

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Sustainable Financing of PAs in Congo Basin**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 3447 |
| GEF ID | 2906 |
| Title | Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin |
| Country(ies) | Regional - Africa, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, New York - GEF, Regional - Africa |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | COMIFAC |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The economic value of the ecosystem services generated by the natural resources of the Congo River Basin is immense, and the economic costs and losses incurred through ecosystem degradation and loss are therefore substantial. Such costs have far reaching implications both for national efforts at sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation and for economic processes in other parts of the world.  Such high values strongly imply a high economic and development value to protected area (PA) conservation in the region. In many cases, this value far exceeds those arising from alternative—and less sustainable—land and resource use options. Increasing global recognition of the value of ecosystem services, together with the development of mechanisms such as REDD+ aimed at their monetisation, are creating new opportunities for capturing and conserving the Congo Basin’s natural values. Marginal benefits from investing in capital improvements and on-going management of protected areas—particularly beginning from current low levels of investment—are therefore likely to be very high. However, current spending levels are low, management effectiveness of existing spending is low and countries are lacking models and tools to take advantage of new opportunities to improve the situation. All 21 elements of PA financial sustainability measured in each country in the region were found to be operating at a sub-optimal level, i.e., they presented some kind of barrier to sustainable PA financing.  The project design calls for utilising GEF funding to address barriers to PA financial sustainability within six Congo Basin countries. According to this demonstration approach, approaches to removal of individual barriers would be demonstrated in one or more countries and at pilot PAs, with the resulting lessons captured and shared at national and regional levels and made available for replication. This approach will be further strengthened through a strong reliance on partnerships with donors and other stakeholders across the region that are active in support to PAs and/or PA finance, as a means of covering more ground and stimulating replication. In this way, the project offers a comprehensive yet realistic approach to the challenge of sustainable PA financing across the region and thus provides tangible support to the regional Plan de Convergence.  The present project proposal offers an approach and a methodology for addressing the PA financing challenge at local, national and regional levels. Its objective is to have in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long term financial sustainability of PA systems and associated ecosystems within six Congo Basin countries. It aims to achieve this objective through three interconnected and complementary outcomes: (i) Outcome 1: Legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support sustainable conservation financing strengthened at regional and national levels; (ii) Outcome 2: Enhanced / innovative revenue generation, management and disbursement mechanisms piloted; (iii) Outcome 3: Business planning and cost effective management tools applied at PAs and associated landscapes. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Ms. Penny Stock (penny.stock@undp.org) |
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| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Unusa Haman (hunusa@gef-cameroon.org) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Gervais Itsoua (imadzous@comifac.org) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

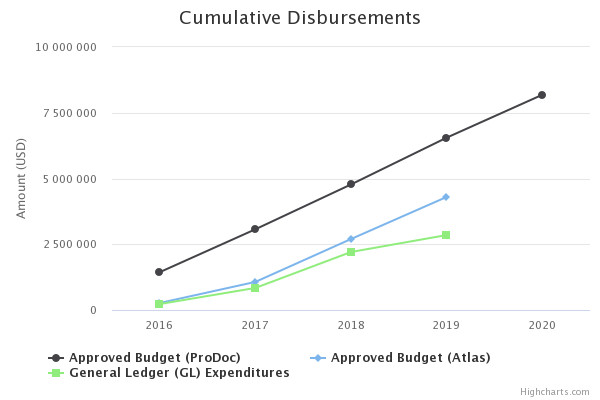
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | High |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To have in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long-term financial sustainability of PA systems and associated ecosystems within the Congo Basin** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Annual reports of PA managing agencies | Financial sustainability issues not specifically dealt with in annual reports or plans | *(not set or not applicable)* | Annual reports and plans for PA managing agencies in all 6 countries incorporate financial sustainability planning and reporting elements | As of June 30, 2018, all six (6) countries have already started data collection in National Protected Area systems for the preparation of the National Strategies (and Action Plans) for the financial sustainability of PAs. Specific technical report on findings will be completed at the end of 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, for this result (due by the end of the project), technical reports on the status of National Protected Area systems are available for the preparation of national sustainable funding strategies for PAs. 6 National Strategies with their Action Plan are being prepared for the 6 countries and will need to be validated (available) by 31 December 2019. |
| METT scorecard results | Boumba Bek – 66  Lobeke – 73  Monte Alen – 52  Dzanga-Ndoki – 63  Dzanga-Sangha – 67  Virunga – 37  Kahuzi-Biega – 44  Nouabale-Ndoki – 59  Monts de Cristal – TBD  Ivindo – TBD  Mwagna – TBD | *(not set or not applicable)* | Boumba Bek – 75  Lobeke – 80  Monte Alen – 70  Dzanga-Ndoki – 75  Dzanga-Sangha – 75  Virunga – 55  Kahuzi-Biega – 60  Nouabale-Ndoki – 70  Monts de Cristal – TBD  Ivindo – TBD  Mwagna – TBD | As of June 30, 2018, all six (6) countries have already started collecting data for the use of METT tools in national PA systems. To a certain extent, in most countries, the revision of the logical frameworks has made it possible to update some data already. Specific technical report will be completed at the end of 2018 to report on findings. | As of June 30, 2019, the technical data for the METT Scorecard review are collected in some national protected area systems and the METT Scorecard analysis tools developed for use by the 6 countries. |
| Financial scorecard results (overall) | Cameroon – 31%  CAR -26%  Congo -12%  DRC – 27%  EG – 10%  Gabon – 22%  Regional Mean – 21% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Cameroon – 50%  CAR – 42%  Congo – 36%  DRC – 43%  EG – 33%  Gabon – 35%  Regional Mean – 40% | As of June 30, 2018, all six (6) countries have already started collecting data for the use of METT tools in national PA systems. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, the technical data for the review of the Financial scorecard is collected in some national protected area systems are available and the financial Scorecard analysis tools are developed for use by the 6 countries |
| Relationship between level of on-going threats at demonstration sites and site-level PA management capacity | Limited data | *(not set or not applicable)* | Threat assessment to be undertaken at 3-4 pilot demonstration sites. Measured changes in threat index, together with data on capacity levels, aimed at demonstrating correlation with increased capacity | The data collection already started in the six (6) countries will ensure a more effective inventory of this indicator. Specific technical reports will be completed by end 2018 that will make it possible to provide accurate numbers in 2019. | As of June 30, 2019, this result has not yet been achieved because the choice of PAs Pilots sites is not yet finalized for the start of the demonstrations, in order to evaluate the management capacity of the Pilots PAs selected |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Legal, policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable conservation financing strengthened at regional and national levels** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Financial scorecard results (outcome 1) | Cameroon – 42%  CAR -27%  Congo -12%  DRC – 31%  EG – 16%  Gabon – 28%  Regional Mean – 39% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Cameroon – 61%  CAR – 39%  Congo – 17%  DRC – 45%  EG – 23%  Gabon –41%  Regional Mean – 57% | As of June 30, 2018, the revision of the logical frameworks of all the countries has started (the RC took a technical mission to initiate data collection in the 6 countries at the end of 2017) to update Financial Scorecards for each country. | As of June 30, 2019, the technical data for the review of the Financial scorecard related to the Outcome 1 is collected in some national protected area systems and the financial Scorecard analysis tools are developed for use by the 6 countries |
| PA system-level financial sustainability strategies | No financial sustainability strategies | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end of year 2, PA system-level financial sustainability strategies (including targets, policies, tools and approaches) are guiding the work of all six national PA system authorities | As of June 30, 2018, all six (6) countries have already started data collection in National Protected Area systems for the preparation of the National Strategies (and its Action Plan) for the financial sustainability of PAs(for the conservation of Biodiversity). | As of June 30, 2019, for this result due by end of year 2: Draft 0 of the National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas (for the Conservation of Biodiversity) - SNFDAP / CBD (PA system-level financial sustainability strategies) and its Action Plan is available for the 6 countries. Validation of 6 National Strategies (for the 6 countries: Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR and DRC) is planned before the end of 2019. |
| System-level PA business plans | No system-level PA business plans | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end of project, system-level PA business plans, providing targets and strategies, have been developed in all six countries | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the existence and level of operationalization of Business Plans has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project) is not yet fully achieved because the choice of PAs Pilots sites is not yet finalized for the start of the demonstrations, for which the Business Plans will be prepared. However, technical data and assessments of the relevance of the BPs of some national PAs have been collected, analyzed and available for improvement if these PAs are chosen as pilot sites for the demonstration. |
| Laws, policies and regulations related to sustainable PA financing | PA laws contain weak or no reference to innovative (i.e. non-government, tourism and donor) sources of financing | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end of project, at least six new financing mechanisms are mentioned and enabled in legal, institutional and/or policy frameworks in at least four countries | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Laws, policies and regulations related to sustainable PA financing and level of operationalization of has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report on this issue will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project) is partly achieved as data on the Laws, Policies and Regulations for Sustainable Funding of PAs were collected in national PA systems and technical reports on these data are available for the 6 countries . From 2020, once the national sites of the pilot PAs have been chosen for demonstration, the data will be updated. |
| Active support and participation in PA financing among public and corporate sector financial and economic decision-makers | PA financing carried out with little support or contribution from public and corporate sector financial and economic decision-makers | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end of project, communications and advocacy programmes on PA funding and PA financing mechanisms have been run which include public and corporate sector financial and economic decision-makers from at least ten agencies or organisations, in at least two countries | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Active support and participation in PA financing among public and corporate sector financial and economic decision-makers and level of operationalization has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project) is not yet fully achieved because the choice of PAs Pilots sites is not yet finalized. For the start of demonstrations, active support and participation in PA funding is expected from decision-makers. Financial and economic aspects of the public and private sectors are expected. However, part of this result will be available in the Sustainable Funding Strategy for PAs which will be validated before the end of 2019 by the 6 countries. |
| Agreed procedures and formulae in place to earmark public revenues for PAs and PA-adjacent communities | No central system for sharing revenues between PA sites and with centre  Limited or no application of community-revenue sharing mechanisms at site levels | *(not set or not applicable)* | By year 4, agreed procedures and formulae for revenue-sharing between PA sites and centre being applied at national level in at least 3 project countries  By year 3, agreed procedures and formulae for community revenue-sharing | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Agreed procedures and formulae in place to earmark public revenues for PAs and PA-adjacent communities and the level of operationalization has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by year 4) regarding agreed procedures and formulas to be put in place to allocate public revenues to PAs and communities adjacent to PAs is not fully achieved. The choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| Regional-level exchange of experience leading to uptake of lessons learned across borders | Structure for cooperation and exchange exists under Plan de Convergence, but actual exchange of experience is limited | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least three documented cases of countries adopting laws, policies or regulations based on sharing of lessons within sub-region | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the needs and possibility of Regional-level exchange of experience leading to uptake of lessons learned across borders has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project) this experience-sharing experience at the regional level leading to the implementation of lessons learned across borders is not fully achieved. Because the selection of pilot sites for the cross-border PAs is not yet effective. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Enhanced / innovative revenue generation, management and disbursement mechanisms piloted** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Financial scorecard results (outcome 2) | Cameroon – 22%  CAR -17%  Congo -11%  DRC – 16%  EG – 6%  Gabon – 16%  Regional Mean – 22% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Cameroon – 37%  CAR – 29%  Congo – 19%  DRC – 27%  EG – 10%  Gabon –27%  Regional Mean – 37% | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Financial scorecard results has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, the technical data for the review of the Financial scorecard related to Outcome2 is collected in some national protected area systems and are available and the financial Scorecard analysis tools are developed for use by the 6 countries. |
| Use of revenue generating mechanisms at pilot sites | Over 75% PA funding sourced from public budgets and donor assistance  PAs unable to cover management costs due to insufficient funds | *(not set or not applicable)* | By the end of the project, at least one third of PA funding in pilot sites obtained from non-public budget and donor assistance sources  By the end of the project, at least twelve new funding sources being accessed for PA management project pilot sites across the region and bringing in new money.  By end of project, at least 4 pilot sites have increased funding by at least a third | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Use of revenue generating mechanisms at pilot sites has already started in the six (6) countries. Specific technical report on that will be issued at the end of the year 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relative to the use of revenue generating mechanisms on pilot sites is not fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| Trust funds working to deliver long-term financing to PAs | PAs across the region rely on annual budget-allocations or income, or on short-term donor projects | *(not set or not applicable)* | By the end of the project, PA trust funds are functioning effectively in at least two countries or sites | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Trust funds working to deliver long-term financing to PAs has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project) , relating to the establishment of Trust Funds working to provide long-term funding to the PAs, particularly on pilot demonstration sites, has not been fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites for PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| Disbursement of revenues to PA centres, PAs and PA-adjacent communities | Negligible quantities of fiscal revenues from other sectors reallocated to PAs  No central system for sharing revenues between PA sites and with centre  Limited or no application of community-revenue sharing mechanisms at site levels | *(not set or not applicable)* | By year 4, agreed reallocation of at least one new fiscal revenue source to PA agency in at least 2 project countries  By year 4, agreed procedures and formulae for revenue-sharing between PA sites and centre being applied at national level in at least 3 project countries  By year 3, agreed procedures and formulae for community revenue-sharing being applied in at least 3 project sites | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Disbursement of revenues to PA centres, PAs and PA-adjacent communities has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to the disbursement of revenue to PA centers, PAs and communities adjacent to the PAs, particularly on pilot demonstration sites, has not been fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| In-country capacity to identify, plan for and implement new PA revenue mechanisms | PA staff and key stakeholders lack the skills-base and tools to identify, plan for and implement new PA revenue mechanisms | *(not set or not applicable)* | By the end of the project, at least 300 PA staff and key stakeholders from 6 countries trained in revenue generation and disbursement  By the end of the project, at least 7 training materials or knowledge products are available and disseminated | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the needs of In-country capacity to identify, plan for and implement new PA revenue mechanisms has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to the ability of countries to identify, plan and implement new revenue mechanisms for PAs, including pilot demonstration sites, is not fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Business planning and cost effective management tools demonstrated at PAs and associated landscapes** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Financial scorecard results (outcome 3) | Cameroon – 28%  CAR -34%  Congo -6%  DRC – 25%  EG – 3%  Gabon – 20%  Regional Mean – 29% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Cameroon – 38%  CAR – 46%  Congo – 8%  DRC – 34%  EG – 4%  Gabon –27%  Regional Mean – 39% | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Financial scorecard results has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, the technical data for the review of the Financial scorecard related to the Outcome 3 is collected in some national protected area systems is available and the financial Scorecard analysis tools are developed for use by the 6 countries. |
| Site-level human resources and infrastructural capacity for PA management planning and practice | PAs across the region are poorly resourced and equipped | *(not set or not applicable)* | By the end of the project, at least 12 PAs in 6 countries have well-demarcated boundaries, functioning ranger stations and ecological centres, and trained participants in monitoring, anti-poaching and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity activities. | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Site-level human resources and infrastructural capacity for PA management planning and practice has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to the human resource and site-level infrastructure capacity for PA management planning and practice, including pilot demonstration sites, has not been fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries |
| Site-level capacity to integrate PA management and business planning | PA staff at the site level lack the skills and approaches to integrate financing aspects into PA management planning  PAs across the region do not have coherent financial or business plans | *(not set or not applicable)* | By the end of the project, at least 300- staff from 6 countries trained in PA business planning  By the end of the project, manual on PA business planning is available and disseminated  By end of project, at least four of the pilot PAs across the region are operating according to an agreed business plan | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Site-level capacity to integrate PA management and business planning has already started in the six (6) countries. A technical report for each country will be prepared outlining findings by end 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to site-level Capacity to integrate PA management and business planning (especially on pilot demonstration sites), is not fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| Integration of economic valuation into PA planning and policy-setting | PA financing plans and policies not based on sound economic rationale and information | *(not set or not applicable)* | PA financing plans and policies in at least 3 countries incorporate relevant economic valuation information | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to the Integration of economic valuation into PA planning and policy-setting has already started in the six (6) countries. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to the integration of economic evaluation in the planning and definition of policies related to PAs (especially at the pilot sites of PAs for demonstration purposes), is not fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of PAs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| Monitoring and reporting on financial management performance | Countries across the region lack accounting, auditing and reporting systems in relation to PA finance | *(not set or not applicable)* | Improved accounting systems and associated procedures in place at least in two countries by end of project | As of June 30, 2018, the field missions (by the National Technical Experts) for the collection of data relating to theMonitoring and reporting on financial management performance has already started in the six (6) countries. Specific technical report on that will be issued at the end of the year 2018. | As of June 30, 2019, this result (due by the end of the project), relating to the monitoring and reporting of the performance of the financial management of the PAs (notably at the pilot sites of the PAs for demonstration purposes), has not been fully achieved. Because the choice of pilot sites of APs for the demonstration is not yet effective in the 6 countries. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 34.82% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 43.49% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,849,273 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 340,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 8,181,818 |
| Co-financing | 26,397,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Feb 24, 2009 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Nov 21, 2011 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Oct 13, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jun 9, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Apr 13, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Oct 13, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-04-09 |
| 2019-04-10 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Security | The security risk remains in CAR and the project team is not always allowed to circulate in the national PAs located in the risk zones governed by the armed groups (rebels). |
| Organizational | From this year 2019, we start the implementation of (Assisted) NIM /HACT with the IP (COMIFAC), while continuing to build the capacities of the Implementing Partner of the regional project which is COMIFAC, notably by implementing the Plan of Acton issued from their Micro-assessment. |
| Strategic | At the end of the 1st session of the Regional Steering Committee of the project held in April 2019, some recommendations and strategic orientations were formulated by the countries with a view to achieving the expected results of the regional project in the 6 participant countries. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The project was significantly delayed before the actual implementation of the planned activities started. This is mainly due to the dealings relating to the institutional arrangements of the implementation framework. However, since the actual start-up in 2017, we can note significant progress and especially the establishment in all 6 countries of technical expertise (National Experts / Country Team) as well as the mobilization of all key national actors who can contribute to the implementation of the regional project in each of the six countries. Real national ownership through strategic advocacy efforts of PI-supported regional coordination (COMIFAC) to engage policymakers in this regional project. The project is now in the effective phase of its implementation and the first results will have to start appearing in the next 2 years.  The MTR will be completed by December 2019. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| N/A |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| This project only commenced in early 2017 and is a highly complex, highly technical project focused on PA financing solutions across 6 challenging countries in Central Africa. The project had already experienced significant delays even before endorsement, having originally been conceived in 2005 and planned to start in 2011.    As a result, key project milestones including the inception workshop and recruitment of the PMU were delayed, but the MTR planned for December 2019 is on track. This should provide critical strategic and technical advice and recommendations to rapidly move the project forward with particular focus on issues relating to co-financing. It is anticipated that the project will request a 12 month extension request on the back of the MTR to make up for the earlier delays during inception. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The results obtained by the Regional Project "CBSP- Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity: Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin" under the 2019 PIR (period from June 2018 to June 2019) depict a positive evolution in the implementation of the regional project by progressively moving towards the achievement of the 3 interconnected results of the project whose ultimate objective is to set up in the 6 participating Congo Basin countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR and DRC) .  Indeed, the activities planned since 2018 and 2019, in particular for the period covered by the 2019 RIP (June 2018 - June 2019), have made it possible to intensify the key actions at national level (of each country) to promote necessary changes that can lead to the three (3) expected results, taking into account the deadlines in the logical framework (Prodoc Resources and Results Framework), at national and cross-border (regional) level.  This PIR report, which covers the period from June 2018 to 2019, reflects these results by answering the two questions asked: what additional results did we obtain during this period and which allowed us to progress towards the achievement of our expected results? at the end of year 2 and 3 of the implementation of the regional project? and what more can we do to accelerate progress towards these 3 results in the 6 Congo Basin countries that could contribute to achieving the objective of this regional project, which is to put in place sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity in a sub-regional partnership approach.  At this stage, and taking into account the progress made in the 6 countries, I can estimate that the progress towards of the Development Objective of the CBSP - PIMS3447 regional project for the period covered by the 2019 PIR (June 2018 - June 2019) is assessed as moderately satisfactory. During this period, despite certain constraints and new unforeseen risks that occurred during this period, there were flagship achievements that made it possible to consolidate the gains and progress towards the key results expected. Among other key results:  - From June 2018 to December 2018: (i) a National Multisectoral Technical Cooperation Framework (Technical Working Group / Technical Task Force) on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas is put in place in each country (6 countries); (ii) the technical basis for a national strategy for sustainable financing of protected areas to guide the selection of pilot sites of (national) protected areas with high demonstration value are available; (iii) Scenario projects for sustainable financing solutions for protected areas are available and some potential sites (pilot sites) for demonstration of protected areas are identified; (iv) a harmonized approach at the level of the six countries to structure the implementation of decision tools to select demonstration sites at the national level and in cross-border PAs is available.  • From January 2019 to the end of June 2019, progress towards the key outcomes of the 2019 Work Plan includes: (i) main steps for the development and validation of technical documents (SNFDAP, Action Plan and Holistic Technical Reports) identified and translated into action indicators; (ii) framework (Plan) of the SNFDAP / CBD Strategy and its Action Plan available for all 6 countries; (iii) concept notes for the SNFDAP / CBD Strategy and its Action Plan available for all 6 countries; (iv) meetings / countries with all key national stakeholders for the validation of concept notes and presentation of the SNFDAP / CBD framework and its Action Plan are started in the 6 countries; (v) technical data (collected in 2018) for the preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas for the Conservation of Biodiversity (SNFDAP / CBD) is analyzed; (vi) draft Decision Support Tool for the selection of national PA pilot sites for the start of the 2020 demonstration is available ; (vii) Roadmap of the national validation technical meetings of the SNFDAP / CBD + Action Plan / Technical Annexes and the selection of national pilot NP sites is available ; (viii) support & Technical advice / Coaching provided permanently to all country teams to help them advance on the agenda of the development of the SNFDAP / CBD Strategy ... (ix) establishment of a mechanism to monitor the progress of the implementation of activities in order to achieve the targeted results in the 2019 AWP; (x) communication, advocacy and awareness-raising strategy of country decision-makers / national stakeholders for ownership of the results of the regional project currently being prepared for the 6 countries.  However, and despite the real progress observed at the level of the 6 countries, while regularly progressing towards the achievement of the key results targeted by this regional project, some constraints and risks also appeared during this period, these include: (i) Security (the security risk remains in CAR and the project team is not always allowed to circulate in the national PAs located in the risk zones governed by the armed groups (rebels) ; (ii) organizational (from this year 2019, we start the implementation of (Assisted) NIM /HACT with the EP (COMIFAC), while continuing to build the capacities of the Implementing Partner of the regional project which is COMIFAC, notably by implementing the Plan of Acton issued from their Micro-assessment ; ((ii) Strategic (At the end of the 1st session of the Regional Steering Committee of the project held in April 2019, some recommendations and strategic orientations were formulated by the countries with a view to achieving the expected results of the regional project in the 6 participant countries).  Finally, we will retain from this period the following lessons learned: (i) work regularly with all key national actors in the 6 countries participating in the regional project, continue to advocate and communicate with all stakeholders for better ownership at the national level; (ii) continue and intensify advocacy for: (a) greater national ownership of the concept of Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Protected Areas at the national level and in the context of a subregional partnership for the conservation of Biodiversity in the Congo Basin (encourage ongoing efforts and continue advocacy with T & F decision-makers and partners, for the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for Biodiversity conservation in both national and cross-border PA systems) ; b) better positioning (legal, institutional ...) at the national level of sustainable management / biodiversity conservation issues within a broader framework of sub-regional partnership for environmental resilience focused on synergies to increase Biodiversity Conservation efforts in Protected Areas of the Congo Basin; (iii) continue working with national stakeholders for the strategic choice of pilot sites and financial solutions / sustainable financing mechanisms for Biodiversity Conservation in PAs at both national and cross-border levels; (iv) strengthen the technical work and advocate for greater involvement of all stakeholders in achieving the objective of the regional project in the 6 participating countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR, DRC ), through the progress towards the realization of its three (3) interconnected results. This reinforcement and this advocacy work should, inter alia, make it possible to: a) formalize by the national authorities the establishment of the Multisectoral Technical Consultation Framework on PA Funding; (b) Mobilization of all stakeholders; c) the provision of means of access to the PA Sites; d) the capacity of the PA Manager (Conservative) on issues of sustainable funding of PAs and the link with biodiversity conservation; e) the operationalization of collection missions taking timings into account; f) Advocacy for the appropriation by decision-makers of potentially pilot PA sites for demonstrations from 2020.  In view of all this, progress towards the project’s Development Objectives under the period from June 2018 to June 2019 (PIR 2019) is assessed as moderately satisfactory, with concrete steps being taken to achieve further results in the next reporting period. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The current results of the project are part of a slightly better organized framework compared to the annual targets. The overall coherence of their contribution to the expected results at the end of the project has been greatly improved. However, from the detailed assessment of these results, it appears that the project must catch up with the delay in the setting up and use of tools that allow to give an operational content to the strategy for sustainable financing of protected areas for each country. In the absence of scenarios emerging from modelling this situation, it will reinforces the difficulties to initiate on the basis a sample of pilot test to demonstrate how is it possible to implement a sustainable financing strategy for protected areas in at least two pilot countries. The scenarios should help to demonstrate in a concrete way how to stimulate change in resource mobilization and allocation to materialize the sustainability of protected areas, to be consider for scaling up at the country and basin levels.    In addition, there were also some constraints encountered during this implementation period. These include: (i) mobilization of national authorities to formalize the establishment of the Multisectoral Technical Consultation Framework on the Financing of Protected Areas (PAs); (ii) mobilizing all stakeholders to be effectively involved in the implementation of the regional project; (iii) accessibility to PA Sites to facilitate the arrival of investors and tourists; (iv) empowerment of PA Managers (mainly Conservatives but also other field actors in PAs to engage on issues of sustainable PA funding and the link with biodiversity conservation; (iv) operationalization of PAs data collection missions that do not respect the timing and delay the provision of technical reports, and (vi) advocate for the appropriation by decision-makers of potentially pilot Protected Areas sites for demonstrations from 2020. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Congo Basin is the second largest tropical forest spanning six countries in central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Despite the high economic value of ecosystem services generated by the Congo Basin, ecosystem degradation has resulted in immense loss for people and nature. Consequently, emphasis was placed on how to strengthen Protected Areas to maintain high economic and development value. This regional project was created to strength Protected Areas (PAs) by establishing sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity in a sub-regional partnership approach. The objective is to have in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long-term financial sustainability of PA systems and associated ecosystems in six Congo Basin countries. It aims to achieve this objective through three interconnected and complementary outcomes: Outcome 1: Legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support sustainable conservation financing strengthened at regional and national levels; Outcome 2: Enhanced / innovative revenue generation, management and disbursement mechanisms piloted; Outcome 3: Business planning and cost effective management tools applied at PAs and associated landscapes.    The project’s progress towards Development Objectives is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory. Progress has been made towards building capacities in 6 countries and drafting/validating supporting technical documents. However, there has not been significant progress towards meeting the majority of end of project targets and the low quality of inputs and lack of detail in this PIR make it difficult to effectively assess progress.    At the Objective level, the project is considered mostly off track to have in place the capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for financial sustainability of PAs within the Congo Basin. Some progress can be noted such as six National Strategies (with their Action Plan) being prepared (one for each country) and available by end of 2019, METT Scorecard and Financial Scorecard have been collected for some national protected area systems, and the METT Scorecard analysis tools developed for use by the 6 countries. However, the choice of PA pilot sites has yet to be finalized and many priority activities cannot be fully undertaken.    Under Component 1: Legal, policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable conservation financing strengthened at regional and national levels, is considered on track. The technical data for the review of Financial Scorecard is collected in some NPAs and the Financial Scorecard analysis tools have been developed. The Draft National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas and its Action Plan is available for 6 countries and will be validated by end of 2019. The support of BIOFIN in helping to achieve these outputs is acknowledged. Despite the lack of choice of PA sites, technical data and assessments of the relevance of Business Plans of some national PAs have been collected and is available if these PA sites are ultimately chosen. The lack of choice of PA has also limited progress on building support from public and private sector decision makers and establishing procedures to allocate public revenue to PAs and adjacent communities. Data on the laws, policies and regulations for sustainable financing of PAs was collected in national PA systems. This data can be updated in the next reporting year once PA sites have been chosen.    Under Component 2: Enhanced/innovative revenue generation, management and disbursement mechanisms piloted, is considered off track. While data collection has begun, the lack of PA sites identified has caused delay related to: generating funding for pilot sites from non-public budget and donor assistance sources, establishing Trust Funds to help finance the PA system, disbursing revenues to PA centers, PAs and PA adjacent communities, and building in-country capacity for generating revenue.    Under Component 3: Business planning and cost-effective management tools demonstrated at PAs and associated landscapes, is considered off track. While the technical data for the Financial scorecard related to Component 3 is collected in some national PAs, there is a lack of progress related to: human resource and site-level infrastructure capacity for PA management, capacity to integrate PA management and business planning, integration of economic valuation into PA planning and policy setting, monitoring and reporting on financial management performance    The implementation rating was assessed as Moderately Unsatisfactory as Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. Significant delays have been experienced due to weak institutional arrangements, which have delayed implementation. Constraints were also experienced in mobilizing stakeholders (including national authorities), accessing PA sites, engaging PA managers on sustainable PA financing and operationalizing PA data collection missions. The financial delivery rating was measured at 35% against the total approved budget and 43% against the expected delivery as of this year. The project's CTA also recorded a long period away from the project due to illness.    The project does record some critical risk. In terms of political risk, there is significant security challenges in the Central African Republic (CAR) as the project team is limited in their ability to visit to national PAs located in zones governed by armed groups. In light of this, and the project's engagement with Indigenous Peoples in participating countries, the project's compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy must be assessed and updated to ensure effective management of social and environmental risks. In this reporting period, the project implemented a NIM/HACT (risk assessment) and continued to build capacities within implementing partner COMIFAC to help mitigate organisational and financial risks. In terms of measures to mitigate strategic risk, the first session of the Regional Steering Committee was hosted in April 2019, providing recommendations to achieve expected results in all participant countries.    The MTR will be completed by December 2019, and the RTA is scheduled to travel on mission for project oversight in early 2020. A priority concern is project co-financing, which has substantially fallen away due to the delayed implementation of the project. New financing must be identified.    A project extension request will be formally submitted for approval following the MTR, if recommended. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: No |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| There are not yet concrete results of the project that contribute to Addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV); however, during local workshops conducted by the national teams of the regional project, advice / exchanges are regularly given to local communities to avoid any potentially violent action against vulnerable people, including women. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| During the consultation workshops involving local communities living within or adjacent to the national systems of Protected Areas that could become pilot sites for the demonstration of sustainable financing mechanisms in the 6 participating countries, national teams always ensure equitable participation of women and men, members of local communities. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| The specific data collected by the project's technical teams during their field mission in national protected area systems, highlight the specific needs of young people, men and women in potential socio-economic activities that could benefit from the sharing of revenues from good management of protected areas for biodiversity conservation, once the sustainable financing mechanism has been put in place. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA. |

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| **SESP:** *not available*  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| NA. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| NA |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The CBSP - PIMS3447 regional project with its objective of setting up in the 6 pasy Congo Basin (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR and DRC), focuses on actions at the institutional and strategic levels. Through these 3 key results interconnected, it proposes to set up financial mechanisms (financial solution) sustainable to optimize and perpetuate the efforts of the conservation of the Biodiversity in the systems of Protected Areas, in the Congo Basin which constitute the 2nd forest with a very rich biodiversity & ecosystem in the world after the Amazon.    As such, the indirect impact of this project will be felt by the communities of these systems of national or cross-border protected areas, by making them benefit from the repercussions of sustainable and optimal management of PAs.  These impacts will be more appreciated once the pilot sites of PAs identified for implementation, demonstrating the appropriate sustainable networking mechanisms, by 2021 (the last anticipated year of the implementation of this regional project in the 6 Participating countries located in the Congo Basin, Central Africa). |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| --- |
| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| 1. The project developed a communication strategy for the regional project and its action plan. This strategy and plan is being developed to create specific strategies and plans for each of the six countries.  2. A website has been set up to inform partners and the public about the project  a. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org  3. The site provides information on sustainable financing of Protected Areas thanks to 15 quality blog articles produced and regular site updates  a. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/nouvelles  4. The project has also updated its page on the UNDP website  a. http://www.cm.undp.org/content/cameroon/fr/home/projects/partenariat-pour-la-conservation-de-la-biodiversite--financement.html  5. The project reaches a wide audience in the region through a dynamic social media strategy: Facebook (+3500 fans) and Twitter  a. https://www.facebook.com/financeapbassincongo/  b. https://twitter.com/APbassinCongo  6. A video about the objectives of the project was produced and a YouTube channel was created  a. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOF2BOuaJhAVAtlhLDKZ-aQ  7. The first newsletter of the regional project was released in April, 2019  a. https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?e=&u=8729268f9986544eff437dea3&id=b236c9d38b  8. PUBLICATIONS  a. Blogs about the project on the website  i. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/diversité-biologique-15-des-aires-terrestres-et-7-des-aires-marines-protégées-sur-la-planète  ii. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/république-du-congo-mobilisation-pour-le-financement-durable-des-aires-protégées  iii. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/2018-une-année-d-action-dans-six-pays-pour-le-financement-durable-des-aires-protégées  iv. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/ensemble-pour-la-conservation-de-la-biodiversité-le-projet-régional-rencontre-l-ocfsa  v. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/la-conservation-du-bassin-du-congo-facilitée-par-la-lutte-contre-la-fraude  vi. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/un-pas-de-plus-vers-le-financement-durable-des-aires-protégées-dans-le-bassin-du-congo  v. https://www.financeapbassincongo.org/post/1-million-d-espèces-menacées-d-extinction-il-faut-préserver-la-biodiversité-du-bassin-du-congo  b. Articles published on the UNDP website:  http://www.cm.undp.org/content/cameroon/fr/home/presscenter/articles/2019/2018---une-annee-daction-dans-six-pays-pour-le-financement-durab.html  c. Articles mentionned in the UN Monthly Highlight  - https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=3b2ecfa5f0bc2181cb809a093&id=be3598ff8b  - https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=3b2ecfa5f0bc2181cb809a093&id=4c369f276b  d. Articles mentioned by COMIFAC(website)  - One million endangered species: the biodiversity of the Congo Basin must be preserved (Article in COMIFAC NEWS n ° 17 of the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC)  - Another step towards sustainable financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=93eb2eb3cf7b3300c96aa4acf&id=b397c53b6b  e. Articles in the Partners press  - http://www.adiac-congo.com/content/bassin-du-congo-les-nations-unies-octroient-huit-millions-de-dollars-americains-pour-les  - http://www.tourisme-environnement.gouv.cg/conservation-de-biodiversite-financements-proteger-bassin-congo/  - Dépêches de Brazzaville 20190412  - https://www.mediaterre.org/actu,20190425114945,6.html  - http://www.environews-rdc.org/2019/04/10/conservation-un-pas-de-plus-vers-le-financement-des-aires-protegees-du-bassin-du-congo/  - https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/Aires-Protégées-BC.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [3447 Congo Basin CEO endorsement document, 14 July 2011 resubmission\_FINAL corrected.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3447/212613/1707810/1708940/3447%20Congo%20Basin%20CEO%20endorsement%20document%2C%2014%20July%202011%20resubmission_FINAL%20corrected.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The CBSP regional project &quot;Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin&quot; took a lot of time before starting implementation. There is a delay of about 5 years between the dates marked in the actual calendar and the actual start dates of implementation.    This therefore has consequences for all the indicative dates listed in the Request for CEO Endorsement. For example :    1) It was planned to start the implementation of this project in December 2011, unfortunately, the Inception Workshop which marks the official start of the implementation of this project was only realized in June 2017 ;  2) The Mid Term Review initially scheduled for June 2014 will only be realized in 2019 (no later than December 2019);  3) Thus, the closing date of this project initially planned for November 2016, will be effective only in November 2021 (we had submitted to the GEF a request for No Cost extension until November 2021).    It should also be noted that the delay observed by this project, which shifted the entire period of its life cycle, also had financial consequences. Indeed, in June 2011, when the GEF CEO approved the regional project and allocated its funding of 8,181,818 USD, many Technical and Financial Partners announced their co-financing for a total amount of 26,697,000 USD (AfDB (18,100,000 USD) , WWF (4,330,000 USD), Project Governments - In Kind (1,500,000 USD), RAPAC (277,000 USD), The Global Mechanism (150,000 USD), UNDP (2,040,000 USD).    Unfortunately, with the great delay experienced by this project, it is now difficult to mobilise the planned co-financing. This is because for most co-financers, financing was envisaged through synergies of actions / activities. In addition, most of the projects with potential co-financing had already completed their life cycle (implementation period), when implementation of the regional project CBSP - PIMS3447 began.    Today, it is pointed out that the co-financing that we are mobilizing since the actual start of the implementation of this regional project comes mainly from the Governments of the 6 countries (In-kind) and to a lesser extent UNDP offices in the 6 countries involved in this project. We continue to advocate with former co-financiers in the hope of mobilizing financial or technical resources through new projects that address the theme of Biodiversity conservation and PA financing.    Beyond that, we have identified new opportunities for resource mobilisation, among others, with the BIOFIN initiative, with whom the regional project has been working since December 2017, and from whom we have mobilised financial and technical resources. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.