of access roads for enhanced parks patrolling will also benefit communities through the revenues provided by increased flows of goods (crops), as well as through improved access to basic urban services. The project will also supply a barge, which will permit villagers to cross the river Ngounie with their vehicles. These basic transportation infrastructure improvements will give villagers access to services and markets outside their immediate area. The project will work with communities to improve safe access to potable water through, for example, the provision of equipment such as new water pumps, water hoses, and water containers. Water pumps in particular will significantly benefit women because fetching water is usually their task and having improved and safe access to potable water will reduce travel time and physical burden associated with getting water.

58. Support to community access infrastructure will be provided to villages having access issues, with the exception of the villages in the Loango area which already benefit from a relatively high level of attention and a number of initiatives - for example, Loango NP is a target site of the GEF project “Sustainable Management of Critical Wetland Ecosystems”; USFWS is also active in the area, as are some private tourism operators. The project benefits for Loango communities will therefore be mainly focused on HEC mitigation activities and CCGL capacity building (sub-component 2.2).

Sub-component 2.2: Human-elephant conflicts (HEC) mitigation efforts (US\$1 million)

59. This sub-component will finance activities to improve the effectiveness of HEC mitigation in affected communities in the target sites. A national strategy and action plan for HEC has been adopted, and priorities have been identified. HEC activities under this component will assist the Government in addressing those priorities. The objectives under the HEC sub-component are to strengthen HEC mitigation in rural communities through sustained HEC mitigation support wherein HEC techniques are tested and evaluated for their effectiveness; and through provision of support to local community governance structures that increases local capacity for managing community lands and natural resources.

60. In designing the project, experiences with HEC mitigation measures in South Asia and East Africa were reviewed for possible replication in Gabon. Communities in all four national park zones were also visited and consulted about their experiences with HEC and mitigation measures. The results of these consultations showed that HEC mitigation techniques typically used elsewhere and in Gabon include chili cartridges, firecrackers, gas lamps, scarecrows, noise, different types of fences, farmers' sensitization on elephant behavior and all-night surveillance. These measures have proven to be ineffective when implemented alone. However combinations of several of them in the right way, including the use of fences together with community rangers for all night surveillance, have been successful so far in some countries in east Africa (i.e. Kenya). Building upon this positive experience, the national action plan for HEC and the FAO toolkit, the project will test new proposed measures that include grouping farmed plots together behind a common barrier, supplemented by improved warning and noise-making devices, and a 24/24 hours surveillance by community rangers.

61. These measures will be undertaken in local communities in the target zones and monitored for their effectiveness. An HEC monitoring protocol (to be developed in sub-component 1.1) providing information to evaluate the relative success of the different mitigation measures corrective actions will be implemented as needed. HEC data and information collected as a result of the HEC experience will feed back the dedicated national HEC database under sub-component 1.1.

62. To provide sustained support and capacity building to communities affected by HEC, ANPN is investigating the establishment of "Community Rangers" based on the Kenya example. These would be small village based teams possibly supported by local NGOs that regularly visit farms to monitor the effectiveness of HEC measures and make/suggest adjustments as appropriate, and liaise with the CCGL in support of local management capacity development (objective 2.1.2 below).

63. The execution of the above activities will be the joint responsibility of ANPN and DGFAP. Both organizations are involved in HEC. DGFAP handles the formal complaints by individuals about damages due to HEC. Within ANPN, a HEC-dedicated group has been designated to test HEC mitigation measures, and some testing has started. Both organizations were involved in the development of the Nation HEC and action plan strategy. Under this activity, the project will supply equipment and material, and procure work services as appropriate to implement various HEC mitigation measures in the target zones.

64. Both the community consultation undertaken for this project and the HEC strategy developed by the Government recommended that innovative approaches to mitigating the impacts of HEC be investigated and considered. These innovative approaches include:

- (a) development of a compensatory/insurance legal framework for victims of HEC;
- (b) rezoning of agricultural land falling within high risk zones for HEC (with input from sub-component 2.2 identifying elephant corridors); and

- (c) collaboration between ANPN/DGFAP with IGAD (*Institut Gabonais d'Appui au Développement*) to identify and modify where appropriate cultivation practices that deter HEC.

65. To varying degrees, DGFAP has investigated the above. A feasibility study for a compensation/insurance framework has been undertaken. The project will further this research by assessing options for potential insurance/compensation schemes for victims of HEC. Rezoning of agricultural land pursuant to corridor identification has also been discussed, and a protocol agreement with IGAD for assistance with cultivation practices, as a means to mitigate HEC will be pursued. DGFAP will continue to investigate innovative approaches to inform and enhance the HEC activities undertaken by the project.

Component 3: Transboundary parks co-management (Mayumba-Conkouati) (Gabon-Congo) (GEF US\$1.2 million).

66. This component will enhance the co-management of the transboundary areas of the Mayumba National Park (Gabon) and Conkouati National Park (Congo) for better surveillance of elephant movements across the Gabon and Congo border. Activities under this component will enhance Gabonese patrols and rehabilitate surveillance outposts on the Gabon side of the border; and facilitate information exchange and mixed patrols across the border.

Sub-Component 3.1 Operationalize the Mayumba-Conkouati cooperation agreement (US\$0.20 million)

67. In 2010, the Governments of Gabon and Congo signed a cooperation agreement for the Mayumba-Conkouati transboundary parks. The aim of which is to improve the integrity of the ecosystems in the two National Parks through the creation of a transnational complex and to promote concerted and sustainable management of the fauna and flora. This component will operationalize that agreement by initiating cooperation for the management of the protected areas on both sides of the border. To that end, activities under this sub-component involve establishing regular cross-border meetings between ANPN/DGFAP agents responsible for Mayumba NP, and their Congolese counterparts responsible for Conkouati NP. The goal of the meetings is to facilitate sharing of information and intelligence on IWT activities and conducting joint patrols. Meetings are anticipated to occur quarterly, with each country hosting two meetings per year. A special kick-off meeting hosted in Gabon will be held at the start of the project to operationalize the agreement with a cooperation protocol. Under this sub-component, the project will support the Mayumba-Conkouati meetings, which will include per diems and workshop/meeting costs for the participation of 14-15 people per meeting.

Sub-Component 3.2 Strengthen transboundary parks surveillance effort (US\$1 million)

68. This sub-component will reinforce the surveillance of the Gabon southwestern border zone that includes the Mayumba NP and its periphery, extending beyond the park buffer zone to the Congo border (Conkouati NP). The above-referenced agreement between the two countries allows for anti-poaching activities, scientific research, ecological monitoring, ecotourism, but the specific

protocols to realize the respective activities have not been operationalized. This sub-component will therefore develop a protocol for anti-poaching activities. The project will finance patrol efforts on the Gabon side of the border through provision of vehicles, operating costs of mobile patrol brigade, and the construction of park and surveillance post. Similar activities on the Congo side are on-going and supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

69. Ndindi is a town located about 10 km from the Mayumba NP buffer zone, at the end of a long lagoon that originates from within the park. The roads passing through it provide access to the park (to the southwest) and to the Congolese border (to the northeast). Further northeast from Ndindi is Doussala – a border control town on a main access route between Gabon and the Congo. Both of these towns are strategic points for IWT moving between the two countries. To strengthen the surveillance of this border area, this sub-component will construct two permanent surveillance outposts: one each at Ndindi and Doussala. Each post will be equipped with a vehicle. Ndindi will also be equipped with a motorized surveillance boat.

70. Mabanda and Moulengui Binza are also both strategically important towns because they are situated on main access roads between Gabon and Congo, to the northeast of Mayumba NP. Surveillance outposts in these two towns exist, but are in disrepair. However, for this project Ndindi and Doussala are prioritized; the rehabilitation of Mabanda and Moulengui Binza is noted here for counterpart support.

71. Further support to border surveillance will be provided in the form of a “mobile brigade”. This sub-component will cover the operating costs of this mobile unit that patrols the border zone around the towns of Ndindi, Doussala, Mabanda, and Moulengui Binza. By necessity the mobile brigade will be composed of both ANPN and DGFAP eco-guards, because outside the national parks and their buffer zones, DGFAP alone has jurisdiction. The mobile brigade will be supplied with access to Thuraya satellite services, and equipment including GPS, binoculars, digital cameras, etc.

Component 4: Project coordination, monitoring and evaluation (GEF US\$0.83million).

72. This component provides for project administration (procurement, disbursement, audits) and M&E.

73. Given the complementarity of this GEF project with the AFD Project “Eléphant Gabon”, which contains also anti-poaching and HEC mitigation activities in national parks, a dedicated project coordinator will be needed to ensure effective coordination of their various activities thereby maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication. Since protected areas (PAs) management is the responsibility of ANPN, and since the other complementary PA projects are managed by ANPN, the designated project coordinator will be appointed by and situated within ANPN. DGFAP will designate a deputy coordinator for the project. The ANPN appointed *Conservateurs* in each of the National Parks will also be important partners in this effort.

74. Project administration ensures that regular M&E is carried out and that results are fed back into decision making on project implementation. Within ANPN, the unit responsible for

administering wildlife and biodiversity projects financed by Government and development partners will be responsible for the administration of this project. The capacity of this unit will be enhanced with a dedicated project coordinator (described above), and supported by the fiduciary unit of ANPN composed of Sr. Accountant, a Procurement Specialist, and an M&E Specialist. A procurement assistant will be recruited. Wildlife, biodiversity, forensic and HEC specialists will also be recruited as short-term consultants to support implementation of the project technical components. Based on administration and M&E needs, additional resource persons will be trained to support project implementation. Furthermore, a protocol will be established between ANPN and DGFAP for anti-poaching activities on project sites, through joint patrols and surveillance, for addressing HEC issues.

75. The supervision costs of the project will be substantial due to the location of project areas in the southwest of the country while the Project implementation unit, the ANPN, is located in the Libreville. Access to the project sites is also difficult due to lack of appropriate transportation infrastructure. Although satellite offices of the ANPN are located in the southwest closer to the project areas, their capacity to implement the project is low and needs to be substantiated by the ANPN and DGFAP staff at the central level through close supervision, involving extensive travels from Libreville.

76. This sub-component will also support training to additional resource personnel as required. An external audit is provided. Finally, the sub-component will assume the costs associated with an official and technical workshop to launch the project.

ANNEX 3: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Gabon: Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management Project

Project Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Project administration mechanisms

77. Overall Project administration will be incorporated in the current structure of ANPN as described above with a designated Project Coordinator supported by a Deputy Project Coordinator from DGFAP. ANPN will be responsible for all fiduciary aspects of the project, and will carry out planning, budgeting, disbursements, accounting, reporting for project resources, and procurement. Internal control procedures to be followed for managing project resources have been documented in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) developed during project preparation.

78. The Recipient will on-grant the funds to the ANPN for implementation through a subsidiary agreement in a form satisfactory to the World Bank. The signature of the subsidiary agreement is an effectiveness condition.

79. A Project Steering committee will be established one month after project effectiveness. It will be chaired by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Economy, Promotion of Investments and Prospective (MDDEPIP) and comprised of representatives from the Ministry in charge of Forests, Environment, Protection of Natural Resources and Sea; the ministries concerned with agriculture, fisheries, mining, and tourism; ANPN; and any other key actors (such as NGOs involved environmental management). The Project Steering Committee will be responsible for: (i) approving policy guidelines and providing overall supervision for project implementation; (ii) approving the annual work plans and budget; (iii) approving the annual procurement plan; and (iv) reviewing the project annual implementation performance and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary.

80. Detailed implementation and institutional arrangements of the project can be found in the project implementation manual prepared by the Government.

Financial Management, Disbursements and Procurement

Financial Management

Overview of Project and implementing entity

81. ANPN and DGFAP will be involved in the project activities in line with the scope of the project. However, project management will be the responsibility of ANPN and will be undertaken by the unit responsible for administering wildlife and biodiversity projects. That unit will be supported by the fiduciary unit of ANPN. To ensure participative collaboration, ANPN will assign

a Project Coordinator who will be supported by a Deputy Project Coordinator from DGFAP. ANPN will assume responsibility of all fiduciary aspects of the project – includes planning, budgeting, disbursements, accounting, reporting for project resources, and procurement.

Country Issues

82. Gabon has embarked upon a series of major reforms and initiatives including the adoption of a new organic budget law in 2010²² and a new procurement code in April 2012²³, the ongoing development of budget management system (Vectis), the outsourcing of public investments program to a Contract Management Agency (ANGT) run by Bechtel, and the creation of Finance and Administrative Directorates (DCAF, *Directions Centrales des Affaires Financières*) in line ministries with the view to ease the transition to program-based budgeting approach as well as devolution of budget authority.

83. Against this background, critical challenges in PFM remain as highlighted in the World Bank Public Expenditure Review (2012 PER). These challenges relate to (i) the misalignment between public spending and development goals; (ii) the lack of a comprehensive public investment management system to manage the current tripling of the investment budget; (iii) the low capital budget execution on priority sectors; (iv) the poor value-for-money in public spending; and (v) weaknesses in the financial reporting arrangements.²⁴ The underlying causes include amongst others, outdated procurement bidding documents; lack of transparency in the procurement process; lack and/or delay in preparing the planning and budget execution tools (e.g. procurement/commitment/disbursement plans); lack of manual of procedures guiding the elaboration of the financial reports; and more generally, weak PFM capacities at sectorial level.

84. To improve its economic performance, the Government requested World Bank technical assistance in a number of areas, including Public Financial Management. To this end, a first Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) agreement amounting to US\$2 million was signed and disbursed by November 2011. The PFM activities under this first RAS [P130564] focusing on the improvement of the budget preparation were duly completed and received both client and World Bank recognition. They specifically related to (i) the timely elaboration of the 2013 annual budget, of procurement, commitment and disbursement plans in six key line ministries; (ii) the development of a manual of procedures for the elaboration of the administrative accounts; and (iii) the piloting of the performance audit in the health sector with the aim to assess the value-for-money of the underlined spending. A second RAS is on-going and will enhance the above results.

²² This is being readapted to comply with CEMAC PFM Directives adopted on December 2011.

²³ This includes among others, the creation of a Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP), the decentralization of the Directorate of Public Procurement in line ministries.

²⁴ Since 2009, the Court of Account has issued a qualification on the annual financial reports as a result of comprehensiveness in the administrative accounts produced by the Ministry of Budget.

85. Risk Assessment and Mitigation.

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigating measures incorporated into project design	Risk after mitigation measures
Country level Weak capacity in Public Financial Management.	H	RAS is ongoing with the aim to improve budget execution and value for money audit performed by Gabon's Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) with World Bank support	H
Entity level Collaboration between ANPN and DGFAP might be an issue that could jeopardize the project implementation.	M	The nomination from DGAFP of a deputy coordinator will help keep DGFAP in the coordination channel and smooth the overall coordination of the project activities.	M
Project level Many soft activities could lead to funds diversion.	S	A manual of procedures has been elaborated that set out clearly roles and responsibility. It will be complemented as needed by a clear framework that will set the requirement in managing training and workshop activities.	M
INHERENT RISK	S		S
Budgeting Delay in Budget preparation and deviations in budget execution of some components not captured by the reports. Variations from budgets not authorized.	S	A clear timeline and responsibilities for budget preparation and monitoring is described in the manual of procedures elaborated during the project preparation. ANPN is familiar with budgeting procedures.	M
Accounting Delays in the treatment of financial information and in submissions of Financial Statements (interim and annual) as the accounting software might not be set up to record the project transactions.	S	The accounting software will be customized to fit the project needs.	M
Internal Controls and Internal Audit Risk of ineligible expenditures.	S	The project manual of procedures includes a clear description of role and function that prevent any segregation of duties. Intensive training on FM compliance and procedures issues will be undertaken.	S
Funds Flow Delay in the funds release if <i>Caisse des Dépôt et Consignations</i> (CDC) hosts the Designated Account as it doesn't comply with 8 criteria of disbursement letter. Funds may be diverted, comingled with existing project funds or used for non-project eligible purposes.	S	One (1) Designated Account will be opened in a stable commercial bank acceptable to the World Bank.	M
Financial Reporting Delays in the submission of agreed IFRs and annual project financial	S	The existing multi projects accounting software will be customized to fit the project accounting and reporting needs thus ensuring timely recording of financial	S

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigating measures incorporated into project design	Risk after mitigation measures
statements.		information as well as timely production of quarterly and annual financial statements at the project.	
Auditing Delay in submitting external audit report as experienced with previous TF managed by DGE and ANPN.	M	An external auditor will be recruited according to ToRs acceptable to the World Bank The recruitment process will benefit from the support of the Supreme Audit Institution. It might be considered relying on the external auditor of the ongoing project.	M
CONTROL RISK	S		M
Overall FM risk	S		M

The overall residual risk rating is deemed Moderate.

Strengths

ANPN is familiar with World Bank financed projects.

Weaknesses and Action Plan to reinforce the fiduciary arrangements

86. The FM system is deemed adequate to handle the project activities. However additional actions need to be taken in order to strengthen it. Indeed the accounting software will need some additional adjustments in order to record the financial aspects of the project and reporting needs. In addition an external auditor will be recruited in a timely manner to avoid any delay in the submission of the audit reports.

Significant Weaknesses, risks	Action	Responsible body	Completion
Delays in the submission of agreed IFRs and annual project financial statements.	Customize the existing multi projects accounting software to fit the project accounting and reporting needs thus ensuring timely recording of financial information as well as timely production of quarterly and annual financial statements at the project.	ANPN	Not later than one month after effectiveness
Delay in submitting external audit report as experienced with previous TF managed by DGE and ANPN.	Recruit an external auditor.	ANPN	5 months after effectiveness

Financial Management Arrangements

87. Staffing: ANPN is staffed with accountants and a chief accountant familiar with World Bank FM procedures. These FM staff are civil servants and will be involved in the project management as an example of partial use of country system. The FM staff will record transactions, monitor the compliance of transactions with fiduciary requirements, and prepare withdrawal applications and financial reports. All financial staff will receive training on the World Bank's financial procedures at the launching of the project and during implementation as needed. The trainings will be provided by World Bank's FM staff and external consultants.

88. Budgeting: Budgeting arrangements are detailed in the manual of procedures and are in line with national budget preparation agenda. Annual work plans and budget to be approved by the Steering Committee will describe in a realistic manner activities to be performed during the year and will be translated into annual budgets. Budget execution will be monitored via a computerized information system and in accordance with the budgeting procedures specified in the manual of procedures. Any variances will be identified in the Quarterly Unaudited Interim Financial Reports (IFRs) and corrective actions taken. Only budgeted expenditures will be committed and incurred, so as to ensure that resources are used within the agreed upon allocations and for the intended purposes.

89. Accounting Policies and Procedures: The computerized accounting system installed (accounting software multi project and multisite) at ANPN will be customized to ensure that accounts of the project activities are kept orderly and that the financial reports are produced in a timely manner in accordance with OHADA (*Organisation pour l'Harmonisation du Droit des Affaires en Afrique*) accounting principles – which are in line with the international accounting standards.

90. Internal Control and Internal Auditing: Internal control is described in the manual. The manual ensures that adequate internal controls are in place for the preparation, approval and recording of transactions as well as segregation of duties and will be subject to updates as needed.

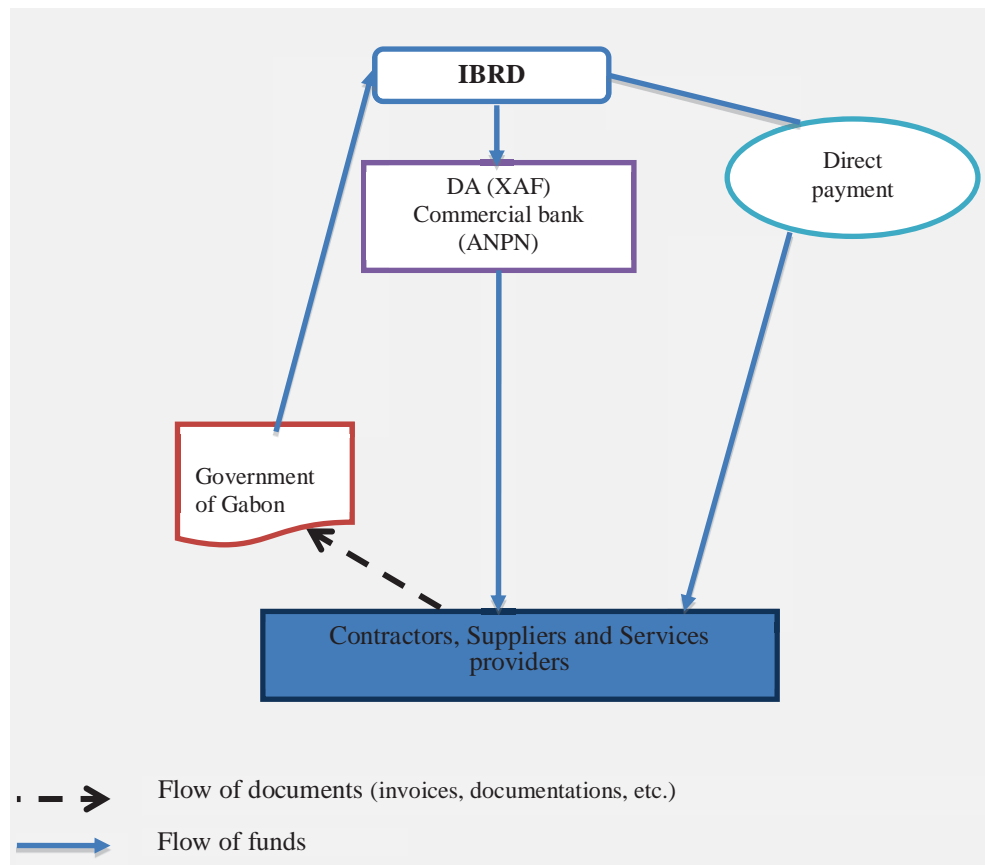
91. Funds Flow and Disbursement Arrangements: Disbursements will be made in accordance with the *World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects*, dated May 1, 2006.

Designated account. One (1) Designated Account (DA) in XAF will be opened in a commercial bank acceptable to the World Bank and managed by ANPN for activities related to the project according to the disbursement procedures described in the Administrative, Accounting and Financial procedures and the Disbursement Letter (DL). Funds will therefore flow from the DA to Suppliers and contractors. In the medium term, *Caisse de Dépôt et de Consignations* may be able to host the DAs after it has complied with the eight criteria highlighted by the disbursement letter.

Disbursement method and procedures. Disbursement procedures are detailed in the accounting, administrative and financial procedures and the disbursement letter. Upon effectiveness, the DA will receive an initial advance up to the ceiling amount of XAF 300,000,000 equivalent to four months expenditures forecast. Subsequent advances will be made upon receiving monthly Withdrawal Applications supported with Statements of Expenditures (SOEs) reporting on the use of the initial advance to the DA. In addition to the “advance” method, the option of disbursing the

funds through direct payments to a third party, for contracts above a pre-determined threshold for eligible expenditures (e.g. 20 percent of the DA ceiling), will also be available to the project. The WAs to replenish the DA will be signed by signatories appointed by the Government (including the Director of Debt) and communicated to the World Bank through the Authorized Signatory Letter (ASL).

Funds flow diagram



Disbursements by component: The table below is in line with the prevailing Country Financing Parameters for Gabon in setting out the financing levels.

Category	Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in US\$)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)
(1) Goods, works, Training, Operating Costs, non-consulting services, and consultants' services under the Project	9,055,046	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	9,055,046	

92. Financial Reporting and Monitoring: IFRs will be submitted to the World Bank within 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The IFR will comprise the sources and use of funds and the detailed expenditures by component. The IFR's format was agreed upon with the counterpart at project negotiations. At the end of each fiscal year, annual financial statements will be prepared by ANPN and will be subject to annual external audits. Such Financial Statements will comply with OHADA and World Bank requirements and will be comprised of:

- A Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds which includes all cash receipts, cash payments and cash balances;
- A Statement of Commitments;
- Accounting Policies Adopted and Explanatory Notes; and
- A Management Assertion that project funds have been used for the intended purposes as specified in the relevant financing agreements.

93. Auditing: The annual financial statements prepared by ANPN will be audited annually by an independent external auditor. The auditor will provide a single opinion on the annual financial statements in compliance with IFAC Standards on Auditing. In addition to the audit reports, the external auditors will be expected to prepare a Management Letter giving observations, comments, and providing recommendations for improvements in accounting records, systems, controls and compliance with financial covenants in the Financing agreement. The project will be required to submit to the World Bank, no later than six months after the fiscal year, the audited annual financial statements. Gabon SAI will be involved in external auditor recruitment and will jointly participate in external auditor field missions.

94. FM Conditions and FM covenants

- Update the accounting software at ANPN to fit accounting and reporting needs of the project not later than one month after effectiveness,
- Recruitment of an external financial auditor acceptable to the World Bank, five months after effectiveness.

95. Implementation Support Plan: FM implementation support will be consistent with a risk-based approach, and will involve a collaborative approach with the entire Task Team (including the procurement specialist). A first implementation support mission will take place six months after project effectiveness. Subsequent missions will be scheduled by using the World Bank's risk based approach model and will include the following diligences: (i) monitoring of the financial management arrangements during the supervision process at intervals determined by the risk rating assigned to the overall FM Assessment at entry and subsequently during implementation (ISR); (ii) review the IFRs; (iii) review the audit reports and management letters from the external auditors and follow-up on material accountability issues by engaging with the task team leader, Client, and/or Auditors; the quality of the audit also is to be monitored closely to ensure that it covers all relevant aspects and provide enough confidence on the appropriate use of funds by recipients; (iv) physical supervision on the ground; and (v) assistance to build or maintain appropriate financial management capacity.

96. Conclusion of the FM Assessment: The residual FM risk is considered Moderate. The proposed financial management arrangements for this project are considered adequate to meet the World Bank's minimum fiduciary requirements under OP/BP10.00.

Procurement

97. Applicable guidelines. Procurement for this project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank 'Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers' dated January 2011, revised July 2014; 'Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credit & Grants by World Bank Borrowers', dated January 2011, revised July 2014; and the provisions stipulated in the Grant Agreement. Procurement (works, goods, and non-consulting services) or Consultant Selection methods, prequalification, estimated costs, prior review requirements, and time frame are agreed in the Procurement Plan. The Procurement Plan will be updated at least annually or as required to reflect the actual project implementation. The World Bank's Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) or Gabon's National SBD satisfactory to the World Bank will be used. To the extent practicable, the World Bank's SBD for works, goods, and non-consulting services and Standard Request for Proposals, as well as all standard evaluation forms, will be used throughout project implementation.

98. Advertising. The counterpart is required to prepare and submit to the World Bank a General Procurement Notice (GPN). The World Bank will arrange for its publication in United Nations Development Business online (UNDB online) and on the World Bank's external website. The General Procurement Notice shall contain information concerning the counterpart, amount and purpose of the credit, scope of procurement reflecting the Procurement Plan, and the name, telephone (or fax) number, and address of the counterpart's agency responsible for procurement, and the address of a widely used electronic portal with free national and international access or website where the subsequent Specific Procurement Notices will be posted. If known, the scheduled date for availability of prequalification or bidding documents should be indicated. The related prequalification or bidding documents, as the case may be, shall not be released to the public earlier than the date of publication of the General Procurement Notice.

99. In the case of international competitive bidding (ICB) or limited international bidding, invitations to prequalify or to bid, as the case may be, shall be advertised as Specific Procurement Notices in at least one newspaper of national circulation in the Recipient's country, or in the official gazette, or on a widely used website or electronic portal with free national and international access, in English or French, or at the option of the counterpart, in a national language. Such invitations shall also be published in UNDB online. Notification shall be given with sufficient time to enable prospective bidders to obtain prequalification or bidding documents and prepare and submit their responses. The World Bank will arrange the simultaneous publication of all Specific Procurement Notices prepared and submitted by the counterpart on the World Bank's external website.

100. In the case of National Competitive Bidding (NCB), the complete text of advertisement shall be published in a national newspaper of wide circulation in the National Language, or in the official gazette, provided that it is of wide circulation, or on a widely used website or electronic portal with free national and international access. The counterpart may publish a shorter version of the advertisement text, including the minimum relevant information, in the national press provided that the full text is simultaneously published in the official gazette or on a widely used website or electronic portal with free national and international access. Notification shall be given to prospective bidders in sufficient time to enable them to obtain relevant documents.

101. To obtain expressions of interest (EOIs), the counterpart shall include a list of expected consulting assignments in the General Procurement Notice, and shall advertise a request for expressions of interest (REOI) for each contract for consulting firms in the national gazette, provided that it is of wide circulation, or in at least one newspaper, or technical or financial magazine, of national circulation in the counterpart's country, or in a widely used electronic portal with free national and international access in English or French. In addition, assignments expected to cost more than US\$300,000 shall be advertised in UNDB online. The counterpart may also in such cases advertise REOIs in an international newspaper or a technical or financial magazine. The information requested shall be the minimum required to make a judgment on the firm's suitability and not be so complex as to discourage consultants from expressing interest. REOIs shall at a minimum include the following information applicable to the assignment: required qualifications and experience of the firm, but not individual experts' bio data; shortlisting criteria; and conflict of interest provisions. No less than 14 (fourteen) days from date of posting on UNDB online shall be provided for responses, before preparation of the short list. The late submission of a response to an REOI shall not be a cause for its rejection unless the counterpart has already prepared a short list, based on received EOIs, that meets the relevant qualifications. The World Bank will arrange the simultaneous publication of all REOIs prepared and submitted by the counterpart on the World Bank's external website. Contract awards will also be published in UNDB, in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines (paragraph 2.60) and Consultants Guidelines (paragraph 2.31).

102. **Requirements for NCB.** Works, goods, and non-consulting service contracts will use NCB procurement methods in accordance with national procedures using SBDs acceptable to the IBRD and subject to the additional requirements:

- In accordance with paragraph 1.16 (e) of the Procurement Guidelines, each bidding document and contract financed out of the proceeds of the financing will provide that (a)

the bidders, suppliers, contractors, and their subcontractors, agents, personnel, consultants, service providers, or suppliers will permit the World Bank as the Supervising Entity, at its request, to inspect all accounts, records and other documents relating to the submission of bids and contract performance, and will have said accounts and records audited by auditors appointed by the World Bank/Supervising Entity and (b) the deliberate and material violation of such provision may amount to an obstructive practice as defined in paragraph 1.16 (a)(v) of the Procurement Guidelines.

- Invitations to bid will be advertised in national newspapers with wide circulation.
- The bid evaluation, qualification of bidders, and contract award criteria will be clearly indicated in the bidding documents.
- Bidders will be given adequate response time (at least four weeks) to submit bids from the date of the invitation to bid or the date of availability of bidding documents, whichever is later.
- Eligible bidders, including foreign bidders, will be allowed to participate. No domestic or Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (*Communauté Economique et Monétaire des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale*) regional preference may be given to domestic or regional contractors or to domestically or regionally manufactured goods. Association with a national or regional firm will not be a condition for participation in a bidding process.
- Bids are awarded to the substantially responsive and the lowest evaluated bidder, proven that the bidder is qualified. No scoring system will be allowed for the evaluation of bids, and no “blanket” limitation to the number of lots that may be awarded to a bidder will apply.
- Qualification criteria will only concern the bidder’s capability and resources to perform the contract, taking into account objective and measurable factors.

103. **Procurement environment.** No special exceptions, permits, or licenses need to be specified in the Grant Agreement, since the procurement code approved by the President of the Gabonese Republic on June 19, 2012 allows World Bank procedures to take precedence over any contrary provisions in local regulations. A decree creating a procurement regulatory body was already issued. However, this institution is not yet currently operational. It is not yet completely staffed. Only their General Director and the president of the Regulatory Board were so far nominated. The World Bank provided support to the first phase of a PFM Reimbursable TA which focused on improvement of budget preparation, including support to (a) the timely preparation, of procurement, commitment and disbursement plans in 6 key line ministries, (b) the development of a procedures manual for the elaboration of the administrative accounts, (c) and the piloting of the performance audit in the health sector with the aim of assessing whether value-for-money was realized in relation to spending. Through the ongoing second PFM RAS II, the World Bank has been assisting the Government on (a) the setting up of budget management tools in line with the new program budgeting approach, (b) the strategy of the newly created Public Procurement Regulatory Body, (c) the elaboration of the bidding documents, and (d) the training of trainers.

104. **Procurement of works.** Under this project, there will be only small works, namely: (i) the rehabilitation of communities’ infrastructures; (ii) rehabilitation of surveillance outpost. No ICB is foreseen under this project, as the above mentioned works estimated to cost less than US\$5,000,000 equivalent per contract which will use NCB procurement methods, in accordance

with national procedures using Standard Bidding Document acceptable to the World Bank, and subject to the additional requirements set forth in the paragraph above (Requirements for National Competitive Bidding of the current annex). Small works estimated to cost less than the equivalent of US\$200,000 per contract may be procured through shopping, based on price quotation obtained from at least three contractors in response to a written invitation to qualified contractors. Direct Contracting shall be used in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.7 of the Procurement Guidelines.

105. Procurement of goods and non-consulting services. Goods procured under this project would include vehicles, furniture, and field and office equipment. Taking into account (level of value added) manufacturing/producers capacity in the country, procurement of goods will be bulked where feasible (similar nature and need at same time period) into bid packages of at least US\$1 million equivalent, so that they can be procured through suitable methods to secure competitive prices. Goods estimated to cost US\$1 million equivalent and above per contract will be procured through ICB, which will use the World Bank's SBDs. For other goods contracts costing less than US\$1 million equivalent, NCB procurement methods will be used in accordance with national procedures using an SBD acceptable to the World Bank and subject to the additional requirements set forth or referred to above in paragraph on Requirements for National Competitive Bidding.

- Procurement of goods and non-consulting services, including those of readily available off-the-shelf maintenance of the office electronic equipment and other services such as printing, and editing, which cannot be grouped into bid packages of US\$100,000 or more, may be procured through prudent shopping in conformity with Clause 3.5 of the procurement guidelines.
- Based on country-specific needs and circumstances, shopping thresholds for the purchase of vehicles and fuel may be increased up to US\$500,000, considering the major car dealers and oil providers are consulted.
- Direct Contracting will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.7 of the Procurement Guidelines.
- At the beginning of the project, vehicles procurement packages estimated to cost US\$200,000 or less can be procured through UNOPS or other United Nations agencies.

106. Selection of consultants. Consulting services will be needed for the following activities: (a) technical assistance; (b) feasibility and detailed studies as well as any other critical studies; (c) financial audit; (d) studies on elephant movements; and (e) institutional development plans. These consulting services will be procured with the most appropriate method among the following which are allowed by the World Bank guidelines and included in the approved procurement plan: Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS), Quality-Based Selection (QBS), Selection under a Fixed Budget (FBS), Least-Cost Selection (LCS). Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications (CQS) will be used for assignments that shall not exceed US\$300,000. Single Source selection shall also be used in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.8 to 3.11 of the Consultant Guidelines, with World Bank's prior agreement. All ToRs will be subject to World Bank Prior Review. The following requirements will apply:

- Assignments of Engineering Designs & Contract Supervision in excess of US\$300,000, and all other technical Assistance assignments above US\$100,000, must be procured on

the basis of international short-lists and in accordance with the provisions of the paragraph 2.6 of the consultants' guidelines. All other consultancy assignments in which the estimated cost does not exceed US\$100,000 per contract, may be composed entirely of national consultants in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.7 of the Consultant Guidelines.

- Consultants for services meeting the requirements of Section V of the consultant guidelines will be selected under the provisions for the Selection of Individual Consultants, through comparison of qualifications among candidates expressing interest in the assignment or approached directly.

107. Operating cost financed by the project include, *inter alia*, utilities, offices supplies, vehicle operation, vehicle maintenance, and insurance, as well as building and office equipment maintenance costs. These goods and services will be procured using the project's financial and administrative procedures included in the POM and based on the annual work plan and budget. For services (car maintenance, computer maintenance, and so on) to be financed through operating costs, the project will proceed with service contracting for a defined period.

108. Training, workshops, seminars, conferences, and study tours will be carried out on the basis of an approved annual work plan and budget that will identify the general framework of training and similar activities for the year, including the nature of training, study tours, and workshops; the number of participants; and cost estimates.

Institutional arrangements for procurement and capacity assessment, including risk mitigation measures

109. **Procurement implementation arrangement.** ANPN will be in charge of the implementation of the fiduciary aspects of the project activities.

110. **Procurement capacity assessment of the implementation arrangement of ANPN.** A procurement risk and management assessment of the capacity of the ANPN for the purposes of the project was carried out. The assessment indicated that the procurement risk for the implementation of the project is rated as high. There is currently a Procurement Assistant on board but no qualified Senior Procurement Specialist. A recruitment is currently ongoing on the wetland project, but has not yet been completed. The procedural manual section, comprising a procurement part, of the POM also needs to be updated.

111. **The procurement risk is rated high.** To mitigate the above-mentioned procurement risks, an action plan has been agreed upon. Implementation and monitoring of the mitigation action plan outlined in the table below will reduce the procurement residual risk to substantial.

Table 1: Procurement Action Plan

Action to Be Undertaken	Time Frame	Responsible Body
Finalization and submission to the World Bank for clearance a satisfactory version of the operations manual comprising a section on procurement for use by the project	Adoption before effectiveness	ANPN
Elaboration and submission of an 18-month procurement plan to the World Bank.	Done	ANPN
Maintain during the Project's life an acceptable procurement arrangement to the World Bank, comprising a qualified procurement specialist.	During Project's life	ANPN

112. **Procurement plan.** The counterpart has prepared a simplified procurement plan for project implementation that provides the basis for the procurement methods and the types of reviews. This plan covering the first 18 months of project implementation was discussed, and agreed upon, by the counterpart and the project team during negotiations. It will be available in the project's database, and a summary will be disclosed on the World Bank's external website once the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approves the project. It will be updated in agreement with the project team annually, or as required, to reflect the actual project implementation needs and improvement in institutional capacity.

113. **Publication of results and debriefing.** The counterpart shall publish information on UNDB online for all contracts under ICB and Limited International Bidding, and all direct contracts, and in the national press for all contracts under NCB. Such publication shall be within two weeks of receiving the World Bank's no objection to the award recommendation for contracts subject to the World Bank's prior review, and within two weeks of the counterpart's award decision for contracts subject to the World Bank's post review. The disclosure of results is also required for selection of consultants. The counterpart shall publish information on UNDB online for all contracts when the short list included any foreign firm and all single-source selection contracts awarded to foreign firms, and in the national press all contracts where the short list comprises only national firms and all single-source selection contracts awarded to national firms. Such publication shall be within two weeks after receiving the World Bank's no objection for award of the contract subject to the World Bank's prior review and within two weeks of successful negotiations with the selected firm for contracts subject to the World Bank's post review.

114. **Fraud and corruption.** The procuring entity as well as bidders, suppliers, contractors, and service providers must observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts financed under the program, in accordance with paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraphs 1.23 and 1.24 of the Consultant Guidelines. The 'Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants', dated October 15, 2006, and revised in January 2011, will apply to this project.

115. **Frequency of procurement supervision.** The capacity assessment of ANPN has recommended supervision missions to visit the field at least twice a year, and a post-review of procurement actions will be conducted annually.

Summarized Procurement Plan

116. The main works, goods, and non-consulting services to be procured in the project are listed in table below.

Figure 1: Works, Goods, and Non-consulting Service Contracts to be procured

Ref No.	Description	Estimated Cost (US\$)	Procurement Method	Domestic Preference (yes/no)	Review by World Bank (Prior/Post)	Comments/ Completion date
To be procured the first 18 months of the Project						
1	Construction of a radio antenna in Ndindi-National Park of Mayemba	225,000	NCB	No	Prior	1 st works contract by AON
2	Construction of a radio antenna in Doussala (Congo Border, Ngounié province)	225,000	NCB	No	Post	December 2017
3	Rehabilitation of rural access roads surrounding communities of PN Waka (150km)	50,000	Shopping	No	Post	December 2017
4	Rehabilitation of rural access roads surrounding communities of PNMD, from Mourindi in Doussala (40km)	50,000	Shopping	No	Post	December 2017
5	Rehabilitation of the base camp of Oghobi (PNW)	200,000	NCB	No	Post	December 2017
6	Testing of techniques for crop protection	180,000	Shopping	No	Post	September 2017
7	Acquisition of 5 vehicles for LAB and to reinforce the antenna of Doussala	250,000	DC/United Nations	No	Prior	March 2016
8	Acquisition of 2 motorized pirogues Waka and Ndindi	60,000	Shopping	No	Post	February 2017
9	Acquisition of motorized boat for crossing the river Ngounié in the PNW	200,000	NCB	No	Post	First contract by NCB/
10	Acquisition of equipment for the base camp of Oghobi (PNW)	100,000	Shopping	No	Post	August 2017
11	Acquisition of equipment to improve scientific	250,000	NCB	No	Post	June 2017

Ref · No.	Description	Estimated Cost (US\$)	Procurement Method	Domestic Preference (yes/no)	Review by World Bank (Prior/Post)	Comments/ Completion date
To be procured the first 18 months of the Project						
	knowledges on the movement of elephant populations					

117. **Prior review thresholds for works, goods, and non-consultant services.** Contracts estimated to cost more than US\$5 million for works and US\$500,000 for goods per contract, the first NCB contracts for works and goods, eventually others as identified in the procurement plan, and direct contracting above US\$100,000 will be subject to prior review by the World Bank.

118. **The main consulting assignments of the project are listed in table below.**

Figure 2: Consulting Assignments with Selection Methods and Time Schedules

Ref. No.	Description of Assignment	Estimated Cost US\$	Selection Method	Review by World Bank (Prior / Post)	Comments/Completion date
To be procured the first 18 months of the Project					
1	Recruitment of an administrator for the national resources database	60,000	IC	Post	December 2016
2	Technical assistance for the monitoring of HEC database	50,000	IC	post	April 2017
3	Recruitment of technician and administrator for laboratory for the first 2 years	64,000	IC	post	December 2018
4	Training for judges on project sites	40,000	SSS	Prior	March 2017
5	Elaboration of communication strategy and plan	10,000	IC	Post	June 2017
6	Recruitment of an NGO for environmental education program	300,000	QCBS	Prior	June 2017
7	Studies on seasonal movement of elephants; and design and implementation of corridor protection plans	110,000	SSS	Prior	March 2017
8	Recruitment of a procurement assistant for the first 2 years	50,000	SSS	Prior	September 2018
9	External audit for the first 2 years	60,000	LCS	Prior	June 2018
10	Recruitment of an architectural firm for design studies and the supervision of the construction of the antenna of Ndindi-National Park of Mayumba	55,000	QCBS	Post	August 2017
11	Recruitment of an architectural firm for the design studies and the supervision of the construction of the antenna of	55,000	QCBS	Post	June 2017

Ref. No.	Description of Assignment	Estimated Cost US\$	Selection Method	Review by World Bank (Prior / Post)	Comments/Completion date
To be procured the first 18 months of the Project					
	Doussala-(Congo boarder, province of Ngounié)				

119. **Prior review thresholds for consultant services.** Contracts estimated to cost above US\$200,000 for firms and US\$200,000 for individuals per contract, and single source selection of consultants (firms and individuals) to cost above US\$100,000 will be subject to prior review by the World Bank. Similarly, all audit contracts will be subject to prior review as will be any other contract identified in the procurement plan.

Environmental and Social (including safeguards)

120. Citizen engagement and feedback. In Gabon, the remoteness of rural population and limited trust on the part of citizens in their ability to affect change has often resulted in relatively low levels of citizen engagement in any development related initiative. In the context of management of elephants, citizen engagement is crucial because community members are on the frontline for the adverse effects of poor natural resource management and human-elephant conflicts on rural livelihoods in and around habitats of elephants. Citizen engagement is thus integral to design of the project and a central activity that supports fulfillment of the PDO. It is also an objective in itself as the project has a clear intent to engage with the citizens for whom interventions are intended to benefit. Feedback on the interventions and closing the feedback loop is integral to that approach. It will help the project in seeking corrective measures to keep the project on track to achieve its PDO and to be accountable to the targeted beneficiaries for the interventions. Focus will be on interventions to reduce HEC and to a lesser extent improved access to community infrastructure, as this is an insignificant sub-component of the project. Target beneficiaries include commercial farmers, community based associations, subsistence farmers, and farmers (paid labor) that are active in the four national parks and their buffer zones and periphery zones.

121. The citizen engagement strategy has been formulated to ensure dialogue and exchange with target beneficiaries of the project. It focuses on project interventions, their effectiveness and the extent to which they meet the demands and needs of the target beneficiaries and especially those of women, who are disproportionately affected by HEC. Furthermore, the strategy includes an assessment of the level of satisfaction with interventions that will be captured in the results framework and for which will be held formally accountable for. Satisfaction of target beneficiaries takes account of both (1) the results of these interventions and (2) the process of designing, planning and implementing the interventions. Interventions aim to protect the target beneficiaries from HEC, mainly crop destruction by raiding elephants including threats to human life. All of the target beneficiaries have experienced HEC and the failure of various attempts to reduce these. As described in other parts of the PAD, international experience shows that combining various methods of protection in the same is the most effective. The project will pursue this approach in collaboration with the target beneficiaries and actively seeking their input and engagement.

122. In the results framework, a PDO-level indicator will capture the satisfaction of target beneficiaries with project interventions, i.e. the results of protection against HEC and the process of laying out interventions. This will be captured by a semi-structured questionnaire administered by ANPN on a sample of target beneficiaries and locations. The questionnaire will consist of 20-25 questions that will capture various aspects of the results and the process. Given the number of questions, the survey will yield a wide set of information and data and much more than needed for calculating percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied. Based on a weighting and scoring of responses, the percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied will be calculated. Results of the survey using the semi-structured interviews will be presented and discussed in focus group interviews in a select number of villages and locations - both those where the questionnaire survey was undertaken and in locations that were not included. The focus groups interviews will provide a platform for better understanding the results from the survey and to plan corrective measures and a feedback and engagement mechanism to those communities that are targeted for interventions. They will include target beneficiaries and the Local Management Consultative Committee (CCGL).

123. Safeguards. ANPN and DGFAP will be responsible for the implementation of the various safeguards instruments and ensuring compliance during project implementation. All activities in the ESMF, PF and IPP will be included in the annual work plan and an adequate budget allocated. A safeguards monitoring report will be provided during each supervision mission and the results included in the project's Implementation Support and Supervision Report (ISR).

124. From the environmental and social perspective, the project is a category B-partial assessment. No significant negative environmental and social impacts are expected. The environmental and social impacts of the activities supported through Sub-component 2.3 will be limited, reversible and small scale. The project will promote sound human-elephant conflict management as well as national parks natural resources in the four targeted parks (Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, Mayumba and Waka).

125. The project triggers four safeguards policies: OP/BP 4.01 "Environmental assessment" and OP/BP 4.04 "Natural Habitats"; OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement and OP/BP 4.10 Indigenous People.

126. As the exact locations of future investments are unknown to date, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed. That instrument concluded that the project will lead to significant positive impacts in the targeted areas by reducing conflicts between human and elephants, reducing forest degradation, safeguarding biodiversity, strengthening national and local capacities for protected areas management, creating jobs, and increasing of local income.

127. Potential adverse impacts that may occur are: restricted access to resources (collection of wildlife resources for food and traditional rites) due to better surveillance of national parks by agents; reduced crop expansion areas; and shortfall on national park resources activities. To avoid, reduce or compensate those adverse impacts, a master Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been developed and included in the ESMF.

128. The ESMF has been consulted upon and disclosed in-country on March 18, 2016 and at the Infoshop on March 21, 2016. The ESMF outlines an environmental and social screening process, including institutional responsibilities for screening, review and clearance, and implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures, for future investments. This screening process consists of: (i) an environmental and social screening form to determine potential adverse environmental and social impacts and record the outcome of consultations; (ii) an environmental and social checklist with generic mitigation measures to be adapted to the specific investment; (iii) a summary of the World Bank's safeguard policies; (iv) an environmental and social management plan (ESMP), including environmental monitoring indicators and capacity building activities; (v) environmental guidelines for contractors; and (vi) generic environmental impact assessment terms of reference. It is also designed to serve as a guide for developing limited ESIAs and ESMPs as needed.

129. A Process Framework and an Indigenous Peoples Plan have also been developed and consulted upon and disclosed in-country on March 18 and at the Infoshop on March 21, 2016. The project is expected to have overall positive social impacts especially for the communities living near the national parks. The project is not expected to require any land acquisition or resettlement of people. However, given the nature of the project, there may be restrictions on access to natural resources in these protected areas due to improved enforcement of the laws relating to national parks and the park management plans and therefore OP 4.12 The Process Framework includes screening criteria and guidance regarding how to manage restrictions on use and a social communication strategy will also be financed in order to assist communities with understanding their rights in the national parks. OP/BP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples Policy is also triggered, as indigenous peoples are present in the project area, notably the Babongo on the northern perimeter of the Waka National Park. In order to more precisely identify these populations and determine what sort of measures might be needed to minimize any negative impact and/or ensure that they will benefit from project activities in culturally appropriate ways, an IPP (PPLS in French) was prepared with the participation of the Babongo communities and reflects their development priorities.

130. Stakeholders' consultation: the preparation of the safeguards instruments was subject to a large consultation process including national consultation. Participants expressed their overall support for the project and did not raise any significant issues.

131. **Environmental monitoring:** The PIU (ANPN) will be responsible of the implementation of the safeguards instruments. An environmental and social specialist with experience with of the World Bank safeguards policies and procedures will ensure their implementation and implementation of the World Bank safeguard instruments.

132. This staff will ensure safeguard compliance, ensure a continuous dialogue with beneficiary communities and promote good practices for social development and environmental management. He/she will also coordinate and liaise with other relevant ministries and agencies, organize various capacity building initiatives for Government and concerned actors, and facilitate regulatory and statutory clearances as required. A compliance monitoring report will be submitted quarterly to the World Bank and to the Directorate General of Environment and Nature Protection (DGEPN).

133. **Financing Agreement:** The Financing Agreement will require the Government, as part of the annual project work plans agreed with the World Bank, to prepare and submit to the World Bank for prior approval and disclosure, limited ESIA's (and any required ESMPs) in accordance with the ESMF, for the activities proposed to be carried out under the agreed annual work plan. Finally, the Government, through the PIU, will report quarterly to the World Bank on the safeguard measures taken. Implementation measures specified in the safeguard instruments will be incorporated as a covenant in the legal agreement for the project.

Monitoring & Evaluation

134. **Use of M&E data and information.** M&E is undertaken to ensure accountability for the use of funds and progress towards effective wildlife and park management in Gabon and contribution to GEF Global Wildlife Program (GWP) objectives. Central to this is the conservation of viable elephant populations and reduction of human-elephant conflicts. M&E is also undertaken for project management purposes and provision of timely data and information to allow for timely self-evaluation and to take corrective measures if needed. Furthermore, M&E is vital to learning and transparency and provides a platform of evidence to inform policy. Annual validation of the progress towards objectives. Main users will be project managers and decision makers in ANPN and DGFAP as well as stakeholders outside of the Government sector in park and wildlife management as well as the international community.

135. **Construction of results frameworks.** The results framework includes the indicators, their unit of measurement, baselines, annual targets, data sources and methodology for calculation of annual progress against the indicators as well as frequency of data collection. Responsibility for data collection and reporting is also laid out. Annual and end-of-program targets are set based on (1) the present situation, i.e. the baseline level, as well as the political aspirations and absorption capacity (2) evaluation of past performance of WB programs projects and those of other development partners (3) international comparisons and success and failures of these types of projects in comparable settings (4) scope and funding of the project (5) institutional capacity for implementation of wildlife and park management. All indicators will be measured and reported annually. This is also the case for indicators that have achieved their targets as well as for indicators for which the target only has to be achieved at the end of the program. Indicators are interlinked and continued measurement contributes to ensuring that first years indicators indeed contribute to achieve end-of-program indicators. Furthermore, end-of-program indicators need to be measured from year one to ensure both the validity of the data source(s) and methodology, and as a test of attribution.

136. **Selection of indicators.** To measure progress towards the PDO and to follow a certain direction in the project activities, the project is made up of a skeleton of five PDO indicators including the core indicator on direct project beneficiaries. The PDO indicator on satisfaction is part of the citizen engagement strategy and will capture the satisfaction of target beneficiaries with project interventions; i.e., the results of protection against HEC and the process of laying out interventions – demand social accountability. It has been disaggregated by sex and supports data-wise the gender strategy of the project. Data source is a semi-structured questionnaire administered on a sample of target beneficiaries and locations. The questionnaire will consist of 20-25 questions that will capture various aspects of the results and the process. Given the number of questions, the

survey will yield a wide set of information and data and much more than needed for calculating percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied. Based on a weighting and scoring of responses, the percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied will be calculated. Results of the survey using the semi-structured interviews will be presented and discussed in focus group interviews in a select number of villages and locations - both those where the questionnaire survey was undertaken and in locations that were not included. The focus groups interviews will provide a platform for better understanding the results from the survey and to plan corrective measures and a feedback and engagement mechanism to those communities that are targeted for interventions. They will include target beneficiaries and the Local Management Consultative Committee (CCGL) members. In Table 1 (Annex 1 below the results framework), each of the PDO indicators is defined and its significance described especially in relation to the goals and objectives of the GWP and indicators. In addition, sets of intermediate indicators for each component have been selected. PDO and intermediate indicators were selected to balance the number of results areas that are considered critical to keep the Government's program on track and to maintain a streamlined design of the project, i.e. practicality and manageability.

137. **Data sources.** The project will to the extent possible, use existing data sources and tools that are in use for wildlife and park management, i.e. the SMART reporting tool and protected area management tracking tool²⁵. Furthermore, data from administrative records will be used, i.e. complaints of elephant destruction handed in to the Directorate for Water and Forests, chief conservators' reports of destruction by elephants on crops and humans and reports of training providers. Field surveys will be conducted to capture the perception of satisfaction with project interventions. Project and activity records will be used to estimate direct project beneficiaries.

138. **Roles and responsibilities in M&E.** Practical aspects of measuring, monitoring, and verifying results have been considered and with clear arrangements for monitoring as laid out in the results framework in Annex 1. The Project will not use a dedicated/stand-alone M&E system. The M&E function will be assumed by ANPN, which has the overall responsibility and coordinating role in M&E for the project. ANPN will ensure monitoring and facilitate data collection, analysis and presentation of project results and communicate these to the task team. To this effect, a dedicated and qualified M&E officer is in place.

139. Adequacy of the M&E arrangements, capacity and use in relation were assessed along four dimensions:

a) **Leadership** in provision and use of relevant and valid quality data to inform policymaking, planning and budgeting in relation to the reform activities. Leadership is provided by ANPN and supported by DGFAP in terms of M&E and planning. It is assessed that this leadership is robust given that the M&E arrangements are simple and straightforward.

²⁵ Baselines for the management effectiveness indicator based on the protected area management effectiveness tracking tool (PAMETT), are established in 2015 as part of project preparation and considerably lower than the end-of-project data for the GEF-4 project (P070232) in the same national parks (as reported in the Implementation Completion and Results report of 2013). The discrepancy can probably partly be attributed to a set of problems including budget shortfalls and lack of staff (especially for patrols) and the qualitative nature of the METT methodology where subjectivity is hard to avoid.

b) **Sustainability**, i.e. in ensuring a robust system with sufficient financial, organizational and human capacity to sustained supply of quality data that meet the changing and increasing demands. Sustainability in M&E overall lies with ANPN which already has experience and human resource to undertake M&E in place and despite the present dire financial situation.

c) **Data quality**, i.e. timely production and dissemination of data that meet basic quality standards and user needs. The indicators are relatively easy to measure with few quality issues and rely on existing data sources.

d) **Use**, i.e. increased access, demand and use of data to inform policy and to hold Government and DPs accountable. Given the importance of the elephant protection and national and global interest in this, extensive use of data in project management, in Government at large and globally is likely.

Role of Partners (if applicable)

140. The WHECM project coordinator will work closely with other donors undertaking activities that are complementary or potentially synergistic to the activities in this project. Key partners include USFWS, AFD, and WWF-Gabon. All were consulted during project preparation, and all acknowledge the importance of synergizing their respective project activities with those of WHECM. All of the projects are implemented through ANPN. Hence the WHECM coordinator's location within ANPN should provide effective and efficient coordination of all related activities within the donor projects.

141. USFWS supports a US\$15 million project to reinforce the institutional capacity of ANPN. It is a multi-pronged, multi-institutional initiative to enhance national park and buffer zone management for the period 2013-2017. It is under implementation centrally within ANPN, and also in the southwestern park areas where WHECM also has activities.

142. AFD is another important partner whose Project Eléphant Gabon (US\$11 million) is very similar to the WHECM project, except that its focus areas are in the northeast. WHECM activities have already been designed in consideration of the anticipated AFD activities.

143. The WWF project (US\$2.8 million), although much smaller than the two foregoing projects, covers the Gamba complex, which contains two target zones of this project: Loango NP and Moukalaba NP. Moreover, since the WWF has been working in these areas since the 1980s, the organization is a valuable resource for the implementation of some of the activities in WHECM.

ANNEX 4: IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT PLAN

Gabon: Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management Project

144. The strategy for implementation support (IS) has been developed based on the nature of the project and its risk profile. It will aim at making implementation support to the client more flexible and efficient, and will focus on implementation of risk mitigation measures defined in the Systematic Operations Risk-Rating Tool (SORT).

- **Procurement.** Implementation support will include: (i) providing training to ANPN and DGFAP staff as needed; (ii) reviewing procurement documents and providing timely feedback to the ANPN; (iii) providing detailed guidance on the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines to the ANPN; and (iv) monitoring procurement progress against the detailed Procurement Plan.
- *Financial management (FM).* Supervision will review the project's FM system at the ANPN, including but not limited to, accounting, reporting, and internal controls.
- *Environmental and social safeguards.* The World Bank safeguard specialists in the project task team will provide technical support for the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework, the Process Framework and the Indigenous People Action and will provide guidance to the DGFAP and ANPN as needed. They will work closely with the safeguard specialist hired and participate in supervision missions as required.
- *Anti-Corruption.* The World Bank team will supervise the implementation of the agreed Governance and Accountability Framework, and provide guidance in resolving any issues identified.

145. Most of the World Bank team members are based in the region (Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire) and the fiduciary staff in the Cameroon Country office, to ensure timely, efficient, and effective implementation support to the client. Formal implementation support missions and field visits will be carried out semi-annually. Detailed inputs from the World Bank team and partners are outlined below:

- *Technical inputs.* In terms of sustainable wildlife and HEC management, the team Sr. Biodiversity Specialist and Regional TTL for the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) will provide technical guidance to the team as needed. Furthermore, the ANPN and DGFAP will benefit from experience from top-notch experts during regular capacity building workshops provided by the GWP.
- *Fiduciary requirements and inputs.* Training will be provided by the World Bank's financial management specialist and procurement specialist as needed to project staff. Both the financial management and the procurement specialist are based in the country office of Cameroon to provide timely support. Formal supervision of FM will be carried out semi-annually, while procurement supervision will be carried out on a timely basis as required by the client.

146. Based on the outcome of the FM risk assessment, the following implementation support plan is proposed. The objective of the implementation support plan is to ensure that the project maintains a satisfactory FM system throughout the project's life.

Table A6.1 Implementation Support Plan for Financial Management

FM Activity	Frequency
Desk reviews	
Interim financial reports review.	Quarterly
Audit report review of the project.	Annually
Review of other relevant information such as interim internal control systems reports.	Continuous as they become available
On site visits	
Review of overall operation of the financial management system.	Annual with field visits at the local level (Implementation Support Mission)
Monitoring of actions taken on issues highlighted in audit reports, auditors' management letters, and internal audit and other reports.	As needed
Transaction reviews (if needed),	As needed
Capacity building support	
Financial management training sessions	During implementation and as and when needed.

- *Financial review of the ANPN's corporate finance.* Input is required from a financial specialist for regular review of ANPN's financial status to verify compliance of financial covenants. This exercise will be done through semi-annual review.
- *Safeguards.* Inputs from an environment specialist and a social specialist are required, though the project's social and environmental impacts are limited and client capacity is generally adequate. Capacity building will be required on environment monitoring and reporting. On the social side, supervision will focus on the implementation of the Process Framework and the Indigenous Peoples Plan (PPLS). Field visits are required on a semi-annual basis. The social and environmental specialists are based in the region (Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire).
- *Operation.* The task team leader (TTL) will provide timely supervision of all operational aspects through regular videoconference and audio meetings, as well as coordinating with the client and World Bank team members. The TTL will lead two formal field supervisions a year and, as needed, conduct punctual missions to resolve operational issues. She will be supported in this task by an International Sr. Consultant Environmental Economist. Furthermore, a team member is based in the Libreville country office and will ensure daily follow-up of project activities with the ANPN and DGFAP. He will also participate in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities in the project sites.

The main focus areas for implementation support are summarized in Table A6.2.

Table A6.2 Implementation Support Focus Areas

Time	Focus	Resource Estimate	Partner Role
First 12 months	Financial management (FM) training and supervision	FM specialist 4 SWs	n.a.
	Procurement training and supervision	Procurement specialist 4 SWs	n.a.
	Social safeguards, training and supervision	Social specialist 2 SWs	n.a.
	Environmental training and supervision	Environmental specialist(s) 2 SWs	n.a.
	Project implementation support and coordination	Task Team Leader (TTL)/Natural Resource Management (NRM) Specialist 12 SWs Sr. Env Economist Consultant (2sw)	n.a.
	Wildlife and HEC management	Sr biodiversity Specialist 2 SWs	n.a.
	Project implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) support	Sr. M&E Specialist 6 SW STC CO based 30 SWs	n.a.
12–60 months	Wildlife and HEC management	Sr biodiversity Specialist 16 SWs	n.a.
	Environment and social monitoring and reporting	Environmental specialist(s) 16 SWs Social specialist 16 SWs	n.a.
	FM disbursement and reporting	FM specialist 16 SWs	n.a.
	Procurement supervision	Procurement specialist 16 SWs	n.a.
	Project implementation support and supervision coordination	TTL/NRM specialist 16 SWs Sr. Env Economist Consultant 6 SW	n.a.
	Project implementation support and M&E	Sr. M&E Specialist 16 SW STC country office based 120 SW	n.a.

Note: SW = staff week.

n.a. Not applicable.

The staff skill mix required is summarized in Table A6.3.

Table A6.3 Staff Skill Matrix

Skills Needed	Number of Staff Weeks	Number of Trips	Comments
Biodiversity Specialist	2 SWs annually	Two annually	Washington based
Procurement	4 SWs annually	Two annually	Country office based
Social specialist	4 SWs annually	Two annually	Country office based
Environment specialist	4 SWs annually	Two annually	Country office based
Financial management specialist	4 SWs annually	Two annually	Country office based
Task team leader (TTL)/natural resource management (NRM) Specialist	6 SWs annually	Two annually	Washington based
Sr. Env Economist, Consultant	2 SWs annually	One	France based
Project implementation support and M&E	4 SWs annually	Two annually	Washington and country office based

III. Partners

Name	Institution/Country	Role
TBD	FAO	Human-elephant conflicts management

ANNEX 5: DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED PROJECT SITES/BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

147. Four national parks in the southwest quadrant of the country, namely: Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, Mayumba and Waka national parks will be targeted by this project. General information about these parks is summarized in the following table; the location of the parks is indicated in Map A6.1 at the end of the Annex. They are all IUCN Category II (national park) protected areas; they were all established under Gabon's decree in 2002 confirmed by national park law N°003/2007 from August 27, 2007; and all are the responsibility of ANPN.

<i>National Park</i>	<i>Area km²</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Biodiversity Characteristics</i>
Loango	1,550	SW – on Atlantic Ocean; in Ogooue Maritime Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide variety of habitats: swamps and grasslands, permanently flooded forests, land forest, coastal plains, two large lagoons and numerous rivers. • Avifauna with at least 203 species; many species of reptiles, amphibians; more than 80 species of mammals including 16 species of primates. • Globally important populations of gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephant, red-capped mangabey and slender-snouted crocodile. • Populations of Nile crocodile and hippopotamus of national importance. • Part of the Ramsar site Petit Loango.
Moukalaba-Doudou	4,500	SW – in Nyanga, Ngounie and Ogooue Maritime Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain rainforests and papyrus swamps, Rivers of the Ndougou lagoon, valleys of Moukalaba and Nyanga, and herbaceous savannahs. • First site in Gabon, and second in Central Africa for the conservation of great apes. • One of the highest densities of hippopotamus in Gabon. • Elephants particularly abundant during the dry season in the papyri of Nyanga. • Presence of the last waterbuck populations of Gabon. • The picathartes of Cameroon in the many caves along the Nyanga.
Mayumba	971	Extreme SW along Atlantic coastline; in Nyanga Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily a marine park with 60 km of coastal vegetation beaches, about 1 kilometer wide between the Banio Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. • Marine area of 800 km² extends for 15 km in the Atlantic Ocean, perpendicular to the coast. • One of the most important areas of the world for the reproduction of leatherback turtles. • Hotspot for the reproduction of humpback whales. • Atlantic humpback dolphin, unknown in Gabon, but major groups were observed in the PN Mayumba.
Waka	1,070	SW central; Ngounié Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old growth forest on steep slopes of the Chaillu Massif with mountainous forest characteristics of the Pleistocene forest refugia including endemic species. • Presence of a deep rift in the Ikobey valley that stretches over 100 km with very steep sides passing seamlessly from 100 m to over 800 m high, with a panoramic view of the forest landscape. • Significant population of great apes • Presence of local populations (Babongo, Akele, tsogo & pinji language) custodians of traditional knowledge, including the pharmacopoeia in connection with genuine initiatory rites.

148. **Loango National Park** is in southwestern Gabon, on the Atlantic coast, between the lagoons Nkomi and Ndougou. It contains the western part of the hunting area of Iguela and the wildlife reserve of Petit Loango, and is also part of the Ramsar site of Petit Loango. It is part of the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, a block of 960,000 hectares, comprising several protected areas, villages, and oil operations areas. The Park protects diverse habitat including 220 km² of the Iguéla Lagoon, a large variety of landscape and habitat including swamps, grasslands, coastal plains, and permanently flooded forests. It contains areas of savanna, pristine beach, forests and mangroves, and a large variety of species of international importance such as elephant, buffalo, hippo, gorilla, chimpanzee, leopards, red caped mangabey, leatherback and olive ridley turtles, dwarf crocodile, Atlantic humpback dolphin.

149. The Park is an important migration area for sea turtles and humpback whales. With respect to the latter, more than 10 percent of the world population passes or stands in the waters between Mayumba and Loango each year between June and October. The Park has a high diversity of birds, with 203 reported species. The ichthyofauna is very present in the Park, with significant potential to develop sport fishing based on the presence of trophy fish such as Tarpon, Barracuda, red carp and many sharks. Thirty-seven species of reptiles and 31 species of amphibians have been reported.

150. Research in Loango National Park has been on-going for several decades by individual researchers and conservation organizations including the Smithsonian Institute, WWF, Max Planck Institute and WCS. Many scientific data and analyses have been published providing increased knowledge on biodiversity (the discovery of new bird species) and local communities. The main topics covered by scientific studies include great mammal populations, apes and great apes monitoring, socio-economic studies, artisanal fishing, marine turtle and cetacean. Inside the Park, a research and habituation program on great apes is actually led by the Max Planck Institute.

151. Currently, within the Park are four villages and seven permanent camps, for a total population of about 80 permanent inhabitants. The ongoing rural exodus has led to a declining and aging village population. Just outside the Park, there are numerous villages. To the north, Omboue city with 3000 people is the largest. To the south, Gamba is the largest with nearly 16,000 people. Including all villages and permanent camps around the park, there is about 21,000 people in the area.

152. There are five village associations in the periphery and in the Loango National Park aiming to unite the villagers around the practice of ecotourism and sustainable fishing: the Community Initiative Group-Tourism (GIC-Tourisme), the Abietu cooperative, the South Loango Ecoguide Association (French acronym AELS), the association of the fishermen of the Ngowe, the association of the fishermen of Ndougou Department (French acronym APDN). The CCGL of Loango National Park was established in September 2012. It is one of five first CCGL of the National Parks networks of Gabon. Conflicts identified with the local populations are: illegal fishing to serve the market of Gamba and Port Gentil, commercial hunting for the cities of Gamba, Omboue and Port Gentil, access to sacred sites in the Park, and the deterioration of crops by animals.

153. Loango National Park is surrounded by oil concessions. There are three operating licenses: Total, in the area of Atora (Park buffer zone); Perenco, in the area of Echira, Niungo and Moukouti

(Park buffer zone); and Shell, in the region of Rabi. There are three exploration licenses that may have impacts on the Park: the exploration permit LOTUS awarded to the SINOPEC, which includes all of the Park (since 2006, several exploration missions took place but did not reveal oil in the Park); the exploration permit EKETAMBA awarded to Maurel & Prom is located in the south buffer zone of the Park (the permit is being explored by the company); the exploration permit NZIEMBOU awarded to Perenco includes a portion located in the northeast of the Park buffer zone (some areas of the permit is already operated by the company, none today in buffer zone). Also an oil pipeline exists that crosses the buffer zone of the park from south to north, which are connected different operators in the area. This pipeline could pose a risk to the park in case of breakage or leakage.

154. Regarding forest concessions, a FSC certified logging company – CBG – is located in the eastern part of the Park. Certification requires monitoring for the proper use of forest resources and protecting the Park ecosystems.

155. Regarding fisheries, the Decree No. 62/PR/MEFPE established five fishing areas in the maritime waters of Gabon, and practices that can be achieved in the different areas. The fishing industry is very present in the Atlantic side of Loango National Park. The boat fleets exploit areas near the Park and sometimes illegally in the Park near the mouths of lagoons. The Loango National Park is important for reducing the pressure on fish stocks. Contravention of Decree No. 62/PR/MEFPE is commonly observed by conservation teams.

156. **Moukalaba-Doudou National Park** is to the south and southeast of Loango National Park. Most of the park lies inland from the coast, but its most southerly end contains a strip of Atlantic coastline. It contains a mosaic of various habitat including gallery forest, herbaceous savannah and savannah grasslands, and humid sub-mountain rainforest. Characterized by high endemism, the high altitude forest of the Doudou Mountain is a Pleistocene refuge.

157. The inland ecosystems covering most of the north and east part of the park are joined to aquatic ecosystems – Nyanga and Rembo Ndogo river basin marshes (papyrus) – in the south and west of the Park. These latter ecosystems are part of the Ramsar site of Sette-Cama.

158. The Moukalaba-Doudou National Park is considered relatively unknown at the floristic level with only 2,500 specimens housed in herbaria and less than 1,000 species collected in the highlands. 991 plant species have been identified in the Doudou Mountain which 11 percent are endemic to this area. 140,000 hectares of lowland forest (less than 200 meters) are present in this Park. This area is by far the largest encountered for this type of forest in the PA network. In terms of wildlife, the Moukalaba-Doudou National Park encompass 82 species of mammals, 380 species of birds, 42 species of reptiles including the three species of African crocodiles, 54 species of amphibians with 51 different species of frogs which is a record for Gabon. Among the notable species, the Park includes important species at national and international level such as elephant, hippo, red-caped mangabey and Mandrill, a unique population of waterbuck, Nile crocodile and most of the largest western lowland gorilla population.

159. In 1997/98, WWF estimated there to be three villages within the Park, 13 in the buffer zone, and 16 in the Park periphery, with a combined population of some 4200 people. Surveys since (2005 and 2009/2010) show a severe depopulation, with total population at below 1000 people. However, not far from the Park are the three major cities of Gamba, Tchibanga and Mandji, whose inhabitants put pressure on the Park in particular through agricultural and hunting activities. Local people living in villages in and around the park have rural practices, largely based on agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering.

160. In general, village associations are almost nonexistent in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park and its periphery. In 2011, the activities of WWF in the context of creating a CCGL for the Park helped establish village committees in all villages in the Park and its the buffer zone, with the aim of helping communities unite in a village platform. Since August 2012, the Moukalaba-Doudou National Park has a CCGL, representative of its stakeholders and especially the local communities.

161. Socio-economic studies conducted by WWF show that the priority problems of the people living around the park fall under basic social needs. The quality of life in villages is affected by village crop destruction by animals, the hunt, and the lack of direct benefits related to the existence of the park for communities.

162. With respect to forest concessions, most of the northern periphery of the Park is surrounded by a FSC certified logging company – CBG (568,543 hectares) – has three base camps including Penny, which is installed inside the Park. This logging company has a wildlife management plan. The latter is the result of a tripartite cooperation agreement between the forest company, the Water and Forest administration and WWF.

163. Regarding extractive industries, over its western façade, an oil exploration permit (KARI), attributed to the company Maurel & Prom, covers very sensitive parts of the Park, including all marsh areas along the Bongo River and adjoining lakes, and those of the Nyanga valley. To the east, in the Milingui (Digoudou) area of the Park, known to be rich in minerals, projects of exploitation of iron and/or barite are currently under study.

164. **Mayumba National Park**²⁶ is found along the Gabon coast in the extreme southwest of the country between the town of Mayumba and the Congo border. The Mayumba National Park protects an area of coastal sea of approximately 900 km², and a narrow 1km x 60km strip of beach and coastal vegetation. Long exposed sandy beaches, and extensive freshwater, tidal or brackish lagoons characterize the Mayumba coastline. The beaches support a rich shoreline fauna including monitor lizards, genet, mongoose, ghost crabs and shore birds. Buffalo, elephant, sitatunga, leopard and other forest animals are frequently found on the beaches and amid the dense dune vegetation that fringes the coast. Mandrill, gorilla, chimpanzee, and other primates inhabit the forest-savannah mosaic behind the dunes.

165. The lagoons, some of which are extensive and extend for many miles inland, laced with islands, channels and rivers, are immensely productive systems supporting a wealth of fauna and flora, much of which takes advantage of major mangroves, flooded forests and swamplands. Hippo

²⁶ See information on the web through the official website at, <http://www.parcsgabon.org/decouvrez-les-parcs/les-13-parcs-nationaux/parc-national-de-mayumba>, and also at <http://www.mayumbanationalpark.com/welcome.htm>.

and crocodile are found here, as well as the rare and threatened West African manatee. Mangroves are critical developmental habitat for a wide range of coastal fish species and are important for many bird species. The Mayumba National Park is the only park in Gabon dedicated to the protection of marine life. It is the most important nesting beaches in the world for leatherback turtle and a large population of olive ridley turtles, and is on the migration route of a major humpback whale population. It may also be one of the most important protected areas for the rare humpback dolphin, whose numbers have yet to be evaluated in the area. Sharks and rays appear to be abundant in the area, and bony fishes are also found in large numbers.

166. Research focusing on turtles (identification, health assessment, and tracking) started over a decade ago. Other research in the park conducted mainly by WCS focuses on manatees, cetaceans (characteristics and behavior of migrating humpback whale population), and fisheries (stock and capture assessment).

167. The majority of people living near the national park are present in the city of Mayumba. The Banio lagoon is surrounded by 13 villages, of which seven are in the buffer zone of the National Park. Only the village of Nkoka is located on the lagoon in direct contact with the Park. The population of these villages is estimated at around 500 inhabitants. Local people have rural practices, largely based on fishing, agriculture and a minority practice of subsistence hunting. The trade in bush meat is very marginal in the area, according to the socio-economic studies carried out recently in the area. Gathering and sawing are the last two marginal human activities identified in these villages. Three-quarters of the villages are located on the same side. All village activities related to the forest (agriculture, hunting, sawing and harvesting) are on the same side. In general, socio-economic activities in themselves do not represent a great danger for the Mayumba National Park, they have little impact on conservation.

168. A village association just outside the National Park exists, more precisely in the town of Mayumba: the Association of Fishermen and Oysters dealers of Mayumba (French acronym APRHM). It was created in 2008 with the aim to structure the villagers in order to develop sustainable oyster fishery of the Banio Lagoon. It now has 65 members. This association is interested in perpetuating oyster stocks in the lagoon. The CCGL²⁷ of Mayumba National Park was established in May 2012. It is the first of the National Parks network of Gabon. There are no villages in the Mayumba National Park, greatly reducing potential conflicts with the local population. However, three villages are located in the buffer zone. The presence of the city of Mayumba, near the National Park, also leads to conflicts of interest with the National Park. Such conflicts include illegal fishing to serve the market of Mayumba and Tchibanga, commercial hunting for the cities of Mayumba and Tchibanga, access to sacred sites in the Park, illegal collection of Iboga for traffic with Cameroon and Congo, and crop destruction by animals.

169. Regarding extractive industries, extraction and oil recovery are carried out in the scope of the Mayumba National Park. The companies Perenco and Maurel and Prom conduct these offshore operations. The exploited oil wells are located within the perimeter of the Park. Other wells are present on the land part of the Park, within the buffer zone in the area of Kala Boubote, at 13km

²⁷ CCGL (*Comité Consultatif de Gestion Locale*).

west of the village. A pipeline used by Maurel and Prom Company covers a distance of about 20 kilometers inside the park boundaries.

170. Regarding forest concessions, since 2011, the Company SFM Africa has signed with the Gabonese Republic an agreement to develop an operating program of forest resources based on better management of the forest heritage of the area "Grand Mayumba" (750,000 hectares). Currently, only logging and the construction of a wood-processing factory are in business. The project also involves the development of hydropower resources, fisheries management and enhancement of carbon credits. Currently, the area operated by SFM Africa is about 250,000 hectares of forest, located less than 10 kilometers from the buffer zone of the Park. The scope of operation granted is not located in the Park; however, managers expect the creation of 8,000 jobs in the coming years. The population increase will require preventive action to deter illegal activities and mitigate any increased human pressure on natural resources.

171. Regarding fisheries activities, the Decree No. 62/PR/MEFPE established five fishing areas in the maritime waters of Gabon and practices that can be achieved in the different areas. The fishing industry is very present in the Atlantic side of the Mayumba National Park. The boat fleets exploit areas near the Park and sometimes illegally in the Park. The Mayumba National Park is important for protecting the pressure on fish stocks. Note that the fishing industry operates these breeding and rest areas, necessary for the proper renewal of the fish population. Contravention of Decree No. 62/PR/MEFPE is commonly observed by conservation teams.

172. **Waka National Park** is located in the middle of the southwest quadrant of Gabon. The Waka National Park is in the heart of the Chaillu Massif. This mountain is one of the last forest refuges of the Pleistocene ice age. In addition, the Waka National Park houses a rift of about 100 km along the river Ikobé. On both counts, the site could be full of a unique floral diversity, characteristic of this type of ecosystem. The main habitat is the rainforest on very steep slopes, with many rocky areas, especially near the peak. Areas of swamps and Marantaceae are found in the valleys.

173. The most important animals of Waka are probably primates and elephants, but the park is also a haven for a wide variety of species of tropical forests in Central Africa. Overall, 29 species of large mammals have been recorded in the park including eight primates. Encounter rates of great apes signs are among the highest in the network of the 13 national parks in Gabon.

174. The Waka National Park has been the subject of several scientific studies since 1999, mainly focus on the flora diversity and leading to the identification of nearly 500 of plant species. The National Herbarium of Gabon, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Missouri Botanical Garden are the main scientific organization, confirming that Waka is the rich in terms of flora diversity and remarkable endemism.

175. There are no villages within the Waka National Park. Villages are mainly found to the north and south of the park. About 390 people in five villages live within a radius of 5 km, exclusively in the northeast of Waka National Park. The other 27 villages and two district capitals that are on the outskirts are home to nearly 3,800 inhabitants. The nearest cities to the Park are Lambaréné and Fougamou (west), Mouila (southwest) and Mimongo (southeast). These cities have a combined population of some 65,000 inhabitants.

176. Local people living in villages have practices primarily based on agriculture, hunting, fishing, the collection of non-timber forest products and traditional medicine. The issue of crop destruction by wildlife is a constant concern of all villages. The network of associations is embryonic and is characterized by a very low dynamism in the associative sector. In contrast, groups around the practice of traditional rites are flourishing. The CCGL of the Waka National Park was created in 2014.

177. Regarding extractives industries, the upturn in the price of gold in the past five years led to a renewed interest in its exploitation. Thus MANAGEM, a Moroccan company, has obtained a permit in the Etéké region in the southeast of Waka National Park.

178. Regarding forest concessions, the Park is surrounded by active and not active logging concessions with different administrative statutes. The major companies are Rimbunan Hijau (RH) to the east, in the corridor between the National Parks of Lope and Waka; Lambaréné Forest Industry (French acronym IFL) to the west; SUNLY Gabon to the north; and Forest Operating Equatorial Company (French acronym SEEF) in the peripheral area south of the park (Etéké District).

Map A6.1 Target Sites for WHECM Project

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