

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Equatorial Guinea PA System**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4185 |
| GEF ID | 3757 |
| Title | Strengthening the National System of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea for the effective conservation of representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity |
| Country(ies) | Equatorial Guinea, Equatorial Guinea |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The main objective of this project is to adopt a strategy for conserving representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity within the national network of protected areas. This national strategic program will help in determining the gaps, constraints and priorities for the development and reinforcement of individual, institutional and systemic capacities that are necessary for improving the management of PAs and supporting national sustainable development and poverty alleviation efforts. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| Project Implementing Partner | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Other Partners | Mr. Fidel Esono Mba (fememba@yahoo.es) |

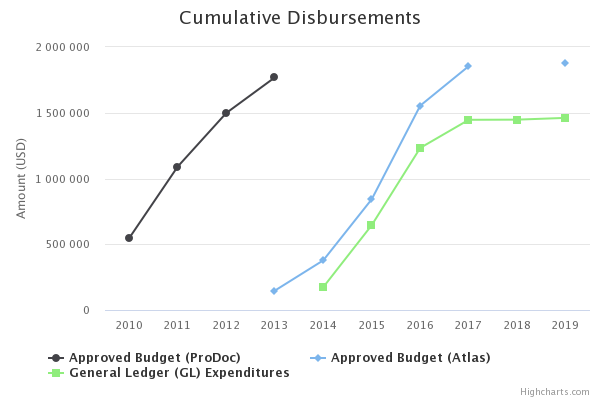
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To reduce or eliminate the policy, legal, capacity, and socio-economic barriers that now prevent EG's protected areas system function to protect globally significant biodiversity.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Change in Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Assessment | Pico Basil Caldera de Luba Rí­o Campo Monte Alen Rí­o Muní­  y 15 15 15 19 19  m/y 28 28 30 29 29  m/n 27 27 25 23 23  n 79 79 79 78 79 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 30% of RAPPAM questions (45 of 149) improved by at least one increment;  At least 60 increment improvements overall; | Advance in some rural communities in and adjacent to Pico Basilé - Caldera de Luba - Río Campo Monte - Alén - Río Muní  Through the activities that involve such communities in conservation mechanism, in synergies with the income generating activities.  Landscape boundaries were redefined to include buffer zones originally considered protected areas, areas needed to reduce gas emissions, areas needed to ensure connectivity between PAs and areas with socioeconomic dynamics. | The RAPPAM assessment has not been done again by the project since Inception, but will be conducted again in the context of the Terminal Evaluation in 2019, to complement the more widely applied METT standard in GEF projects. Please see the entry on METTs under Outcome 2 below |
| Change in funds expended by GoEG on NSPA and biodiversity conservation | $285,000/year | *(not set or not applicable)* | $1,333,083/year | It is worth mentioning the operation of the Management Center of the Scientific Reserve of the Gran Caldera de Luba, which has been operating since 2016 and which currently promotes the interest of the group of women artisans.    Among other things, the accompaniment to the local population of the landscape of Mount Alen for the implementation of the pilot units of agro-pastoral production is also relevant. | There has been considerable cumulated improvement, but the project-end target is not yet achieved. The agency in charge of the national PA system, INDEFOR-AP, has grown in size, capacity and resource allocation,. It now counts with 130 staff including 40 forest and PA guards and is now allocated an increased national budget of $820,000/yr for operational purposes and $730,000 for investments and activities. An estimated $770,000 of these are for PA management – mainly related to legal framework development, central PA system oversight, maintenance of basic PA management in priority sites, and an extension of basic PA management to selected terrestrial sites. However, the agency has struggled to access the budget share for investments and activities. |
| Change in PA area | 367,000 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | PA Increase by 20,000ha to 387,000 ha | Start-up of the infrastructures of protected areas. And implementation of management activities such as the turtle species census, the formation of the Eco guarda. | Project-end target exceeded.    A new Law on Protected Areas PA was prepared with project support that maintains the 13 PAs proposed by the 2005 EU/CUREF project in 2005, but expands some terrestrial and all marine areas, wherefore 7 of the 13 PAs now have a nearshore marine portion. The 13 PAs today make up a total of 691,670 ha, including 563,843 ha and 127,827 ha of terrestrial and marine area, respectively. These represent 20% of the land area and 0.4% of the marine/EEZ area of EG. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **A Policy framework and Strategy for the management of PAs is developed.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of revised policies and laws enacted/adopted | EG National Biodiversity Policy framework is non-functional.    Environmental sector laws are unclear and contradictory.    No environmental sector coordinating body exists.    EG's 20-year national development plan is not carbon neutral. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2011 a revised National Biodiversity Policy enacted that supports a role for NGOs and community organizations in biodiversity management.    By 2012 a new environmental sector law clearly defines complementary roles and responsibilities for MdePyMA, MdeAyB, and INDEFOR.    By 2011 an environmental sector coordinating body created, staffed, and budgeted.    By 2012 EG's 20-year national development plan revised to be carbon neutral. | In 2000, Law number 4/2000 (Equatorial Guinea) was enacted on May 22, regulating protected areas in Equatorial Guinea. This Law was designed with the assistance of the already extinct Conservation and Rational Use of Forest Ecosystems Project (CUREF Project) of Equatorial Guinea (1996-2001).    This Law consists of six chapters and 48 articles. Article 13 contains specific information on the 13 plots made available throughout the national territory to constitute the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP); At the same time, in this same article, specific data are observed on the extension of each area, ecological characteristics and representative symbols.    The modalities of the 13 protected areas that form part of the SNAP are the following: (2 Scientific Reserves, 3 National Parks, 2 Natural Monuments and 6 Natural Reserves), covering a total of 586,000 hectares.    In 1988, Act No. 8/1988 (Equatorial Guinea), dated December 31, regulating Wildlife, Hunting and Protected Areas, came into force. As for protected areas, the establishment of 9 of them was carried out; all of which were incorporated under Law number 4/2000.  At present, both laws (number 8/1988 and number 4/2000) were repealed by Law number 7/2003 (Equatorial Guinea) dated November 27, regulating the Environment in Equatorial Guinea. | Improvements on many fronts achieved and several project end targets met, but important gaps remain.    A new second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was developed and published in 2015 with support from a UNEP/GEF project. The present project is a key implementing agent for the new NBSAP.    The current Environment Law dates back to 7/2003 but was developed by the reference EU/CUREF project that proposed all the institutional changes that were gradually emplaced over the past 10-14 years, realigning ministries/ agencies (a new Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources was created like also a new Ministry of Forests and Environment with a Directorate General for the Environment), and creating new sub-agencies (a National Institute for Environmental Conservation; while the already-existing National Institute for Forestry Development and PAs INDEFOR-AP was further operationalised). The many complications and mandate issues were thus gradually reduced not by an improved Environmental Law, but by the actual implementation of the existing one, and the present project has contributed to this in a significant manner since its endorsement and inception in 2010. In consequence the institutional framework is today much stronger than in 2002, 2006, or 2010 when the project was launched. Having said that, an update of the Environmental Law could strengthen and clarify the institutional framework and mandates even further and allow the inclusion of more recent global standards and policy developments, such as from the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020, ABS, the SDGs, the importance of marine PAs, sector mainstreaming, SEA, financing, etc.    The recent operationalisation (staffing, domestic budget allocation) of the DG for Environment under the new Ministry of Forests & Envt meets one of the project-end targets as it is now the environmental sector coordinating body.    A new Law on Wildlife and Hunting and related implementing regulations are under preparation.    The project did not work or deliver on the last sub-indicator, i.e. the integration of carbon neutrality in the EG's national development plan, but this sub-indicator anyway seems a bit out of place in this project. |
| Change in amount of FONAMA and FONADEFO financial disbursements | FONAMA and FONADEFO are non-functional. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2012 FONAMA and FONADEFO are dispersing 50% of recurrent and operational costs of NSPA and biodiversity management including grants to Guinean conservation NGOs. | With the funds of FONAMA and FONADEFO, the ministry has executed the validation of the laws on biodiversity, a hunting activity with its corresponding regulations. | The two public funds FONAMA and FONADEFO were proposed in the 2002 Environmental Law. Their operationalisation remains incomplete yet there are some improvements but also new challenges. But it is worth to first clarify the roles of each fund. FONADEFO was intended to finance forest regeneration activities including after commercial forest exploitation; it was hence set up to benefit the work of INDEFOR and is nourished by taxes levied on forest exports from private companies. FONAMA in contrast was intended to finance projects on environmental protection including protected areas; it was hence conceived to support work by DGA and INCOMA, which were only now newly created/ operationalised. INCOMA was originally supposed to assume the responsibility for the national PA system; the long delays in operationalising INCOMA however left INDEFOR in charge of PAs ie with an expanded mandate. FONAMA was over the last reporting periods allocated budgets from national treasury for the first time. Its budget in 2017 is $430,000. Actual delivery of these resources has been poor in the past due to barriers on access modalities and eligibility wherefore much was returned to treasury at year end. But in 2017 the funds are being released on a monthly pro rata basis. So there is some slow progress, and INCOMA and DGA in particular expect that budget allocation and delivery from FONAMA will increase further in 2018, but significant further work is required on the two public funds. This new mandate clarifications, as indicated in comments on the Environment Law above, and at some point a proper assessment of financing needs for the PA system and biodiversity management more widely. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Improved institutional and individual capacities for the management of PAs** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Capacity Assessment Scorecard | Policy Formulation  Systemic 4/out of 6  Institutional 2/out of 3    Implementation  Systemic 5/out of 9  Institutional 8/out of 27  Individual 3/out of 12    Engagement and consensus  Systemic 2/out of 6  Institutional 3/out of 6  Individual 2/out of 3    Info and knowledge  Systemic 1/out of 3  Institutional 1/out of 3  Individual 2/out of 3    Monitoring  Systemic 2/out of 6  Institutional 4/out of 6  Individual 0/out of 3 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Policy Formulation  5/out of 6  3/out of 3    Implementation  6/out of 9  10/out of 27  5/out of 12    Eng and consensus  3/out of 6  4/out of 6  3/out of 3    Info and knowledge  2/out of 3  2/out of 3  3/out of 3    Monitoring  3/out of 6  5/out of 6  1/out of 3 | To be completed at TE | The comprehensive Capacity Assessment Scorecard will be completed again in the context of the Terminal Evaluation in 2019.    However, it can already be anticipated that capacity remains an issue in EG, in very specific ways.    Individual technical capacity of staff in MoForests&Env and its sub-agencies is in fact quite high on average, at least at the senior level, which is a legacy of several past projects including most notably EU/CUREF. In fact staff working on environment and in the MOFE are considered among the most effective and dedicated public sector staff in EG.    What is more relevant are institutional capacity constraints: staffing numbers of MOFE and its sub-agencies are small and they are not well resourced such that competent people are overstretched, some not very competent staff remain in positions where they deliver little i.e. a more meritocratic approach would help, and there are obstacles to effective work such as poor internet and IT, missing international language skills.as well as gaps in conceptual and writing skills.    Unfortunately, the present UNDP/GEF project did not contribute in a significant way to capacity development, aside from training provided by experts from the Univ of Sevilla on PA Management, and on-the-job guidance provided by the UND/GEF CTA who led the project during 2 years until Dec 2016. |
| Management Effectiveness of PAs at project sites as measured by the METT Scorecard | Pico Basil NP: 13.5%  Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve: 27.1%  Monte Alen NP: 37.5%  Rí­o Muní­ Natural Reserve: 16.7%  Rí­o Campo Natural Reserve: 19.8% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Pico Basil NP: 25%  Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve: 40%  Monte Alen NP: 50%  Rí­o Muní­ Natural Reserve: 25%  Rí­o Campo Natural Reserve: 25% | The objectives have been adjusted to better reflect the changes we can realistically make with our strategies in each of the protected areas. As a result,  The project has identified the strategies for each PA, for example:  conservation agreements  early warning systems | METTs will be conducted again in the context of the Terminal Evaluation in late 2019.    To advance some observations, the project had a mixed delivery on PA management effectiveness.    On the one hand, the project expanded its theoretical scope from the 3 PAs originally identified in the PRODOC to the 5 PAs listed in the baseline entries to the left.    The team of experts from the Univ of Sevilla drafted detailed / advanced new management plans for all these PAs with GIS support; and business plans are under development.    However, on-the-ground PA management activities eventually focused much on the two PAs on Bioko Island (Caldera de Luba and Pico Basile), while the three PAs on the mainland received less attention. The project engaged local partner organisations (EcoGuinea, BBPP) for the work on Bioko that delivered basic PA management levels quite effectively (through ecoguards, patrolling, community work and monitoring), and also activated the presence of INDEFOR-AP in these PAs. the project helped prevent a significant further degradation of these PAs and their critically important wildlife populations , even though events of poaching and also deforestation in the PA could not be entirely halted. However, the project with INDEFOR/ DGA/ INCOMA and their local partners failed to anticipate and/or stop the designation in 2017 of an urban development zone precisely in the area that was for years identified as a corridor linking the two PAs requiring formal PA designation, wherefore this opportunity seems lost.    The project will in its remaining time focus more on the mainland PAs and mobilise further and continued action from INDEFOR to this end. |
| Improved financial sustainability for NSPA, as measured by the  Financial Sustainability Scorecard. | Legal and regulatory framework  11.5% - 9 out of 78    Business planning  11.5% - 7 out of 61    Tools for revenue generation  3.5% - 2 out of 57    Total  9.2% - 18 out of 196 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 24.4% - 19 out of 78  24.6% - 15 out of 61  10.5% - 6 out of 57  20.4% - 40 out of 196 | To be completed at TE | The FSC will be completed again in the context of the Terminal Evaluation in late 2019.    For some information on how PA/BD financing evolved, please see the entry above under the Project Objective indicator "Change in funds expended by GoEG on NSPA and biodiversity conservation". |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Sustainable PA management approaches demonstrated in 3 pilot sites** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of new or revised management plans | Recent management plans exist only for Monte Alen and Rí­o Campo. There are no management plans for the Monte Alen/Rí­o Muní­ landscape or for the Caldera de Luba/Pico Basil landscape. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2010 updated management plans exist for Monte Alen, Rí­o Muní­, Caldera de Luba, Pico Basilé, and Rí­o Campo | Of the 13 protected areas that make up the SNAP, only 5 (1. Proposal of the management plan of the Nature Reserve of the Muni Estuary and its surroundings, 2. Proposal of the management plan of the Natural Reserve of Rio Campo, 3. Proposal of the management plan of the National Park of Los Altos de Nsork, 4. Proposal of the management plan of the National Park of Monte Alen, 5. Proposal of the management plan of the Natural monument of Piedra Nzas) have proposals for management plans that follow awaiting official transmissions for approval. | New detailed management plans were drafted for all the five eventually targeted PAs, under the leadership of a group of experts of the University of Sevilla.    Please also see the entry under the METT indicator above. |
| Existence of Ecotourism business plan | No organized, profitable ecotourism exists based on Bioko Island's rare and endangered primates and birds tourism. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2012 a business plan for primate - and bird-focused ecotourism on Bioko should be in place or being developed. | Please see comments fromom 2017. No new ecotourism plans were prepared during the reporting period | The work on tourism is mixed, both in terms of delivery and in terms of potential. On the one hand, local tourism to Ureka village in the Caldera de Luba PA has increased significantly since a road into the PA was constructed. However no ecotourism plan was developed, and the resulting opportunities were not used well enough. Local community benefits are weak, a local product sales shop was built but quickly degraded. Tourism eventually started bypassing the community entirely after a military check point was moved. While the situation with one single access road to Ureka/ Caldera de Luba is highly conducive to the collection of PA fees as well as the controlling of wildlife and forest poachers, the project, government and partners have failed to use this opportunity.    Beyond Bioko, which has the most obvious potential for domestic and expat tourism, the potential in tourism should not be overestimated in the current situation. The country issues no tourist visa, and tourism services and infrastructures are very poor. Only if the Government of GE indeed begins to adopt more tourism friendly measures and the Ministry of Tourism leads the way towards an environmentally sustainable form of tourism is there a potential that may effectively support biodiversity conservation in the medium term. |
| Percentage of crop damage is mitigated. | Crop damage from wild animals is unmanaged and unmitigated. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2012 a quantitative survey of credible wild crop damage is developed and ready to use, and a plan for appropriate mitigation techniques prepared and submitted to the GoEG. | Not achieved. No progress since last PIR | Not achieved. The issue of human-wildlife conflict affects primarily communities around PAs on GE's mainland, especially Mt Allen and Rio Campo NPs. Incidents are caused especially by (forest) elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees. However these PAs received far less attention by the project to date. Incidents of conflict have been reported and seem to be frequent, and there are reports of retaliation killings of elephants at least. |
| Gazetting of the Bioko Forest Corridor. | The critical ecological transect between the Caldera de Luba and Pico Basil, and the wildlife migrating between the two, are unprotected, unmanaged, and vulnerable to forest conversion. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2012 the Bioko Forest Corridor should be fully gazetted. | The project has yet to create the protected corridor connecting the Caldera de Luba and the Pico Basile with the purpose of protecting the migrations of primates between the two areas | Not achieved and a critical failure by the project.    The project with INDEFOR/ DGA/ INCOMA and their local partners did not pursue this outcome and, worse, failed to anticipate and/or stop the designation in 2017 of an urban development zone precisely in the area that was for years identified as the forest corridor linking the two PAs on Bioko.    This opportunity seems lost now, unless interested national and international parties are mobilised and intervene to still halt this development. Allegedly construction has already started. |
| Existence of MdePyMA field management unit for the Bioko Forest Corridor | No management authority has an effective presence on Bioko Island. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By 2012 MdePyMA has established a 5-person field management unit assigned to the Bioko Forest Corridor. | Law number 1/1997 on the use and management of forests in Equatorial Guinea protects National forest resources, which represent 80% of the mainland, in fact it is one of the most important sources of tax revenues and foreign exchange inflows, providing diverse opportunities for socio-economic development; these important aspects motivate the Government's concern for the formulation of new policies and mechanisms that ensure the perseverance, administration and sustainable management of these resources | While there are separate management units and associations for both Caldera de Luba PA and Pico basile PA, the Bioko Forest Corridor was never designated and hence also no field management unit was established for this area |
| **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): | 82.63% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 82.63% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,461,023 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 50,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,768,182 |
| Co-financing | 4,932,560 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Sep 15, 2008 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Apr 6, 2010 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Nov 23, 2010 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Apr 26, 2011 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Nov 23, 2012 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jul 31, 2017 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Nov 23, 2014 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Oct 31, 2017 |

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

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# 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.** |
| For more than a year, the project is operationally closed. No activity has been executed, so it is difficult to achieve the objectives if no activities are done. |

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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.** |
| During the year 2018, the project has not carried out a single activity, this situation is due to the lack of funding and the current status of the project: Operationally Closed. |

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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.** |
| For reference and to recall from prior PIRs: this 4-year FSP was GEF CEO endorsed in April 2010, and its PRODOC was signed in Nov 2010. Aftre years if delay, the MTR that would originally have been planned for 2012, was never engaged (to be reflected in a formal note to the file in UNDP). The project was granted several extensions, and its planned official closing date has for some time been 31 Dec 2017. Around $300K of the GEF had remained unused for a while. Over the two year the project was kept open for a while but then fizzled out, without work planning or requesting resources, without activities and without engaging the Terminal Evaluation. Unbeknownst to UNDP-GEF, the CO then closed the project operationally before the TE had been conducted. In mid-2019 a decision was taken to close the project cycle and engage the TE, for which the the project is being financially reopened. After completion of the TE, scheduled to happen by Dec 2019, the project will be closed again, and the remaining resources will be returned to the GEF. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has been closed for almost two years | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | There have been no activities because the project is closed | |
| **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 | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | THIS IS THE PROJECT’S FINAL PIR AND PREPARED ONLY TO COMPLY WITH GEF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – ALTHOUGH NO ACTIVITIES AT ALL WERE RECORDED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD. WHAT FOLLOWS THEREFORE IS JUST A VERY SLIGHTLY EDITED VERSION OF THE RTA’S 2018 ASSESSMENT.    This project has faced significant challenges during implementation on various fronts that have reduced its effectiveness and achievements. Some of this is an unfortunate accumulation of circumstances but others are more systemic. Shortly after GEF CEO Endorsement and PRODOC signature in 2010, the project faced the exit from the county of its supposed Implementing Partner, Conservation International. With no good alternative in sight, the project operated under a mix of direct implementation by UNDP, and national implementation through a sequence of different government ministries and agencies. The repeated changes in the latter were linked to the changes in ministerial structures proposed by the EU/CUREF project through the 2002 Law of the Environment, which have been gradually implemented over the last 15 years. The project was thus originally hosted under the then Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, shifting then to the new Ministry of Forests and Environment and then to the newly created shell of INCOMA (National Institute for Environmental Conservation) that hosts the GEF OFP and was as per the Law expected to become the national PA Agency. Yet it had no budget and staff, which it needed and obtained through this project. The project therefore for most of its duration and for historical and territoriality reasons side-lined the far more operationalised INDEFOR-AP which has since become and will remain the de facto national PA Agency. In addition, the UNDP Country Office in EG for much of the project’s lifetime had no environmental officer, undermining in-country oversight and troubleshooting. And lastly the RTAs involved from the regional UNDP-GEF until early 2017 structure did not speak Spanish and were too overloaded or unable to intervene in a decisive way.    Moreover, the project operated over much of its lifetime without an actual project team, apart from the years (2014-2016) when UNDP CO had hired an international CTA who pushed implementation working with INCOMA. In absence of a proper environment officer at UNDP CO, the CTA also stood in on this aspect, and then was forced to leave the project in December 2016 for procurement and audit related reasons. The CTA was not replaced. Afterwards, the project was overseen by a new staff at INCOMA who with all due respect did not have the capacity to lead and coordinate a UNDP-GEF project of this magnitude. This situation was flagged by the RTA as a Critical Risk yet not addressed by the project in its last active year.    In spite of all the problems and delays, there have been some results at both the systemic/national and local/field levels, and further results have been possible. To this end the RTA in 2017 suggested/requested an immediate transfer of the project to INDEFOR, given its greater capacity to deliver; this did however not happen.    IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS has been nil given that no resources were available to the project and no activities took place over the reporting period.    By June 2019 the project had delivered 1,461,023 (83%) of the total project’s grant of $1,768,182, leaving a balance of c. $307,159.    Regarding DO PROGRESS and OVERALL ASSESSMENT:    In relation to Outcome 1, on the development of a policy framework and strategy for the management of PAs, the project has delivered several significant improvements and met several project end targets, but some gaps remain. The new NBSAP developed by a UNEP GEF project is enabled through the project, and the operationalisation of the DG for Environment under the new MOFE created the requested coordinating body on environment with a competent DG. The government restructuring that went on throughout the project duration improved the institutional framework and clarified mandate issues, however the creation of the new agencies INDEFOR and INCOMA proposed by the 2002 Law for the Environment has given rise to new mandate issues that require further work. A new Law for the Environment is hence indeed required but not delivered. The public funds FONAMA and FONADEFO , equally proposed under the 2002 Environment law, were gradually operationalised during the last project years, with FONAMA especially releasing c $500K annually for environmental protection work in EG starting in 2017/2018; However only a portion of this will go to BD/PA Management, wherefore this is still far away from the required numbers. Over the last reporting period, the project supported government in the review if the hunting law, one of the pending items. The RTA rates achievement towards Outcome 1 as MS.    With regard to Outcome 2, on improved institutional and individual capacities for the management of PAs, the RTA rates achievement as MU. While there are no Capacity TT scores, significant work remains especially on institutional capacity, even though the individual technical capacity of senior staff in MOFE and its sub-agencies is already fairly high. Capacity development efforts by the project did not leave a significant legacy, even if training were organised by the CTA and Univ of Sevilla experts on PA system planning and management. Like with the capacity scores, no new METT scores or Financial Scorecard scores are available. Comprehensive PA management plans were drafted for the 5 target PAs, but management effectiveness in 3 of the 5 is bound to be little improved. Work on finances has been limited to increasing national treasury allocations to MOFE/INCOMA/INDEFOR, including via the two public funds FONAMA/FONADEFO, and with some success, and yet the resources mobilised do not meet project end targets.    Outcome 3, on the demonstration of sustainable PA management approaches in 3 pilot sites, is rated MU, as well. The main result here is the already-mentioned development of draft PA management plans for the 5 target PAs. However, the work on tourism, mitigation of crop damage from wildlife, and especially the Bioko Forest Corridor is largely a failure.    In relation to the Project Objective indicators, the results are mixed. The RAPPAM was not conducted at all. The above discussion relating to improvements in PA management effectiveness applies here too. The national budget allocation to the PA system saw an important increase - but would have had to be raised further. A strong outcome is the increase in PA area in the country since the project was designed and the indicators and targets formulated, to beyond the project target - however, before the 2017-2018 reporting period the government downgraded some PA areas to buffer zones, including on Bioko Island where the project was supposed to create the Bioko Forest Corridor, but where now a centre for urbanisation was designated (see 2017 PIR). The RTA rates achievement towards Outcome 1 as MU, downgraded from MS in 2017.    The final OVERALL ASSESSMENT of the project by the RTA remains MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY. | |

# 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** |
| **GEN3:** gender equality as a principle objective |

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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.** |
| Not applicable |

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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.** |
| Since the beginning , the Project has worked closely with the women artisans of Caldera de Luba PA, as well as with other women associations and with female ecoguards. No activities over the reporting though. |

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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.** |
| Not applicable |

# 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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# 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.)** |
| EG is a country of contrasts. The discovery and exploitation of oil and gas reserves from the mid 1990s led to an economic boom that catapulted the country’s GDP/capita amongst the 2-3 highest in Africa within 10-15 years. However unemployment remains high because the oil-dominated economy employs a small labour force dependent on skilled foreign workers. The agricultural sector, Equatorial Guinea’s main employer, deteriorated because of a lack of investment, and 60-70% of the population continues to live below the poverty line in rural conditions, engaged in subsistence farming and bush-meat hunting, i.e. directly dependent on natural resources. Equatorial Guinea is also one of least populated countries in continental Africa, with around 1.2m in 2015, and yet the country’s forests have been exploited and degraded at large scale by logging operations that have left little local benefit. Forest degradation and the concurrent loss of wildlife reduce the availability of the resources that local communities depend on.    Besides the project’s systemic national work, the project at local level intends to introduce notions of sustainability in the subsistence activities of local communities. This will ensure that the natural resources these communities rely on remain available into the future. Where the project will enhance protection efforts limiting the access for instance to threatened wildlife species for bush-meat hunters, alternative livelihood options will be promoted in compensation that include the breeding of domestic livestock or domesticated bush-meat species, a sustainable use of non-timber forest products, or work for the actual PA as forest/eco guard. Work to empower women through dedicated gender actions is expected to open significant development opportunities at community level that will also make communities less reliant on natural resources. |

**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.** |
| The project and government are working with PAs in neighbouring Cameroon and Gabon towards implementing trans-boundary protected areas systems, using lessons learned and experiences from Costa Rica especially.    Internet connection on the country is weak which creates a major barrier to effective online communication. Some links are provided:    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVFlF1R1AUQ  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18-gJXep6d8&amp;feature=youtu.be  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LARC2aGV2So&amp;feature=youtu.be  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zvsqUNt6ws&amp;feature=youtu.be |

# 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.

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| **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 |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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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?** |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [4185 EG PA CEO Endorsement resubmission\_10Feb10.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4185/213140/1652401/1652696/4185%20EG%20PA%20CEO%20Endorsement%20resubmission_10Feb10.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.** |
| EcoGuinea, WCS and the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Programme BBPP are all local contractors/ implementing partners in charge of specific activities in the targeted PAs covered by the project, receiving GEF resources and/or using their own resources including from other donors.    ANDEGE functions primarily as a consultancy arm for national conservationists in EG, including some government staff , and providing expertise such as on wildlife surveys or PA management plans.    ADELO, AMAD, ASAMA and TOMAGE are local NGOs involved in parallel community work in support of PA management    A number of oil companies active in EG - Marathon, Noble Energy, Hess, etc. - have provided financing for biodiversity conservation work through local and international NGOs. This includes WCS in Rio Campo NP, EcoGuinea in Pico Basile PA and BBPP in Caldera de Luba PA    University of Equatorial Guinea (UNIGE) s the leading university in EG, and it supports the project and its partners with researchers, volunteers, qualified project team members, M&amp;E capacity such as on primate surveys.    The Universities of Sevilla and Cordoba (Spain) provided experts hired by the project to develop the 5 PA management plans, prepare human-wildlife conflict management schemes, and provide capacity development training on PA management.    Drexel University is the lead foreign university which has been behind the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Programme BBPP for decades, working closely with UNIGE. It finances (fundraises for) and oversee the BBPP core team, trains staff and students, and provides students and volunteers for research and patrolling in the Caldera de Luba PA including its primate reserve and the sea turtle nesting beaches; and it also provides staffing for the Mokha Wildlife Centre there. |

# 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.