

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Integrated & Transboundary Conservation IWT**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5612 |
| GEF ID | 9159 |
| Title | Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo |
| Country(ies) | Congo, Congo |
| 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** |
| Congo is home to one of the richest, most biologically important and intact-forest ecosystems on the planet. These areas are home to a diverse range of rare and endangered mammals, insects and plants Â forest elephants, chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, leopards, bongo antelope and others. The Congolese area within the MinkÃ©bÃ©-Odzala-Dja Inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon, also known as the TRIDOM zone, is a key IWT hub. This area and its biodiversity are threatened by IWT, especially by bush meat and ivory poaching. Its forests are target for poachers and its roads and towns constitute a transit route for trafficked wildlife from Central African Republic (CAR), Congo Republic and Gabon. Local people accrue little of the benefits, watch their natural resources being depleted, and they face compromised security in their daily lives. They feel disempowered in the face of criminal elites leading IWT. The long-term solution proposed by the project aims to protect unique biodiversity of Congo and the TRIDOM area in particular via i) a strategy for strengthening the PA network through expansion of protected areas, effective functional zoning to incorporate sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, and integrative management planning; ii) strengthening capacity for effective PA and Illegal Wildlife Trade governance in Congo; and iii) reducing poaching and illegal trade on threatened species via CBNRM and sustainable livelihood. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| Programme Associate | Ms. Lela Fikrou (lela.fikrou@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Mr. Alain Noel AMPOLO (alain.ampolo@undp.org) |
| CO Focal Point | Mr. Lumière Jean Felix Issang (jean-felix.issang@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Maurice Niangou (cetiniangou@gmail.com) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Jean Bosco NGANONGO (nganongojb@gmail.com) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

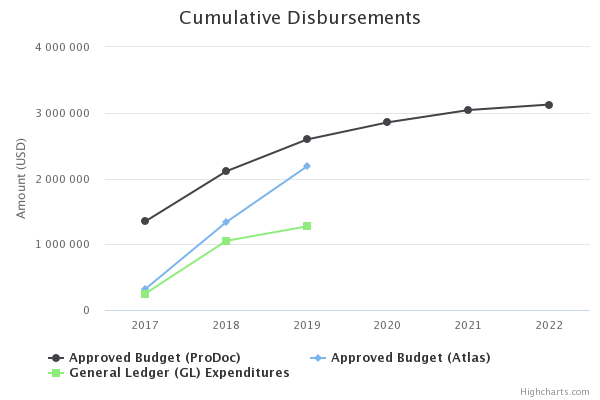
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in the basins of the Republic of Congo by improving biodiversity enforcement** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Mandatory Indicator 1: Number of new partnership mechanisms for financing sustainable management solutions natural resources, ecosystem services at local, national and sub regional (IRRF 1.3.1.) | 0 | 3 | 3 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At this stage of the project, no new partnership mechanisms have been set up to finance sustainable natural resource management solutions and ecosystem services at the local, national and subregional levels. However, discussions are underway with the ministry responsible for forest economy and several forest concessionaires (including IFO, SIFCO and SEFID) on financing sustainable natural resource management solutions through income-generating activities (IGAs). |
| Mandatory Indicator 2: a) Total number (%) of people (m/f) benefiting from CBWM, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and small business development in the project areas (IRRF 1.3.2)  b) Number of beneficiaries with access to renewable energy and energy efficiency through electric power from solar energy (IRRF 1.5.2) | a) 115 (f: 63/m:52),~1% of the population in the project area          b) 800 (f:440/m:360) | a) 4,000  (f: 2,800/m:1,200), 33% of the population in the project area        b) 1,500  (f: 1050/m:450) | a)8,000 (f:5,600/m:2,400), 67% of the population in the project area        b)3,000 (f:2,100/m:900) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 227 farmers (men and women), including youth and indigenous populations, were identified to receive financial support to develop IGAs in the project area. However, with the suspension of activities in the field, gender-disaggregated data are not available.    At this stage of the project, no beneficiary has access to renewable energy and energy efficiency via electricity from solar energy. However, the project team is advocating with the government to obtain expanded access to electricity for the populations. |
| Mandatory Indicator 3: Extent to which institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems (IRRF 2.5.1):  a) National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit;  b) National IWT Enforcement Strategy | a) None    b) None | a) officially established  b) approved by Government | a) Fully operational    b) Implemented | *(not set or not applicable)* | No institution has been set up to date. Actions under this indicator will be carried out in 2020. |
| Populations of forest elephant (a) and gorilla (b) in the project area | a) 20,000  b) 26,000    (2016) | a) 20,000  b) 26,000 | a) 20,000  b) 26,000 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No survey has been conducted to date that can provide data under this indicator.    NA |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Expanded PA network and improved management effectiveness of PAs in the Congo Basin, specifically Odzala-Kokoua, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, and Messok Dja, an area of 2,667,160 ha** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Total area (ha):    (a) covered by PAs/% of Aichi target for Congo, including officially Messok Dja NP, and functioning zones for three target PAs  (b) under implemented Integrated Management Plans | a) 1,389,600/70%  b) 0 | a) 2,100,380/83%    b) 1,533,600 | a) 2,667,160/96%    b) 2,667,160 | *(not set or not applicable)* | The process has begun, but the land area baseline level has not changed. |
| METT score for targeted PAs | PNOK: 68  SGL : 25 | PNOK: 83  SGL: 50 | PNOK : 93  SGL: 75 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No change at this time. The METT score has not been evaluated again. A new evaluation will be conducted in 2020. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Biodiversity and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) priorities are integrated into key national policies and plans and harmonized with regional initiatives** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Capacity of National Enforcement Agencies to control IWT (UNDP Capacity scorecard, %) | 49% | 60% | 80% | *(not set or not applicable)* | The national enforcement agencies’ capacity to control IWT remains weak. Given the lack of material and financial resources, the situation is unlikely to change. The IWT control reference level has not changed since the project began. Capacities remain below 50%. |
| Results of law enforcement on IWT in the project area in 2016:  1. annual number of inspections/patrolling;  2. annual number seizures;  3. annual number of arrests;  4. annual number of successful prosecutions on poaching and IWT | 1. 420    2. 102    3. 98      4. 32 | 1. 504    2. 122    3. 118      4. 46 | 1. 588    2. 142    3. 137    4. 56 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Number of annual inspections/patrols: 955  2. Annual number of seizures:  - Ivory: 33  - Weapons: 166  3. Annual number of arrests: 169  4. Annual number of successful poaching and IWT prosecutions: 59 |
| Poaching rate for forest elephants in the project area (individuals killed annually) | 28 (2016) | 16 | 8 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Number of poached forest elephants in the project area (individuals killed annually): 22 |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Strengthened sustainable livelihood capacity in the targeted PA complexes** | | | | | | |
| **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 hotspots under effective community-based poaching prevention and control | 10 | 20 | 50 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 21 hotspots subject to community-based poaching prevention and control were identified but are not yet operational. |
| Number of direct biodiversity-friendly jobs created in the result of the project activities: Total (f/m) | 0 | 500 (f: 350/m:150) | 1,000 (f: 700/m: 300 ), ~8% of the population in the project area | *(not set or not applicable)* | Several categories of actors have been identified to date and are awaiting start-up of activities. They include:  - 129 community eco-monitors for ongoing community monitoring of elephant and/or gorilla clearings and salt licks;  - 76 people likely to grow food crops;  -- 17 people likely to breed sheep, goats and pigs;  - 2 people likely to practice inland fishing;  - 4 apiaries with a total of 150 hives to be distributed among 30 family groups, in four village lands (terroirs villageois) around Odzala-Kokoua National Park. |
| Total area under CBNRM (ha) and sustainable land management | 0 | 566,780 | 1,133,560 | *(not set or not applicable)* | This land area will be estimated when all data collected in the lands selected are pooled. |
| Total volume of CO2 mitigated in the project area as per the GEF GWP TT (tCO2eq) | 0 | 5,000,000 | 11,380,000 | *(not set or not applicable)* | This figure is not available; the reference level remains 0. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E, including gender mainstreaming practices, are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community-based conservation nationally and internationally** | | | | | | |
| **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 the lessons on IWT control and CBNRM learned by the project that used in other national and international projects | 0 | 5 | 10 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No lessons to cite at this stage of the project. The experience with establishing the sniffer dog brigade in the project area will provide statistical data in coming months. |
| % of women among the project participants directly benefiting from the project activities | 2% | 30% | 50% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Based on identification, the number of women beneficiaries exceeds 30% of the population concerned. |
| **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): | 40.7% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 49.04% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,272,042 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 150,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,125,250 |
| Co-financing | 20,682,400 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jun 9, 2017 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Oct 6, 2017 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 12, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 31, 2020 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Mar 31, 2023 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Mar 31, 2023 |
| 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)** |
| 2018-10-28 |
| 2019-01-18 |
| 2019-04-02 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Operational | The operational risk facing the project involves the delay in executing the activities that occurred 2019. This delay is related to the pending publication of the mission report of the UNDP Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) of the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The mission was organized following a complaint filed by the NGO, Survival, on behalf of the Baka people, alleging failure to comply with UNDP social and environmental standards.    After the mission issues its recommendations, measures will be taken and the project activities will get underway. However, the project team, UNDP and headquarters have agreed on a limited number of upstream activities that will be carried out pending publication of the SECU report. |
| Financial | The delay in executing the project activities could reduce the expected delivery rate and may prevent all budgeted resources from being used in 2019. |

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

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

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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 is on hold pending the outcome of the SECU Investigation into compliance with UNDP SES further to the complaint lodged by Survival International.    The investigation is highly sensitive where it relates to additional allegations made against project partner, WWF, alleging serious human rights abuses. Evidence continues to emerge for consideration by the investigating team and at this stage, the Report has not yet been published.    Continuing delays in publication of the Report will likely have significant consequences for project implementation and delivery over the course of the next year including the MTR. In addition, once the Report is published, depending on the Recommendations and the Administrator's decision as to whether to continue the project or not, the project will require reorientation towards compliance with UNDP's SES and repositioning in terms of key partnerships to support future implementation. |

# 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 activities that were to have been carried out in line with the workplan could not be implemented because they were suspended temporarily following the complaint submitted by the NGO, Survival. The late positioning of the ASL (April 2019) contributed to the delay in execution.    The project is preparing for all the implementation actions by holding a meeting of the steering committee in December 2019 and launching the activities in January 2020.    After the problems that arose during the project’s first year of implementation, a new social and environmental evaluation will be conducted to recalibrate the risks and identify mitigation measures. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Progress is deemed to be moderately satisfactory because the project did not achieve the desired results for the reporting period. The delay in receiving the project’s ASL in March for 2018 and April for 2019 is one reason why the activities could not be implemented in the field following the timeline. In addition, this year’s project activities have been suspended since March 2019 for reasons related to publication of the SECU investigation report.    Project implementation involves the technical partners; the field activities are executed in conjunction with them. The agreement among UNDP, the Fondation Odzala-Kokoua (FOK) and WWF was not signed until April 2018 and implementation of activities in the field began in July 2018. With the resources that UNDP provided, FOK and WWF worked only half of the year (July-December 2018). The scheduled activities were thus executed only partially. Since the beginning of 2019, the project has not been able to carry out any activities that would move it forward towards achieving the expected results. However, the project team and the national stakeholder are ready to relaunch the activities as soon as the suspension is lifted.    The risks address primarily the delay in executing the activities in 2019. It is possible that the project will not be able to meet the targets identified for years 2 and 3. The next steps should include conducting a social and environmental evaluation in the project’s intervention area. Measurement tools should be developed to help prevent social risks and conflicts in the project’s sensitive areas (areas addressed in the complaints).    An action plan addressing aspects that are not on track is being developed. Regular monitoring is conducted to accelerate the actions necessary to improve project execution. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The GEF operational focal point monitored the project activities from end-to-end during the reporting period and collaborated closely with the project team. An extraordinary meeting of the steering committee was held to provide uniform information to the committee’s members regarding the temporary suspension of project activities pending issuance of the SECU mission report. Because activities were suspended, the expected results could not be achieved. The GEF operational focal point would like the activities to start as soon as possible to avoid delays in terms of the timeline presented in the ProDoc. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project could not carry out its activities as agreed in the ProDoc and with the steering committee because activities were suspended in response to a complaint and the subsequent SECU mission. It would be preferable to resolve the problem quickly so that the activities that have not been carried out in the area addressed in the complaint are implemented in order to achieve the expected results. | |
| **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 | On 4, 5 and 8 March 2019, the online news outlet BuzzFeed published a three-part investigative report on allegations of serious human rights abuses committed by park rangers funded by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in five countries—Nepal, India, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). The Kathmandu Post published its own investigation on 3 March 2019. The Guardian piece was published on 7 March 2019. On 8 March 2019, it was announced that Britain’s charity watchdog would launch an investigation into WWF UK, citing concerns that WWF had provided salaries, training and weapons to paramilitary forces implicated in atrocities against indigenous communities. This was picked up in the mainstream media (Guardian; Reuters) and other platforms in early April 2019. On 17 May 2019, a new article featured on a German news web site titled ‘Nature projects marred by human rights violations’ with a focus on WWF. On 11 July 2019, a new Buzzfeed article titled ‘WWF-backed Guards Raped Pregnant Women and Tortured Villagers at a Wildlife Park Funded by the US Government’ in DRC was released.    While none of the Buzzfeed articles mention UNDP or GEF, nor reference UNDP-supported projects, UNDP has programmed GEF biodiversity funds in these countries and has some active projects in collaboration with WWF. Two of these GEF-financed projects – in Republic of Congo and Cameroon – are currently being investigated by UNDP’s Social and Environmental Compliance Unit and the investigation reports are expected very soon. Once made public, these reports could be picked up by the press in connection with the WWF issues mentioned above, which could pose serious reputational risks to UNDP. Specifically, the third BuzzFeed article of March 8, 2019, highlighted WWF-led activities in the Messok Dja Park in the Republic of Congo, which are suspected of repressing indigenous peoples by Park rangers.    This UNDP-supported GEF-financed “Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo” project started implementation in October 2017; this is the first PIR. It is the phase II project of the GEF financed UNDP TRIDOM regional Project (GEF ID 1095), which was implemented between 2008 and 2015. WWF also served as an execution partner and received $720,000 to support activities carried out in Gabon, Cameroon, and Republic of Congo from July 2011 to March 2014. This latest project aims to protect the unique biodiversity of Republic of Congo and the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area, and supports creation of a new protected area in Messok Dja in an indigenous Baka community area. This area is the focus of the third BuzzFeed article. The project also targets 3 other PAs for site level action: Odzala-Kokoua National Park, 1,354,600 ha; Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, 35,000 ha; and proposed Messok Dja National Park, 144,000 ha. WWF is also a co-financier and an implementer on the ground in this project. An MOU between the UNDP CO and WWF was signed in October 2017, followed by an LOA in April 2018. Per that LOA, project funds have been transferred from UNDP to WWF for certain project activities including community consultations, provision of anti-poaching equipment, and support for ecoguard patrols. The MOU was signed in 2017 for US$32,400 USD and the LOA in 2018 for $180,000.    SECU Investigation: A complaint against the project was filed by Survival International in August 2018, along with the complaint against the Cameroon project (see SECU Case Registry) and other closed projects including a World Bank project. The complainants claim that there was no proper consultation process including FPIC and the project would unlawfully evict Baka communities, and expressed human rights concerns. The SECU investigation mission was conducted in February at the same time as the mission to Cameroon for the above case.    [In parallel, the UNDP CO directly received a second similar complaint (related to FPIC) on 26 February 2019 (detailed in Annex 2.a.), pertaining to a field mission in December 2018 undertaken by the Fondation Odzala-Kokoua (FOK) under the auspices of an Agreement with UNDP to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park (PNOK) and the Park’s periphery. FOK went ahead with this mission before receipt of the letter informing them about temporary suspension of project activities. This mission took place after the SI complaint was determined eligible. The letter of complaint was duly sent to SECU as well. The UNDP CO has informed SECU about the new complaint. Discussions on how to respond to this complaint are ongoing and will be informed by any response from SECU.]    In light of the serious allegations detailed above and concerns related to the partnership with WWF following the Buzzfeed exposés, and following a post-mission briefing by SECU with the RR, the UNDP GEF team held a call with the CO and project team to discuss next steps.    Based on this call, the Executive Coordinator sent a letter to the RR dated 11 March 2019 (see Annex 2.b.) stating that all field-level consultation and related project activities in the field should be temporarily suspended until the SECU investigation report has been finalised and the UNDP Administrator issues his decision on the case; and the LOA with WWF and all activities that WWF may be taking in relation to this project have also been suspended temporarily (under Article 21).    The RR took immediate action to issue letters to the Implementing Partner, GEF Operational Focal Point, Project Steering Committee and WWF to inform them of these measures. The project is now formally on hold until further notice.    In summary, UNDP-GEF action taken so far:    • Full temporary suspension of project work in Republic of Congo with immediate effect until the SECU reports are finalized and the Administrator’s decisions are made. This has already been communicated to RRs and CO teams via official letter dated 11 March 2019 from HQ under Pradeep’s signature. Relevant correspondence can be found in Annex 2.a.  • Temporary suspension of the LOA with WWF and all activities that WWF may be undertaking in relation to the project in Republic of Congo. See Annex 2.a. for details of Congo CO correspondence with WWF. The WWF LOA and MOU are available as separate files.  • On 20 June 2019, UNDP Republic of Congo requested to undertake a select number of project activities foreseen under the project’s 2019 Annual Work Plan. These included high-level activities under the following Outputs: 1.2.2. Elaboration of documents for the establishment of functional areas of Protected Areas (conservation and protection series and corridors); 1.2.4. Implementation of the roadmap leading to the revitalization of the MAB National Committee; 1.4.4. Development of the code of good conduct of eco-guards; GWP. Organize TRIDOM II project alignment indicator intelligence activities on GWP platform components; and 3.1.2. Reproduction and popularization of the toolbox. These activities were authorised to proceed on 27 June 2019. The CO also asked permission to pursue the following related activities: 1.2.3. Organization of awareness / validation meetings for zoning approval by communities, Government and other stakeholders in other areas not under investigation; 3.1.2. Development of appropriate training programs; 3.1.2. Implementation of microprojects in developed village areas, taking into account the gender aspect and vulnerable people; 3.1.3. Support to local communities and their organizations for the development of pilot projects in community-based natural resource management, SLM and SFM in the project area accompanied by appropriate business plans (Aliéni, Abela); and 3.1.4. Monitoring the management of the 23 village terroirs and equipment of the monitoring team. None of these activities would be undertaken with WWF or in contentious zones. However, the request to proceed with this second set of activities was declined by Pradeep, on the basis that it would be best to wait until the SECU report is released before additional and higher profile activities are undertaken. He confirmed that we should adopt a conservative approach in this case given that it is very serious and poses a significant reputation risk to UNDP and GEF. Further to the authorisation of the first set of activities, on 5 July 2019, the CO sent a letter to the Ministry of Forest Economy informing that certain activities would be restarted, as agreed with UNDP HQ, while waiting for publication of the SECU report.  • The GEF Small Grants Programme has an active portfolio in the TRIDOM landscape. Five grants were allocated before the SI allegations in the department of Sangha, of which 0.5 units concern a village area located in the conflict zone, while the remaining 4.5 units are outside the conflict zone. Similarly, in the neighboring department of Cuvette West, two grants were awarded. Implementation is under way as normal and beneficiaries are waiting for the second tranches of these grants. The latest SGP Steering Committee took place on 7 June 2019 and awarded new grants: one for the urban center of Ouesso (the main town in the Department of Sangha) and three others in village lands in the Department of the West Cuvette. This amounts to eleven SGP projects in the TRIDOM Landscape. SGP activities, especially those active in the contested area, are being managed according to UNDP’s Social and Environmental Safeguards, at high risk given the context of the work with Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights, among other issues.  • In light of the SECU investigations and SI allegations, the project’s Steering Committee has recommended that membership should include representation of indigenous communities to support more effective and transparent decision-making; and closer monitoring and oversight of project activities. The project team is also planning to: establish a system of registers at central project level of sub-prefectures and/or target villages to record cases of litigation around wildlife and human-wildlife conflicts; develop a partnership with credible NGOs led by indigenous peoples for better representation and engagement in project delivery; work with Govt to engage indigenous peoples in ecoguard patrols; and mediate between Government and conservation NGOs to observe human rights in nature conservation. Lessons learned are being compiled to guide future project implementation and will ensure better communication and interaction with beneficiaries, development of an effective stakeholder consultation and grievance mechanism and transparent governance.    Next steps:    • Once the SECU reports are released for fact-check, the UNDP-GEF team will provide comments on the draft report and liaise with the GEF.  • Regional Bureau will liaise with BERA on actions to take with the media once the SECU report is made publicly available. UNDP-GEF Unit can support.  • UNDP-GEF Unit, Regional Bureau and EXO: Will convene to discuss the SECU report recommendations and next steps.    The SECU investigation has necessarily slowed implementation of the project during the reporting period at every level. Implementation of all Components is delayed and efforts to achieve key project milestones on time are off track. Delivery has slowed significantly since suspension of field activities. Once the outcome of the SECU investigation and the consequent recommendations are known, it is likely that the project will require major adaptive management to reorient towards compliance with UNDP’s SES and to reposition key partnerships to support further implementation of the project (if it is to continue).    For this reason, an overall rating of Moderately Unsatisfactory is justified at this stage. | |

# 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: Yes |
| 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.** |
| NA |

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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.** |
| The project has not achieved results to date that would address this question. However, gender-specific needs were included in the process of identifying the beneficiaries. |

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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 process used to select beneficiaries to develop IGAs in the project’s intervention area prioritised the inclusion of and consultation with women. Women chose to conduct agricultural activities and small-scale trade in agricultural products, while men chose to fish (in certain areas), keep bees or conduct continuous monitoring of clearings and salt licks. |

# 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?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| The project identified a conflict between local indigenous populations and park rangers. Poor communication between the two groups could lead to troubled relationships which could, in turn, delay implementation of anti-poaching activities.    To mitigate this risk, the project, in partnership with the Ministry for Forest Economy, is developing a good conduct code to set out the rangers’ responsibilities towards local populations. |

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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.** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| Yes. The project will be repositioned to High Risk in accordance with UNDP's SES Policy following complaints relating to alleged human rights abuses of local indigenous populations in the project areas. |

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| **SESP:** [SESP.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5612/215377/1708511/1709990/SESP.docx)  **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.** |
| An ESIA and ESMP will be put in place following publication of the SECU Investigation Report (in line with the project's revised High Risk rating), which will provide clear recommendations and directives related to the future management of this project. A strong focus on effective engagement of local indigenous populations is recommended if and when the project restarts. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| With support from the NGO, Survival International, a complaint was filed by the indigenous populations living in the area covered by the project and where WWF was conducting project activities. The complaint focused on the allegations of abuse by park rangers towards local indigenous populations. A SECU investigation has been undertaken to verify these allegations. The investigation’s report has not yet been published. Pending its publication, all of the activities planned for this area have been suspended. |

# 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.)** |
| NA |

**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.** |
| NA |

# 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 |
| Yes |

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

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

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 5612 Congo Republic CEO Endorsement Request 240517 for resubmission.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5612/215377/1695109/1695390/PIMS%205612%20Congo%20Republic%20CEO%20Endorsement%20Request%20240517%20for%20resubmission.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.** |
| WWF is a co-financier and an implementer on the ground in this project. An MOU between the UNDP CO and WWF was signed in October 2017, followed by an LOA in April 2018. Per that LOA, project funds have been transferred from UNDP to WWF for certain project activities including community consultations, provision of anti-poaching equipment, and support for ecoguard patrols. The partnership is now suspended while the SECU investigation takes place. |

# 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.