



## The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)

### Part I: Program Information

**GEF ID**

10208

**Program Type**

PFD

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**Program Title**

The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)

**Countries**

Regional, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

**Agency(ies)**

UNEP, IUCN, UNDP, World Bank, WWF-US

Other Executing Partner(s)	Executing Partner Type
Governments of participating countries, ECCAS, COMIFAC, CEFDHAC, REPALEAC, ITTTA	Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Forest, Congo, Forest and Landscape Restoration, REDD - REDD+, Biodiversity, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Wetlands, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Threatened Species, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Ceritification - International Standards, Fisheries, Extractive Industries, Tourism, Certification -National Standards, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Forest, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Private Sector, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Capital providers, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Targeted Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Knowledge Exchange

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

72 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

5,148,101

**Program Commitment DeadlineSubmission Date**

12/14/2020

4/8/2019

**Impact Program**IP-Food-Land-Restoration **No**IP-Sustainable Cities **No**IP-Sustainable Forest Management Amazon **No**IP-Sustainable Forest Management Congo **Yes**IP-Sustainable Forest Management Drylands **No**Other Program **No**

## A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Expected Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IP SFM Congo	Landscapes and marine habitat under improved management (excluding protected areas) Terrestrial habitat under improved conservation and sustainable use (million hectares) Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of CO2e) Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)	GET	57,201,127	387,383,108
<b>Total Program Cost (\$)</b>			<b>57,201,127</b>	<b>387,383,108</b>

## B. Indicative Project description summary

### Program Objective

To catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnerships with the private sector.

Program Component	Financing Type	Program Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Land use in transboundary landscapes is in line with ILUMPs (integrated land use management plans) that: (i) fully involve local communities, and forest-dependent peoples, (ii) encompass protected and production areas, as well as wildlife corridors, (iii) integrate tools for valuing natural capital (e.g., natural capital accounting, economic valuation of ecosystem services), (iv) account for future threats such as climate change, industrial agriculture, and infrastructure expansion, and (v) align with local economic development plans.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in area covered by ILUMPs for targeted transboundary landscapes</li> <li>- Increase in number of women participating in design of ILUMPs</li> <li>- Increase in score of key institutions in participating countries as measured by a (to be developed) Capacity Development Scorecard for integrated land use planning</li> <li>- Increase in public and private financing resources for SFM/SLM</li> </ul>	GET	10,736,526	79,697,898

Component 2: Long-term viability of forests and area-based management of critical high conservation value forest providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	Investment	<p>2.1 Connectivity between forested areas and/or biodiversity-rich protected areas is increased, and wildlife management, governance, and management effectiveness of existing protected areas are improved, in collaboration with local communities and forest-dependent peoples.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in area of forest land tagged as connecting corridors where exhaustive forest uses are curtailed</li> <li>- Stable/increasing population sizes of African Elephant, Bonobo, Chimpanzee and Gorilla in the protected areas at program sites</li> <li>- Number of communities participating in protected area management and forest restoration measures; and share of women's participation within these communities</li> <li>- Increase in protected areas management effectiveness (METT) score for program sites</li> </ul>	GET	13,427,013	86,127,933
Component 3: Sustainable use of forests by local communities and forest dependent people through strengthening of rights and tenure, and sustainable management of production sector activities	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 Sustainable forest-related value chains promoted by empowering local communities, forest dependent people, and partnering with the private sector.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in area under integrated SFM practices</li> <li>- Increase in number of forest dependent and local community members (gender disaggregated reporting) engaged in alternative biodiversity-positive enterprises (e.g., sustainable tourism, production of biodiversity-positive labelled commodity production, sustainable timber)</li> <li>- Qualitative indicator of empowered forest dependent people and local communities</li> <li>- Official commitments from private sector companies (i.e., forestry, oil, mining concessions) to deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production practices in areas identified as ecologically sensitive by the ILUMPs</li> <li>- Increase in investments by private sector companies in conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Congo Basin</li> </ul>	GET	22,378,804	154,281,154

Component 4: Capacity building, knowledge management, and regional cooperation	Technical Assistance	<p>4.1 Improved national and regional inter-agency coordination on efforts to maintain forest resources, protect biodiversity, enhance forest management, and restore forest ecosystems through enhanced knowledge, technology exchange and financing</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of transboundary or bilateral agreements on program related topics</li> <li>- Additional partnerships catalyzed for conservation of the Congo Basin through a platform bringing together leading private sector companies in the Congo Basin for deforestation-free commodity supply chains</li> <li>- Instances of south-south cooperation/information exchange with the 2 other biomes identified by the GEF's SFM IP (Amazon, Drylands)</li> </ul>	GET	7,936,976	45,584,656
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**Sub Total (\$)** 54,479,319 365,691,641

**Program Management Cost (PMC) ⓘ**

GET 2,721,808 21,691,467

**Sub Total(\$)** 2,721,808 21,691,467

**Total Program Cost(\$)** 57,201,127 387,383,108

## C. Co-Financing for the Program by Source, by Name and by Type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Government	Government of Cameroon	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,800,000
Government	Government of Cameroon	Grant	Investment mobilized	69,336,126
GEF Agency	WWF US	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,125,127
CSO	WWF Cameroon	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,688,000
CSO	Various (LZS, AWF, IUCN, TRAFFIC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000
Government	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	672,000
Government	Ministry of Forest Economy	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,785,714
Government	Ministry of Internal Affairs and decentralization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	35,000
Government	Ministry of Justice and Rights of Indigenous People	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000
Government	Ministry of Finance	Grant	Investment mobilized	22,706,000

Government	Ministry of Scientific Research	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,785,714
GEF Agency	UNEP/Global Peatlands Initiative/German International Climate Initiative (IKI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,240,000
GEF Agency	UNDP (community based peatland management in LT)	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
CSO	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,232,142
CSO	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,571,428
Others	WRI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	892,857
Private Sector	CIB-OLAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,250,000
Private Sector	IFO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,250,000
Others	WTO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	550,000
Others	IREF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Others	Université Marien Ngouabi	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Others	Geography Research Center of Congo (CRGEC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Others	CNIAF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	450,000

Government	Congolese Agency of Wildlife and Protected Areas (ACFAP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Others	GIZ	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Others	KfW	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Others	French FFEM	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Government	Government of Equatorial Guinea (Ministry, INCOMA, INDEFOR, etc)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	32,000,000
GEF Agency	IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
Others	UNOPs	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Donor Agency	CAFI	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Others	CI, FAO, WWF, CIFOR, WCS	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000
Donor Agency	AfDB/PACEPCo	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
Donor Agency	European Union	Grant	Investment mobilized	38,350,000
Others	CAFI	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,980,000

CSO	Conservation Justice	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,016,000
Others	GRASP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,050,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	10,000,000
Others	UNEP -WCMC	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,567,000
GEF Agency	World Bank PARSA	Loans	Investment mobilized	56,000,000
GEF Agency	World Bank CAFI	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,000,000
Donor Agency	WWF-FAO (CAFI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	10,000,000
Donor Agency	WWF (SIDA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000
Donor Agency	WWF (DGD)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000
CSO	CSO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Government	Government contribution	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,000,000
Donor Agency	World Bank (International Development Association)	Grant	Investment mobilized	10,000,000
Donor Agency	World Bank (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility)	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,800,000

Donor Agency	World Bank (Central African Forest Initiative)	Grant	Investment mobilized	700,000
Donor Agency	French Development Agency	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,000,000
Donor Agency	World Wide Fund for Nature	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,000,000
Donor Agency	CAFI	Grant	Investment mobilized	18,400,000
Donor Agency	AFD	Grant	Investment mobilized	11,300,000
Donor Agency	USFWS	Grant	Investment mobilized	15,000,000
Government	Government of Gabon	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000
Private Sector	Industries	Unknown at this stage	Recurrent expenditures	9,000,000
GEF Agency	Global Program for Sustainability (WAVES)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000
<b>Total Program Cost(\$)</b>				<b>387,383,108</b>

#### Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investments mobilized were mainly identified through ongoing World Bank and CAFI-funded projects, collaborative initiatives from other donor agencies, and Government agencies' projects and initiatives where the costs were budgeted for (other than recurrent costs).

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,405,505	576,495	6,982,000
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	3,202,752	288,248	3,491,000
World Bank	GET	Central African Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,540,106	228,610	2,768,716
World Bank	GET	Central African Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,334,776	120,130	1,454,906
World Bank	GET	Central African Republic	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,196,372	107,673	1,304,045
World Bank	GET	Central African Republic	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	2,535,627	228,206	2,763,833
World Bank	GET	Congo DR	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	9,174,312	825,688	10,000,000
World Bank	GET	Congo DR	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	4,587,156	412,844	5,000,000
IUCN	GET	Equatorial Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,784,862	160,638	1,945,500
IUCN	GET	Equatorial Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	892,432	80,318	972,750
IUCN	GET	Equatorial Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	892,431	80,319	972,750
IUCN	GET	Equatorial Guinea	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	1,784,862	160,638	1,945,500
World Bank	GET	Gabon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,771,189	249,407	3,020,596
World Bank	GET	Gabon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	803,243	72,292	875,535
World Bank	GET	Gabon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	803,243	72,292	875,535

World Bank	GET	Gabon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	2,188,838	196,995	2,385,833
UNEP	GET	Regional	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	8,192,366	737,313	8,929,679
UNEP	GET	Congo	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,282,544	205,429	2,487,973
UNEP	GET	Congo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	894,535	80,508	975,043
UNEP	GET	Congo	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	896,958	80,726	977,684
UNEP	GET	Congo	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	2,037,018	183,332	2,220,350
<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>					<b>57,201,127</b>	<b>5,148,101</b>	<b>62,349,228</b>

## Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use 

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7,064,493.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created 

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Adjacent to Odzala –Kokoua			100,000.00			

Minkébé-Djoua

500,000.00

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness 

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,464,493.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF) 	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) 	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) 	Total Ha (Achieved at TE) 	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
		National Park							
		National Park							
		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources							

Protected area with  
sustainable use of  
natural resources

Protected area with  
sustainable use of  
natural resources

Protected area with  
sustainable use of  
natural resources

Altos de Nsork	20268	National Park	70,000.00
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Campo Ma'an	1242	National Park	260,944.00
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Ivindo NP	303873	National Park	300,000.00
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Kahuzi- Biega	4328	National Park	600,000.00
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Lac Télé Community Reserve	313494	Habitat/Species Management Area	438,960.00
Lobéké	1245	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	217,854.00
Lossi Gorilla Reserves (TRIDOM)	300342	Habitat/Species Management Area	35,000.00
Mbaéré- Bodingué National Park	317281	National Park	96,000.00
Minkebe National Park	72324	National Park	757,000.00
Monte Allen	20267	National Park	200,000.00

Monts de Cristal	306237	National Park	120,000.00
Mwagna National Park		National Park	116,000.00
Ngiri triangle		Protected Landscape/Seascape	540,000.00
NKI	30674	National Park	312,965.00
Nouabalé – Ndoki National Park	72332	National Park	423,870.00
Ntokou-Pikounda National Park	354010	National Park	427,200.00

Odzala - Kokoua National Park	643	National Park	1,354,600.00
Rio Campo National Reserve	313361	Habitat/Species Management Area	35,500.00
Rio Muni National Reserve		Habitat/Species Management Area	70,000.00
Tayna natural reserve	317056	Protected Landscape/Seascape	88,600.00

**Indicator 3 Area of land restored** ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored** ⓘ

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

**Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored** ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500,000.00			

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored** ⓘ

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

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored** ⓘ

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4387267.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,686,767.00			

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)** ⓘ

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
650,500.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided ⓘ

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

## Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HC VF)

Title

Submitted

### Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated ⓘ

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	121271097.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	121,271,097.00			
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2020			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment** 

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	190,250			
<b>Male</b>	167,750			
<b>Total</b>	358000	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

(See Annexes B and J) Contribution to Aichi targets: Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society: Targets 1, 2, 4 Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use: Targets 5, 6, 7 Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity: Targets 11, 12 Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services: Targets 14, 15

## Part II. Programmatic Justification

### 1a. Program Description

A detailed description of the program follows – please refer to Annex I for a summary of the GEF7 Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program.

#### Geographical context

Located in Central Africa, the Congo Basin contains the earth's second largest area of contiguous moist tropical forests, stretching from the Gulf of Guinea in the west to the Rift Valley in the east, and containing more than 2.87 million km<sup>2</sup> of both humid and dry forests. The Congo Basin rainforest extends over the territories of six countries namely (in alphabetical order) – Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo (ROC). The five main forest types include swampy forests of the central zone, dryland rainforest around this central basin, drier forest types in the north and south of the basin, patchwork forests and savannah moving away from the center of the basin, and finally, woodlands and wooded savannah in the north of Cameroon and CAR and in the south of DRC. (See [Annex A1](#) for a map.)

The Congo River is an estimated 4,375 km long and the basin covers approximately 3.8 million km<sup>2</sup>. It covers almost all of DRC and Republic of Congo, large parts of CAR, and significant parts of Angola and Cameroon. Moreover, significant parts of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania lie in the Lake Tanganyika Basin; and waters from this lake flow into the Congo Basin (although very slowly). Finally, small parts of Zambia lie in the southeast sections of the basin, connected notably through the Lake Mweru Basin. Approximately 61% of the Basin is in DRC (2.32 million km<sup>2</sup>). The main Congo River channel originates in southeast DRC at the junction of the Lualaba and Luvua rivers. From there, the River moves north to Stanley Falls, loops northeast, then west, and then finally flows south into the Atlantic Ocean at the border with Angola. The River has an estimated 4,000 islands, its width ranges from 1 to 16 km, and the flow at Kinshasa-Brazzaville is an estimated 1269 km<sup>3</sup> per year. This is equivalent to 32% of the renewable water resource for Africa. Main trans-boundary sub-basins include the Ubangui-Sangha, Kasai, Bomu, Ruzizi and Kwango Rivers and Lakes Tanganyika, Mweru, Ogooué and Kivu.

A critical and unique feature of the Congo River Basin is that it generates 75-95 percent of the region's rainfall through local processes of evaporation and evapotranspiration. This differs dramatically from Earth's other major tropical forests and watersheds. For example, the Amazon Basin generates 50% of its own rainfall through this water recycling process, while rainforests in Asia generate perhaps less than 20%. Hence, most of the basin's water is in the forests and soil rather than in the river channels. Accordingly, the basin's water cycle is very vulnerable to ecological change – such as deforestation - and any such change could have major implications on regional and global climate.

#### Economic context

Economic growth in the Central Africa region was sluggish from 2016 to 2017, with the estimated average growth for the region in 2017 at 0.9 percent, barely up from 0.1 percent in 2016 and noticeably below the estimated African average of 3.6 percent. In terms of contributions of the Congo Basin countries to Central Africa's GDP, in 2017, Cameroon was the largest economy in the region, contributing nearly 29 percent of regional GDP, followed by DRC (24 percent), Gabon (13 percent), Equatorial Guinea (11 percent), ROC (11 percent), and CAR (1.2 percent). The region is rich in commodities such as oil, diamonds, gold and columbine-tantalite ("coltan", a key raw material used in cellular phones, satellites, and telecommunications equipment). Growing demand for minerals, from China and India in particular, has fueled increased exploitation of many base metals such as iron ore. The Congo Basin is expected to become a key energy supplier to the US, Europe and Asia. It is estimated that in the coming years, the Congo Basin will supply the US with 25 percent of its oil, surpassing

the Persian Gulf. Central African countries' heavy reliance on nonrenewable natural resources increases their vulnerability to commodity price volatility. To date, poor infrastructure (along with political instability) has hindered development and rendered many remote parts of the region inaccessible. However, today, in order to access the vast natural wealth, infrastructure development is now being stepped up in the region. Together with the mining contracts, many of the deals in the pipeline also include major infrastructure developments. The Congo Basin countries view the optimal exploitation of the huge forest and timber resources in the Congo Basin as an important driver of diversification, economic resilience, and green growth. If developed in an inclusive and equitable way, these resources present an opportunity for economic and social development and can also benefit the local populations living in the forest, thus reducing poverty.[1]

Central African nations rank among the lowest in the world on most human welfare indicators, and among the highest in terms of population growth and fertility. With a population growth rate of two to three percent per year, the region's overall population is expected to double to 150 million by 2050. The countries' performance in terms of the Human Development Index (rank and index) is as follows: Cameroon (rank 153; index 0.518), CAR (188; 0.352), DRC (176; 0.435), Equatorial Guinea (135; 0.592), Gabon (109, 0.697), and ROC (142; 0.534).[2] The State Fragility Index published annually by the Fund for Peace and Foreign Policy employs some 12 indicators to assess states' vulnerability to conflict or collapse[3]. The 2018 Fragile States Index puts DRC and CAR in the 'Very High Alert' category, Cameroon and ROC in the "Alert" Category, Equatorial Guinea in the "High Warning" Category, and Gabon in the "elevated warning" category. All countries in these categories display features that make their societies and institutions vulnerable to failure.

### Global environmental significance

The Congo Basin is one of the last regions on Earth where vast, interconnected expanses of tropical rainforest permit biological processes to continue undisturbed. These forests are the second-largest contiguous block of dense tropical rainforest in the world after the Amazon. They represent over 15 percent of the world's remaining tropical forest: an estimated 180 million hectares. The central basin of the Congo watershed is covered by various types of swamp and flooded forests. The primary biodiversity values of the region are its intact assemblages of large forest mammals, such as forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), and Okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*). Furthermore, the large mammals, and especially elephants—large ecosystem "engineers"—are still able to range widely along age-old migration routes that often traverse national boundaries to continuously transform the landscape to maintain the ecological functioning of natural systems. This is also the last stronghold for the great apes (five out of the six great ape species are found here). Relict populations of lions *Panthera leo* and a population of spotted hyena, *Crocuta crocuta* also occur in Congo's Odzala region. The recent discovery from the Ivindo rivers in Gabon of a species flock in the Mormyrid electric fish genus *Brienomyrus* represents an example of explosive speciation, a phenomenon previously known only from the African great lakes. Over 10,000 species of plants can be found in the low-altitude forests, of which over 3,000 are endemic, and over 4,000 species of flora can be found in the montane forests, of which at least 70 percent are endemic. Although records are very incomplete, the region is also home to more than 1,000 species of birds, 700 species of fish, and over 400 species of mammals. Sixteen species of birds and 23 species of mammals, including our closest relatives, gorillas and other great apes, are considered threatened, endangered, or critically endangered, although these figures may be much higher. Over 200 animal species, new to science, have been described from the region since 2000 and there remain more to be "discovered". These forests also provide numerous goods and services, such as the provision of freshwater, foods, medicines and the storage and absorption of vast quantities of carbon, at the local, national and regional levels which are of importance to people and to the national economies. According to Nasi et al., in de Wasseige et al., (2009), an estimated 46 billion metric tons of carbon are stored in the Congo Basin. Closed evergreen lowland forests represent 60% of the carbon stored in the sub-region while only covering 35% of the area. The recent identification of one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth, the Cuvette Centrale Peatlands (spanning both ROC and DRC), reinforces the importance of maintaining the region's ecosystems for global benefits. The recent publication of the first spatially explicit map of peatlands in the Cuvette Centrale reveals it to be the most extensive tropical peatland complex, at approximately 145,500 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated 30.6 Pg of carbon stored in these peatlands.

Recognizing the importance of conserving the Congo Basin forest, the six basin countries have established a number of protected areas (PA). Currently, approximately 20 million hectares, representing about 11%, of the region's forests are found within national parks or other protected areas. The table below lists for each country the number of PAs, and also the total area covered as well as the percentage of national territory. In addition, in a regional effort to identify priority landscapes for biodiversity conservation for the implementation of the 1999 Yaoundé Declaration, the Congo Basin countries asked WWF to organize a workshop in Libreville in 2000 to facilitate the development of a biodiversity vision for the region. Over 160 national and international experts in natural and human sciences attended the workshop and identified 29 terrestrial landscapes as top ranking in terms of biological importance. A commitment to the priority landscapes was expressed in the "Plan de Convergence". Of these landscapes, 12 were later selected by the CARPE (the Central African Regional Program for the Environment) partners as part of their contribution to achieve the Yaoundé Declaration as well as the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Objectives. The priority landscapes network covers about 655,210 km<sup>2</sup>, representing approximately 38 percent of the Congo Basin forests. The landscapes consist of core zones (generally protected areas) where biodiversity conservation takes priority over other land uses, surrounded by commercial extraction areas (forest and/or mining concessions) and rural areas where the focus will be on securing sustainable livelihoods for local people.

Since 2000, the Central Africa states under the Coordination of COMIFAC has established transboundary protected areas agreement for the following five trans-boundary protected areas: (i) the Sangha Trinational landscape (TNS: Cameroon, ROC and CAR), (ii) the TRIDOM landscape-Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkebe landscape (Cameroon, ROC and Gabon), (iii) the Lake Tele-Lake Tumba landscape (LTLT: ROC and DRC), (iv) the Binational Sena Oura-Bouba Ndjida Area (BSB Yamoussa: Cameroon and Chad), and (v) the Trans-boundary Mayumba-Conkouati Park (Gabon and Congo). There are other transboundary protected area agreements which connect some Central African States with countries from other regions, and these include: The Treaty on the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration on Wildlife conservation and Tourism development (GVTC) which includes three countries (DRC, Rwanda, Uganda), one of which (Uganda) is outside the COMIFAC area, and Mayombe Complex (Angola, Congo and DRC), Angola being also outside the COMIFAC space. Three other trans-boundary complexes are being considered for Transboundary Accords, namely, the Binational Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo Area (Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea), the Monte Alén–Monts de Cristal Area (Equatorial Guinea and Gabon), and the Cameroon-Nigeria transboundary complex of protected areas.

[1] Central Africa Economic Outlook 2018. African Development Bank. 2018

[2] Data sourced from African Development Bank website <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/central-africa/>; accessed on 21 January 2019.

[3] Covers issues such as extent of corruption and criminality, the ability to collect taxes, the presence of internally displaced people, the health of economy, levels of inequality, institutionalized persecution or discrimination, demographic pressures and skills shortages, and environmental decay.

Table 1: Brief survey of protected areas found in the Congo Basin countries having rainforest areas

Country	Number of protected areas	Area (ha)	Proportion of national territory(%)
Cameroon	30	3 825 024	8.1
Congo	15	3 992 422	11.7
CAR	16	7 014 500	11.3
DRC	51	26 415 737	11.3
Gabon	18	3 459 542	12.9
Equatorial Guinea	13	591 000	21.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>45 298 225</b>	<b>11.1</b>

In terms of protected status for peatland areas in the Congo Basin, some 16,600 km<sup>2</sup> of the 145,500 km<sup>2</sup> of peatlands, or 11%, lies within official national protected area boundaries. In the ROC, the Lac Télé Community Reserve (4,600 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Réserve Ntokou-Pikounda (4,400 km<sup>2</sup>) cover 3,500 and 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of peatland, respectively. In the DRC, four reserves partially span peatland areas: the Réserve Naturelle du Triangle de la Ngiri (5,400 km<sup>2</sup>; 3,900 km<sup>2</sup> peatland), the Réserve Tumba-Ledima (7,700 km<sup>2</sup>; 2,600 km<sup>2</sup> peatland), the Parc National de la Salonga (36,100 km<sup>2</sup>; 790 km<sup>2</sup> peatland) and the Réserve Lomako Yokokala (3,700 km<sup>2</sup>; 76 km<sup>2</sup> peatland). In addition, very large areas of the peatlands, in both the ROC and DRC, are part of sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) under the 1971 Ramsar Convention, which in some cases also overlap with the above-mentioned national protected areas. Indeed, both the ROC and DRC contain some of the largest Ramsar sites in the world.[1]

### Cultural and socio-economic significance

The Congo Basin region is one of the most ethnically diverse regions, with over 250 ethnic groups living in the region. The diversity of ethnic groups presents its own challenges in terms of finding the right ways of managing forests and lands. For example, in Lobeke NP in Cameroon, there are four main groups – Bangando (the most represented), Baka, Bakwele, and Mbomban – with each group having their own specificities and specialties in the forests[2]. In DRC, the Ministry in charge of lands has recently created a new direction in charge of Indigenous Lands; earlier there was a direction in charge of customary rights, but indigenous people are a different dimension from customary rights and local communities. Yet, in Gabon, the term indigenous people is not in accepted use.

The region is home to almost 130 million people. Approximately 85 million of the 130 million inhabitants live in rural areas, most of whom depend directly on forest resources such as NTFPs, bushmeat, timber. Certain places or “holy forests” are of cultural or religious value to numerous communities in Central Africa.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs): Some of these products, such as game, fruit, seeds, roots, insects and mushrooms, are used as a source of food, contributing to both food security and a balanced diet for inhabitants, while others are used for building materials or medicines, or provide support to ancient customs and traditions. Their trade on local and international markets could play a considerable role in generating income for all those involved in the various value chains, not only those who gather them, but also those who process, transport, export or sell them.

- **Bushmeat:** Bushmeat hunting to provide meat for the family, and as a source of income is a common component of household economies in the Congo Basin and more generally throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Duikers (small forest antelope), pigs, primates and rodents are the most commonly hunted groups of animals in the forest, with duikers both numerically (>75%) and in terms of biomass being the most important bushmeat species group. Hunting typically contributes between 30 to 80% of protein consumed by forest-dwelling families in the Congo Basin. In the case of Cameroon, for example, bush meat represents an economic value estimated at 80 billion CFA (about 122 million Euros) per annum (Lescuyer, 2014).
- **Timber:** All Central African nations are dependent on extractive industries (e.g., oil, timber and mining) for a large percentage of their GDP, for almost all foreign exchange, and for much of the tax revenues that finance government. Other than artisanal gold and diamond mining, most extractive industries are dominated by well capitalized, and technically competent multi-national corporations. Within their concessions these companies function almost as states within states. In the case of logging companies, they are not only the de facto managers of resources within their concessions, they control 50-80% of the forest estate outside of protected areas. In Gabon for example, the timber sector is the second most important provider of employment after the State. In the Republic of Congo, it is often the unique source of salaried jobs in remote rural areas and, in Cameroon, it is estimated that the forestry sector contributes at 4% to the Gross Domestic Product (Eba'a Atyi et al., 2014).

In general, natural resources are managed by households, clans, communities, the private sector and government. Central African governments are the de jure owners of 'unoccupied' lands. Governments, typically allocate 'unoccupied or unimproved' lands, in the absence of public debate, to timber exploitation, mineral extraction, agricultural plantations, or to parks and reserves. Industrial scale agricultural plantations cover only a small fraction of the landscape, with the exception of the Cameroon Development Corporation that has relatively huge land holdings in southwestern Cameroon, and the Olam International with its Oil Palm Production in Gabon. Once extensive, plantations of oil palm and coffee in DRC, have, since the late 1980s, lost ground.

Concentration of natural resource management in the hands of a few government officials and a few logging companies, neither of which are accountable to the citizenry, has resulted in considerable inequity in benefit sharing from natural resource exploitation, low compliance with resource management laws, and unsustainable resource use. Rural families have little, if any, formal authority over how natural resources further than 3-5 km from their settlements are used. At present, they have no say in whether forests are allocated to logging companies or set aside as protected areas, and receive no compensation for resources over which they have traditional claims but are prohibited from using. Not surprisingly local communities have typically responded by flouting the laws and participating in illegal, "self-compensation," activities such as land encroachment and "poaching".

The single most important national policy issue related to biodiversity conservation is land and resource ownership. Inability to regulate access to and use of resources creates an open access system where the actions of one resource user can impinge with impunity on the needs, concerns, health and welfare of others. Absence of transparent, representative and accountable systems of governance, and of legal recourse that apply equally to citizens, companies and government, lie at the root of the struggle for more equitable land and resource tenure rights. Throughout Central Africa at present, land use and ownership is far more complicated and contradictory than suggested by the legal principles codified in national law. In many cases, the state, despite its legal authority, has neither the ability nor the desire to exercise effective control over lands used by local people. De facto authority over use and management of the region is a complex mix of customary use practices and rules, modern statutes and laws, legal and business agreements with foreign timber and mineral companies, and a wide variety of culturally and socially mediated tenure arrangements between adjacent ethnic groups.

Contradictions between oral customary law and the various written codes, regulations, and statutes that concern tenure rights to forests and other natural resources are exacerbated by conflicting interests between forests dependent people and government authorities. Functionaries are charged with increasing government revenues, especially in the wake of recent economic crises. Local forest dwellers, on the other hand, depend on the forest resources for daily consumption. These conflicting interests often lead to a reluctance by local resource users and government authorities to work out equitable arrangements for managing primary forests for sustainable use and conservation, and militate against biodiversity conservation.

Establishment of community forestry laws in Cameroon, Gabon, RoC and DRC, although flawed and implemented poorly, have begun to provide a legal framework for positive change. Previous experiences of community forestry have been marked by laws that were non-participatory, bureaucratic, poorly grounded in knowledge of local institutions, elite-dominated, and politically controversial. Nevertheless, they open up, often for the first time, opportunities for local level negotiation for greater rights. This process takes time. Poor and marginalized communities and interests, including women and forest dependent people, are also unlikely to see significant benefits until they are able to advocate and build alliances and partnerships with the public and private sector, with support from development institutions.

Landlessness of rural communities is reported as a common denominator throughout the region. This is particularly true for forest dependent people that are in many cases, both politically and economically marginalized. Many forest dependent people's families squat on land to which they have no legal right, and suffer permanent risk of eviction. In some cases, forest dependent people are allowed to remain on land owned by non-forest dependent people in exchange for agricultural work. In many cases, forest dependent people have no, or very restricted, access to their ancestral lands. Some governments continue to deny the validity of customary titles to land, on the grounds that undeveloped primary forests are "vacant" and thus the sole property of the state. When customary laws do apply, many non-forest dependent people continue to deny the right of forest dependent people to possess land. Thus, it is not surprising that marginalization and exclusion of forest dependent people from ownership and administration of forest resources is widely reported. Secure private titles or leases to land can be obtained only through written application to the state authorities. However, the process for acquisition of land titles are barely available to forest dependent people because the procedures and costs are not accessible to them.

Realistically, unless the public sector becomes more transparent, representative and accountable to its citizens, and unless civil society grows in strength to counterbalance the power of the public sector and the private sector, the capacity of citizens, especially forest dependent people to negotiate improvements in resource management practices with corporate or government land-managers in adjacent landscapes will continue to be exceedingly limited.

### Legislative and policy context

In 1999 a historic declaration was signed by the Heads of State of the six forest countries in the region, the Yaoundé Declaration. This declaration brought these six governments together under a common effort to safeguard their forest resources. The Yaoundé Declaration was recognized by the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution No. A/RES/54/214 as a mechanism to achieve sustainable forest management and conservation in Central Africa. The UN Resolution commends the Yaoundé Declaration as the framework for implementation of forest activities both by the countries of the sub-region and also by the international community. Furthermore, this commitment for co-operation resulted in the creation of the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the formulation of the "Plan de Convergence" (a priority action plan endorsed by COMIFAC), and the launch of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). The commitment for co-operation was confirmed and formalized in a Treaty signed by 10 countries of Central Africa, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Heads of State held in Brazzaville in February 2005 ("Yaoundé Plus Five"). The signatories of the treaty are: Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, and Burundi.

### Existing coordination mechanisms for forest-related policies for governments, donors, and civil society in the sub-region

The **Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)**[3] was formally established in 2005 by an international treaty[4]. COMIFAC is mandated with the guidance, coordination, and alignment of policies and decision-making in conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of its ten member-states[5]. All its members have adopted a "Convergence Plan" (2015-2025)[6], which is a framework of reference and coordination for all interventions related to the conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. The Convergence Plan 2015-2025 includes priority strategic themes[7] as well as cross-cutting[8] ones. COMIFAC includes a Council of Ministers of COMIFAC and an Executive Secretariat, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In 2007, COMIFAC was recognized as the specialized agency of the Economic Community of the Central Africa States (ECCAS) for all activities related to forests and the environment.

The **Conference on Dense and Humid Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC)[9]** was established in 1996. CEFDHAC aims to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the Central African forests and serves as a sub-regional forum promoting dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration between all stakeholders involved in the sector. CEFDHAC has been the joint platform for facilitating the coordination of forest policies in Central Africa and includes governments, parliamentarians, public administration, private sector actors, NGOs, and civil society organizations (including organizations representing FDCs or forest dependent communities). CEFDHAC also formally recognizes and coordinates seven specialized networks namely: Women (REFADD), Indigenous Peoples (REPALEAC), Youth (REJEFAC), Parliamentarians (REPAR), Community Radios (RERAC), Environmental Evaluation Specialists (SEEAC), and Training institutes (RIFFEAC). Other networks are under creation but not officially registered as CEFDHACs.

**The Regional Network of Local and Indigenous Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC** by its French acronym) was established in 2003 and represents over 200 FDC (forest dependent communities) organizations from eight Central African countries[10]. It acts as a platform for the coordination of eight national-level member networks. REPALEAC represents FDCs' interests at the sub-regional level and promotes the work done by its national networks. REPALEAC aims to highlight the critical role played by FDCs in sustainable forest management. REPALEAC recently validated its 2018-2025 Strategic Framework for an inclusive development of the Indigenous Peoples as a tool for Indigenous Peoples and other FDCs to enhance their leadership and control on their own development. The strategy is supporting a vision of a comprehensive and inclusive development for the FDCs that is drawn upon sectoral approaches (biodiversity protection, REDD+, sustainable forest management, etc.). The ambition of REPALEAC and its members is to propose common targets, a coordination framework, and reporting tools to all policies and program in the Congo Basin that support FDCs – with the objective to render investments better coordinated, more efficient, and accountable to the strategy. Importantly, REPALEAC is expected to benefit from the leverage of CEFDHAC and COMIFAC to get an endorsement from the various governments through COMIFAC's Council of Ministers, which would pave the way for a broader coordination of Indigenous Peoples' related activities at the national level.

The **Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)[11]** was launched at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 to encourage the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Central African countries in their endeavor to protect the forests. In line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness[12], the CBFP is also charged with the mission to help COMIFAC execute its Convergence Plan.

**ECCAS (CEEAC**, the French acronym for the Economic Community of Central African States) was created in 1983 and comprises ten countries (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, ROC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad). It is one of the five development zones on which the African Union intends to build continental cooperation and integration. Its mission is to promote political dialogue in the region, to create the regional common market, to establish common sectoral policies, to promote and strengthen harmonious cooperation and balanced and self-sustaining development in the fields of environmental protection, industry, transport and communications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, trade, customs, monetary and financial issues, human resources, tourism, education, culture, science and technology and the movement of people to achieve collective self-reliance, to raise the standard of living of the people. ECCAS has become increasingly involved in addressing the issue of wildlife crime because of the damage it does to economies and security in the region. In collaboration with regional technical partners, it is playing an important role in developing and implementing strategic responses through its anti-poaching cellule. ECCAS is also the regional structure through which the EU channels its support to Programme Régional de Conservation et Utilisation Rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale.

**OFAC**, the French acronym for the Observatory of Central African Forests, is a specialized unit of COMIFAC that provides up-to-date and relevant data on the forests and ecosystems of the region, aimed at informing political decision-making and promoting better governance and sustainable management of natural resources. OFAC benefits from the support of the RIOFAC project, funded by the European Union. OFAC was created in 2007 as a result of the joint efforts of various members of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). For the implementation of OFAC activities, a consortium formed by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), the Center for International Forestry

Research (CIFOR FRM Ingénierie), and the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) was formed. The main donor of OFAC is the European Union. Since November 2010 OFAC has become a unit of the Executive Secretariat of COMIFAC. In January 2011, an OFAC coordination office, based at the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat in Yaoundé, was established to endorse the Council of Ministers resolution.

**RAPAC**, the French acronym for the Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa, is a sub-regional non-profit technical and scientific association with an environmental focus, with members representing governments and civil society from eight (8) countries in the region: Cameroon, ROC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR, DRC, Sao Tome and Principe, and Chad. The accession of a representative of a 9th country, Rwanda, is underway. The umbrella network serves as an exchange and support platform for all protected area actors across Central Africa. Since 2004, it has been mandated by COMIFAC to implement Axis 4 of the sub-regional Convergence Plan (now axis 3 under the revised Plan 2015-2025), on biodiversity conservation. RAPAC's core mission is to support conservation in and around the protected areas of Central Africa by building an efficient and supportive network of actors driven by the promotion of professional governance and harmonization of management policies and instruments.

**CICOS**, the French acronym for the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha, was established by an agreement signed in 1999 (addendum dated 2007) to establish a uniform river regime and entrusting CICOS with two main missions: (i) the promotion of inland navigation; and (ii) integrated water resources management. The area of competence of CICOS is the entire Congo River watershed located in the territories of the member states namely, Angola (Loange and Kwango that drain into the Kasai in DRC), Cameroon (Sangha), CAR (Sangha and Oubangui), ROC (Sangha and Oubangui), DRC (Kasai and Oubangui), Gabon (Ogooué). CICOS developed in 2007 a Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Congo Basin.

### Threats and root causes

In terms of threats to the forests of Central Africa, COMIFAC's 2015 State of the Forest report notes that forests of the region have so far been relatively well protected thanks to low demographic pressure reinforced by rural exodus, difficult access, absence of transport and communication infrastructure, and a business climate that is not conducive to long term investments (Burgess *et al.*, 2006; Megevand *et al.*, 2013). Available studies give an annual net deforestation rate of 0.14 % for the humid dense forest of Central Africa between 2000 and 2010, with a higher rate for dry forests during the same time period (about 0.40 %).

However, current policy programs defined by Central Africa States aim at economic emergence between 2025 and 2035. These programs are based upon the continuation of natural resources exploitation (wood, oil, and minerals), agricultural production for domestic needs and exports, as well as the strengthening of industrial processing activities. Social and political stability prevailing over the last decade in certain countries of the sub-region has allowed the development of large-scale road infrastructure, power supply in the main urban areas and counties, and an improvement in the business climate. Added to this context, the rise in the price of minerals and agricultural products in the international market place in the early 2000s have acted like investment incentives. (See Annex D for a problem-tree capturing current and future threats and root causes.)

At present, **small-scale agriculture** and, to a lesser extent, the **harvest of fuelwood** are considered the main drivers of deforestation in the Congo Basin (Defourny *et al.*, 2011). If human populations continue to grow at two to three percent per annum, and in the absence of opportunities for other economic activities, this form of agriculture is likely to become increasingly unsustainable and to contribute significantly to forest conversion across the region. In the absence of any changes in agricultural practices and demand for agricultural goods, it is projected that the extent of deforestation by forest farmers is likely to double by the year 2025, and increase four-fold by 2050. Slash and burn cultivation motored by logging penetration into the forest, and along logging roads and settlements may be the major factor in deforestation in Central Africa. The pressure from subsistence use is driven by the fact that forest dependent communities, indigenous people, and women are marginalized, facing extreme poverty and lack of access rights and tenure to land and natural resource use. In addition, projects for large scale agribusiness plants are developing in various countries and may become more and more important in the future.

Additionally, **logging** still represents a noticeable driver of deforestation and forest degradation in the Congo Basin. Currently, 49 million hectares of forests have been allocated as forest concessions in the area. Selective logging companies dominate the forest estate, holding rights to 80 percent of forests in Cameroon, 50 percent in Gabon, almost 90 percent in the northern Republic of Congo and 15 percent in DRC. Industrial logging in the forests of the Congo Basin for the international market significantly impacts forest structure, leading to forest fragmentation and biodiversity loss. If those concessions should be sustainably managed, they are not under the threat of deforestation but, nevertheless, remain under the threat of forest degradation. Unfortunately, the bulk of forest exploitation in the Congo Basin countries is not conducted according to sustainable management rules as of today. In the whole region, 40% of concessions are under management plans but it is necessary to reach 100% in the medium run. Outside the industrial sector there are informal, or artisanal, forms of logging. These supply local markets with construction timber and fuel wood. Surveys carried out in Cameroon suggest that these forms of logging involve larger volumes of timber than those from industrial logging and have depending on the country, a greater impact on biodiversity, can cause some degradation or even deforestation of greater magnitude when compared with legal exploitation.

Central Africa continues to be confronted with the extensive and indeed resurgent phenomenon of **poaching and trafficking** in animal species. The illegal ivory trade continues to find international demand and offer attractive profits. Inadequate law enforcement compounds the problem. There is often a lack of coordination and collaboration between the relevant government agencies – the Ministries of the Interior, the Gendarmerie, the judiciary etc. Numerous studies show the decline, even the collapse of large mammal populations (primates, elephants, antelopes, etc.), including within protected areas (Caro and Scholte, 2007; Craigie et al., 2010; Bouche et al., 2012), which will have profound impacts on future regeneration of forests. Elephant hunters are often specialists, armed and supplied with ammunition by a complex network of dealers and civil servants, the ‘heads’ of which are located in the urban centers. There is moreover some evidence of military involvement in the trade in some countries. The direct causes (proximate drivers) of this phenomenon are well known: poaching mainly and changes in land use (notably, forest clearing for farming).

Emerging or **future threats** to the forest of Central Africa include the development of commodities, industrial agriculture and agribusiness, and to support these, linear infrastructure (roads, rails) and energy (dams) will be expanded. Climate change and the possibility of inter-basin water transfer to Lake Chad are also potential threats.

**Mining** is increasingly being seen as paving the road to development for the countries of the Congo Basin. In Cameroon alone 86 government contracts have been awarded for mining (mostly cobalt, nickel and iron but also diamonds). Artisanal mining is also of increasing importance. Working in small watercourses, these operations can destroy fragile ecosystems and lead to increased poaching, and downstream sedimentation and pollution. Population shifts to mining sites also increase local demand for bushmeat and firewood that increases environmental degradation unless managed effectively. In addition, many mining exploration permits have been granted by the Central African countries and such permits concern large areas of rainforests already granted to logging companies, to communities or simply reserved as conservation areas, favoring the emergence of land use and resource use conflicts.

The impact of **future infrastructure development** is likely to dwarf most other threats in the region, given their potential scale. For example, China has contracted to build 2,400 km of railways and 30,000 km of roads, and the Republic of Korea also has a major railway investment projected in the region. A railway link to the Indian Ocean is now likely, which would for the first time enable significant penetration of the Congo Basin from the east. Roads and other infrastructure such as railways and power lines are essential for development, but without adequate standards, mitigation and remediation efforts, and due enforcement, they fragment the forests, favor the spontaneous and unplanned advance of agriculture and facilitate illegal hunting and trade in bush meat. A recent report by the Arcus Foundation and Cambridge University Press estimates that by 2030, industrial activities will disturb an estimated 90 percent of ape ranges in Africa, and in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, more than 30 “development corridors” are expected to transverse over 400 protected areas and degrade more than 1,800 nature reserves, resulting in loss of ecological integrity and connectivity and loss of wildlife.[13] By the same token, **dams**, driven largely by power demand in regional industrial and urban centers, and coupled with abundance of untapped hydropower potential, present potential direct,

indirect, and cumulative impacts to Congo Basin conservation efforts. The Arcus report also highlights the implications of expanded energy demand and access. In Africa, for example, energy demand is anticipated to double or triple between 2015 and 2030. A number of large dam projects are being planned or under construction, notably the hydroelectric dam on the Kongou Falls in Gabon, the dam on the Memvé'ele Falls on the Ntem River Basin in Cameroon, and the massive Grand Inga Dam in the DRC. The direct impacts of these dams may include for example the inundation of valuable freshwater and terrestrial habitats, the disruption of fish migration, and the reduction of sedimentation and flow downstream, thereby affecting the livelihoods of river-dependent communities and industries. Such developments need to be managed effectively to reduce their impacts on ecosystem processes.

**Climate change:** According to Dargie et al (2018), the future impact of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on the regional climate of the Congo Basin is clear for temperature; the region will warm, with the magnitude dependent on the level of greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 2.6, mean annual temperature is predicted to increase by ca. 0.5 °C from the end of the twentieth century to the end of the twenty-first century and by ca. 4.3 °C under RCP 8.5 (Niang et al. 2014). However, modelled projections show no clear consensus for changes in regional precipitation. Some models point towards a decrease in precipitation levels across the basin towards the end of the twenty-first century (James et al. 2013; Fotso-Nguemo et al. 2016), whilst others suggest there will be little or no change in overall precipitation or even a slight increase (Haensler et al. 2013; Laprise et al. 2013). Even where there is no change in overall precipitation levels, some models show changes in the characteristics of the rainfall regime, for example an increase in rainfall intensity and frequency of dry periods (Haensler et al. 2013).

Currently, land-use change in the Congo Basin accounts for 20 to 60 million tons of carbon emissions per year which, although relatively small compared to land-use changes worldwide, could increase dramatically if the wrong policy options are pursued. For example, predictions for future deforestation in Central Africa estimate that by 2050, forest clearance in the DRC will release over 3 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub>, approximately equivalent to the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the last 60 years. This highlights the importance of land use decisions in the Congo Basin in the context of climate change, as major deforestation in the Congo Basin would also have devastating consequences on agriculture, water resources, and related activities in distant parts of the world. As one of the "green lungs" of the planet, the ability of Congo basin forests to mitigate climate change by absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and to store or "sequester" carbon in living biomass and soils will be reduced by forest conversion and wetland draining thereby reducing the global "buffering" service that these forests now provide to the global atmosphere.

The recently discovered peatlands in the Cuvette Centrale of the Congo Basin, which harbors 30 billion metric tons of carbon, the equivalent of three years' worth of the world total fossil emissions, or 20 years of greenhouse emissions from the United States, appear to depend largely on rainfall to maintain a positive water balance. The bimodal climate of the Congo Basin, with two wet seasons per year, means that the peatlands do not experience prolonged dry periods. However, the annual rainfall level across the Cuvette Centrale is relatively low for a tropical peatland system (ca. 1700 mm year<sup>-1</sup>). Therefore, a reduction in overall rainfall, a change in the temporal distribution of rainfall and higher evaporation under higher temperatures in the Congo Basin could all have a negative impact on the peatland carbon stocks. Drier conditions or an increase in the frequency of intense dry periods could lead to an increase in decomposition rates and a loss of carbon from the peatland system.

### Long term solution and barriers

If the above-described threats continue unchecked, the ability of this unique natural asset to continue to provide a wide range of ecosystem services and values ranging from direct values (e.g., timber, non-timber, tourism) to indirect values (e.g., watershed protection, carbon sequestration), and existence values will be greatly compromised. The six basin countries need to work together to undertake national and cross-border actions that stabilize forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations so that the Congo Basin forest ecosystem remains healthy and thriving. There are several barriers preventing the realization of the long-term solution as described below.

*Barrier 1: Conflicting and isolated sectoral developments increase competition between different land uses and accelerate pressures on natural resources leading to habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict.* Stakeholder dialogue within the region is sectoral in nature and there is a lack of cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination between bodies and institutions that share sectoral developments responsibilities (forests, mining, agriculture, land, etc.). Thus, increasing competition between different land uses accelerate pressures on natural resources, resulting in lack of integrated policies and leading to habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict. Furthermore, there are no regional directives for designing and approving integrated land use plans at the landscape level. There are land use conflicts between traditional rights and other types of uses. This lack of clear land tenure or land access rights creates conditions for illegal exploitation and extractions that lead to further forest degradation. Furthermore, the lack of indigenous people and local communities' rights to access, manage, and own lands neither allows for development of sustainable NTFP value chains, nor for any other sustainable livelihood activities, nor allow them to effectively participate in co-management of protected areas. Long-term planning with future scenario development that accounts for future threats such as climate change, industrial agriculture, and infrastructure expansion is lacking. National ministries as well as its decentralized structures at sub-national levels have insufficient capacities for land use planning, and gender mainstreaming, low understanding of natural capital accounting and its integration in land planning and management processes. Existing land management plans do not integrate natural capital assets and are not adequately implemented. They generally lack comprehensive communities, forest dependent people, gender and youth approaches. Thus, there are gaps in participation of forest dependent people, women and youth in land use planning processes, as well as in monitoring and surveillance of land management processes. Large scale, cross-sectoral land use planning processes are often missing, at the national and at the regional (transboundary level). Foundational work to develop landscape land use plans has been done for some of these proposed landscapes but these need to be consolidated, expanded, and anchored into a policy framework. There is a need to further refine standard methodology develop by the CARPE/USAID program.

*Barrier 2: Forest landscape sustainability is compromised by poor governance of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors.* Weak institutional capacities and insufficient technical means for surveillance mean that even though protected areas have been established they are not able to address habitat degradation and loss of wildlife due to poaching and trafficking as evidenced in recent years. At national levels, PA system managers face legal and regulatory constraints on their abilities to generate and retain financial resources, typically depending instead on national-level allocations that are both inadequate and inconsistent. For example, there are no effective policies or mechanisms to allow revenues generated from logging, eco-tourism, trophy hunting and other forms of natural resource exploitation within PAs, corridors and buffer zones to be re-invested in management of these resources. Information, knowledge and expertise on payment for ecosystem services (PES), natural capital valuation and other mechanisms for generating financial returns are not available among protected area system managers. In the case of natural capital valuation, biodiversity offsets and other financing instruments, there is limited institutional and technical capacity (knowledge base, systems, tools, and methods) to establish and implement reliable measurement and monitoring methods, resulting in paucity of financial resources available to the Basin's national and transboundary PAs. In some cases, **weak governance and a lack of a formal framework for community management of natural resources** are the major driver for over-exploitation and loss of ecological integrity of protected areas. Community involvement is hampered by a lack of community management structures that have both the capacities and mandate to manage their resources sustainably. Lack of policies and lack of multi-sectoral partnerships in support of SLM/SFM practices in areas outside protected areas lead to forest fragmentation and loss of forests connectivity which in turn jeopardize the long-term viability of species and forests as well as maintenance of ecosystems services. Protected area systems need to better address issues related to connectivity between forested areas, the viability of ecological corridors, and environmental changes caused by climate change. There is a lack of a uniform, harmonized approach at the regional level to dealing with wildlife crime. Where laws, policies and regulations exist for wildlife and forest management, the weaknesses in enforcement and rule of law mean that corruption and crime jeopardize conservation efforts.

*Barrier 3: Lack of engagement of communities, forest dependent people, and private sector in conservation and sustainable use.* While the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation and management of forest and wildlife resources may be acknowledged by law, their real engagement in the management of protected areas and benefit-sharing is absent. The absence of sustainable natural resource-based finance and income-generating opportunities leads to an under-appreciation of existing natural capital values. Revenue generation for local communities from sustainable use could enhance their participation. However, there is a lack of technical, financial, and marketing support for the development of income-generation mechanisms such as ecotourism, agroforestry, and sustainable NTFP value-chains. There are limitations in access to market, credit and incentives to promote deforestation free supply chains and market access for sustainable products, be it from main commodities or NTFP. This is due to lack of organizational and management capacities for sustainable production by local institutions and individuals, insufficient market assessments, including identification of requirements to access markets for sustainable and innovative products. There is the lack of traceability systems for Congo basin products (biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, etc.) to help encourage sustainable production, optimize existing value chains or develop new chains. Furthermore, there is a lack of communication and marketing efforts, which could connect these products with the international markets. Communities and forest dependent peoples have difficulties to access credit services due to their inability in complying with the formal requirements and the long distances to urban centers, and borrowing modalities suited to the conditions of these stakeholders are not available. In addition, women face these challenges to a much greater degree insofar as women and men have very different (i) access to and control of land and related natural resources such as forests and wildlife; (ii) decision-making opportunities (even though they often have knowledge and insights about natural resources that can contribute to improved conservation and management of forests and wildlife resources); and (iii) access to market, credit and incentives. In terms of private sector production activities, there is a lack of policies in support of maintenance of forest ecological connectivity/corridors in productive landscapes. For example, to date, no financial incentives to small-scale farmers, agroindustry, and mining sectors have been designed to promote forest ecological connectivity through SFM/SLM, sustainable agriculture or implementation of best practice standards in mining operations. There are no financial incentives to foster production sectors investment into biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation. There are no financial incentives for small-scale farmers to practice deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production practices, nor any financial incentives to foster production sector commitments to deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production systems. The absence of a conducive regulatory framework and market incentives means that few of these actors (including logging and mining) adopt best practices in forest management. The bulk of forest exploitation in the Congo Basin countries is not conducted according to sustainable management rules.

*Barrier 4: Cross-border implementation of conservation actions and learning is weak.* Although the implementation of cross-border agreements for the conservation of key biodiversity areas has shown some progress, it has not adequately taken into account the transboundary nature of wildlife migration, and has failed to address illegal trade in forest and wildlife products, and other biodiversity aspects at scale. Coordination and communicating of best practices among the Congo Basin countries and executing agencies can be improved. Currently, information is scattered and there is no mechanism to disseminate knowledge and best management practices generated by different stakeholders in the region, as well as to exchange such knowledge and lessons learnt with other countries of the Congo basin region. Innovative practices being tested in the Congo basin countries, both in the public and private sector, tend to remain sector-based with little involvement from other sectors or extensive sharing of information and lessons learnt.

## 2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline program/ projects

The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP) builds on years of conservation initiatives undertaken by the six Congo Basin forest countries with the support of NGOs, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, research organizations, and CSOs. Natural resource management in the Congo basin is delivered predominantly through international donor agencies, conservation NGOs, and other technical partners working in partnership with the national forestry, wildlife and PA authorities. Below is a summary of the region-wide interventions of the largest donors in Congo Basin for the anticipated period of July 2020 to June 2024:

**European Union (EU):** There are many EU funded projects that are being implemented in the region. These include: (i) Support Program for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems - (ECOFAC 6) whose objective is to support the process of regional integration in Central Africa, particularly in the area of peace, security, and the sustainable management of natural resources; and (ii) ECOFAC 6 Program Support to Institutional Capacity Building whose objective is to provide support to ECCAS institutional reforms with a component on the fight against poaching and illegal trade of natural resources and a section on border security, including transboundary protected areas.

**African Development Bank (AfDB)** supports Phase 2 of Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo), the focus of which is on ecosystem conservation and resilience to climate change, as well as resilience of indigenous and local populations to climate change.

**Germany** is supporting a number of regional initiatives. These include: (i) Regional Program for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin implemented by GIZ and COMIFAC the objective of which is to better protect and sustainably manage biodiversity and forest resources of the Congo Basin and its surrounding savannas areas; (ii) the GIZ supported COMIFAC Regional Institutional Support Project whose objective is to ensure COMIFAC fulfills its strategic and operational missions more effectively; (iii) the regional program "Promotion of Certified Forest Exploitation in Central Africa" (PPEFC Phase 2) funded by KFW whose objective is to support and strengthen the exploitation of forests in the Congo Basin according to the principles of sustainability in order to contribute to the protection and rational use of forest resources in the Congo Basin; and (iv) the FTNS AI-SFM Project "Institutional Support for Sustainable Forest Management, in Congo and CAR TNS segments" whose objective is to support COMIFAC to implement its Convergence Plan for Better Management and Conservation of Central African Forests, by supporting the sustainable financing of the Sangha Tri-National Transboundary Forest Complex (TNS).

**CAFI:** CAFI is a collaborative partnership that gathers Central African partner countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon and a coalition of donors: the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea and the United Kingdom, as well as Brazil as South-South partner. CAFI's support is channeled through a Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. It provides supports to good governance of the REDD + process by supporting the representation of civil society; allowing it to fully play its role of information relay, advocacy actor, observer and whistle-blower. It also provides support to integrated rural development program to reduce pressure on forests and offer alternative livelihoods to rural populations, forestry administration to monitor land cover, land use and land use change, to land tenure reform program, to the development and implementation of an agricultural policy that takes into account forests including the promotion of savanna-based agriculture, to provide alternatives to unsustainable wood energy by developing markets for LPG and improved cook stoves.

In Cameroon CAFI has approved a preparatory grant to develop a national investment framework with MINEPDED, REDD+ implementation is considered fundamental to achieving sustainable development goals and provides the mechanism through which finance, technology transfer, capacity building and broad participation can be achieved. Cameroon has finalized a first draft of its national REDD+ strategy, and an "Emission Reduction Program Idea Note" was introduced in the pipeline of the Carbon Fund. In the Central African Republic, it has approved a preparatory grant to develop a National Investment Framework (NIF), executed jointly with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The responsible governmental party is the Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MEEDD). The NIF is under development, anticipated in December 2018. In the DRC the national REDD+ Framework Strategy was adopted in 2012, aiming to stabilize forest cover to 63.5% from 2030, and maintain it thereafter. The 2015 – 2020 DRC REDD+ Investment Plan stems directly from this Framework Strategy, and fully complies with its strategic guidelines and essence. The REDD+ Investment Plan was formally adopted by the Government of the DRC and presented to the CAFI Executive Board in December 2015. It formed the basis of the Letter of Intent with CAFI in April 2016, which, with the accompanying capitalization of the DRC's REDD+ National Fund, marked the start of the programming phase for implementing the Investment Plan. To date the Steering Committee of the National REDD+ Fund has issued 15 calls for proposals. The Steering Committee of the National REDD+ Fund has approved twelve programs, together totaling over US\$ 130 million in approved funding since the capitalization of the National REDD+ Fund by CAFI. Of these, US\$ 91 million are

part of the first, unconditional tranche while the remainder is conditioned to program performance and the evaluation of the milestones of the Letter of Intent. These programs will support the launch of key needed reforms on agriculture, land-use planning and related national land use scheme, energy and a tenure policy to better secure tenure in the rural sector. Approved programs will also enhance existing actions at the provincial and territorial level in high deforestation REDD+ areas (Nai Ndombe, ex-Orientele, Sud Ubangai, Equateur and Kwilu) where local communities and territorial entities will be supported to sustainably manage and use resources. Two programs target civil society and indigenous peoples, and a cross-cutting program will help the country finalize its national forest monitoring system. These programs supported by the World Bank, UNDP, FAO and UN-Habitat were approved following formal call for proposals, two independent evaluations, and technical reviews by the Technical Committee.

**USAID:** USAID's CARPE program (Central African Regional Programme for the Environment) was launched in 1997 and, like ECOFAC, promotes a regional approach to conservation. CARPE phase 3 (2012 to 2020) has focused on two programs: Central African Forest Ecosystem Conservation (CAFEC) and Strengthening Central African Environmental Management and Policy Support (SCAEMPS). Approximately USD 10 million has been allocated for SCAEMPS over five years to promote national and regional policy and regulatory advances, and to deliver monitoring tools that inform policy, and support forest and biodiversity conservation. Planning has started for a 4th phase with several new mechanisms in the works such as:

- USAID/DRC funded Environment Partnerships Program (DRC EPP). This is a public-private sector collaboration focused on overcoming critical development challenges through innovations and creative ideas that can be rigorously tested, shared, and potentially scaled in DRC and shared with other countries in the region. The goal of the collaboration is to tackle development challenges using an approach that can be replicated and sustained, leading to measurable improvements in development outcomes. Partnerships will either contribute to the direct management of priority natural resources such as national parks and protected/community forests, tourism expansion or address persistent threats to the sustainability of these areas, such as shifting agriculture or trade in bushmeat, charcoal, wildlife products.
- USAID's Forest and Biodiversity Support Activity is a 5-year program starting 2019. Its goal is to promote strategies and actions addressing the large-scale threats to biodiversity conservation and forest management in Central Africa.

In addition, there are several other country focused USAID programs such as:

- the already awarded: 3 cooperative agreements for public-private partnerships for PAs (Garamba Chinko Protected Areas Project activity, Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi Biega Landscape activity, Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru Forest Landscape Activity, Ituri-Epulu-Aru Forest Landscape activity). (which is captured in the national child project)
- Conservation through Economic Empowerment in the Republic of the Congo (CEERC) activity which is a 5-year program beginning in 2019. Its goal is to address the threats posed by extractive practices and lack of economic alternatives through the opportunity to support "green industries" that improve the well-being of forests, wildlife and rural dwellers at a scale sufficient to impact large areas and diverse populations.

**USFWS:** In Central Africa, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) implements funding from the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). USFWS has developed a network of key projects that target the region's wildlife priorities: African elephants, great apes and marine turtles. Specific investments can be found in country baseline investments.

**UNEP-WCMC** implements a number of projects in the region as described below:

Building capacity for national ecosystem assessments: linking science and policy (2017 – and ongoing): It is building the capacities of eight countries - Cameroon (plus Colombia, Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada) - to undertake ecosystem assessments at a national level, establish a national science policy platform and support the uptake of the assessments into decision making. Funded by the International

Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and implemented in partnership by UNEP-WCMC and UNDP.

The UKRI GCRF Trade, Development and the Environment Hub (2019-2024): Working in Brazil, **Cameroon**, China, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Gabon**, Indonesia, **Republic of Congo**, and Tanzania to trace the trade of wildlife, wild meat and agricultural goods from their origin in the eight countries, and then throughout the entire world.

Sustainable Production of Cocoa in West Africa/CocoaSoils (2018 - 2022): Supporting sustainable intensification of cocoa production through the development and dissemination of integrated soil fertility management in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, **Cameroon**, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia and the Philippine. Led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and IDH.

BIOPAMA phase 2 (2018-2023): Implemented by IUCN and EC-JRC. The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities to improve the management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources.

CongoPeat: Past, Present and Future of the Peatlands of the Central Congo Basin (2018-2023). This is a research project, led by University of Leeds, that aims to (i) understand the genesis, development and maintenance of the central Congo peatland complex; (ii) Refine estimates of current peat carbon stocks, and quantify surface fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>; (iii) Simulate possible future scenarios for the Central Congo peatland complex; and (iv) Communicate the results to enable better policy decisions to be made locally, regionally, and globally. UNEP-WCMC's role is in delivering on the 4th of these objectives through production and dissemination of briefing materials suitable for decision-makers.

**UN-REDD Program:** The United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries was launched in 2008. UN-REDD supports a thought process into how countries are progressing against the framework of the convention, namely: (1) a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan (UNDP); (2) a Safeguards and Safeguards Information System (UNEP); (3) a National Forest Reference Emission Level/National Forest Reference Level (FAO); and (4.) a National Forest Monitoring System (FAO). In addition, it coordinates support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector, including institutional arrangements (UNDP), Zero-deforestation commodity production (UNEP), private sector engagement (UNEP), and developing national investment plan (UNDP). Although, there is no certainty that Norway will finance UN-REDD activities post-2020, it will provide support to REDD countries for the implementation of the Warsaw framework in order for countries to move to full implementation of REDD+ by 2025. Specific projects in the pipeline include:

- Sustainable Congo Finance Facility: UN-REDD is planning to mobilize US\$ 6M from USAID in collaboration with ICRAF. The proposed project will develop and pilot a blended-finance partnership to catalyze private sector investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Republic (potentially). The objective is to create a financial mechanism and ancillary services that generate inclusive, community-driven, resilient and long-term investments in green growth at scale. The resulting Sustainable Congo Finance Facility aims to leverage equity and debt financing against public sector investment at a rate of at least 10:1;

- FCPF: Supporting Readiness phase (Gabon and the Central African Republic), and the implementation of Reduced impacts of Logging on carbon in Gabon. Support the investment phase and Jurisdictional Program for emissions reductions in DRC (draft finalized and signed for \$55 M), Republic of Congo (draft finalized and soon to sign) and Cameroon (the draft is under review).

- UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2018-2020 (Only Republic of Congo in the Congo Basin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Zambia). The Republic of Congo (FAO) component will be on improving National Forest Monitoring Systems and submitted Reference Levels conforming to UNFCCC requirements.

**Conservation Justice/LAGA/Congo-PALF – EAGLE Network:** Conservation Justice/LAGA/Congo-PALF are part of the EAGLE Network. The EAGLE Network (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement) is leading the fight against wildlife crime with more than 2,000 significant wildlife traffickers jailed to date, fighting corruption to break complicity and ensure justice. EAGLE developed a model of working with governments on investigations, arrest operations, legal follow up and media activities to get the law applied. The model of EAGLE started in Cameroon and is now replicated in eight countries that form a network, and has shifted countries from zero wildlife prosecutions to a rate of one major trafficker arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned per week. The overarching objective of the EAGLE Network is to develop civic activism and collaborate with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption. For the proposed timeframe of the CBSL IP, Conservation Justice will be implementing two programs: 1) Wildlife Law Enforcement across Multiple African Countries (Target Geographies in the Central Africa region: Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Gabon), and 2) Strengthening Law Enforcement on Fauna and Flora in Central Africa (RALFF), and combating illegal forest exploitation (ALEFI) in Gabon.

In addition to the above described interventions, the baseline scenario in the participating countries of the CBSL IP is described below (see child project concepts for further details).

**Cameroon** has made great strides in the conservation of its transboundary forest and wildlife landscapes in the southern part of the country. It has established a network of protected areas as well as cooperation agreements with bordering countries on the transboundary management of their shared ecosystems. The national land use plans for the East and South Regions provide a strong basis for the development of the child project under the CBSL IP. The target landscape has been subject to a large range of conservation-related projects and initiatives over the years, including considerable government investments and bilateral and multi-lateral programs. Based on an initial assessment of current (ongoing and confirmed) projects and government investments in the region, the total baseline is estimated at USD 60 million (for a full list of baseline projects and initiatives, see Annex D of the child project concept). Specifically, key to the project are the National Zoning Plan and the East and South Regional Zoning Plans, the Program for Integrated Land-use Management of the Dja Mining Belt and the Adjacent Border area, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the 2020 Forest and Wildlife Sub-sector strategy and the Campo Ma'an ecotourism development program.

In the **Central African Republic**, under the baseline scenario, protected areas, forest corridors and buffer zones in the TNS landscape will remain isolated and disconnected. The dependence of communities on natural resources due to deep poverty and the region's isolation leads to a great deal of poaching and overexploitation of natural resources in corridor areas. As a result, corridor areas will be severely threatened and could lead to complete isolation of forest complexes such as the Ngotto. Gaps in the legal, institutional, and technical frameworks for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources will remain, and the government's limited human, material, and financial resources will prevent effective implementation of what exists. Although the participative management of natural resources is encouraged in CAR, there will be a number of challenges to realizing this, especially the lack of accountability of local communities (lack of awareness and organization), poor technical and financial capacity of national NGOs for carrying out activities in the field and negotiating with public authorities, etc.

The baseline scenario in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** is characterized by weak policy frameworks to support sustainable development including valuation of ecosystem services, poor governance and incapacity of some institutions and governmental entities to establish and enforce legislation for nature conservation and other sustainable development policies, and the lack of appropriate land use plans. Baseline investments are estimated at USD 80 million for a 5-year period. These include investments from institutions directly related to the environment as well as institutions that although focused on sectoral and development policies (e.g., agriculture and road infrastructure) are integrating environmental objectives in their institutional framework. The Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI), with funding from the Norwegian government is assisting in the development of sound land and forest management

policies through the following: (i) Ensuring sustainable management of resources and land, developing perennial crops and strengthening local governance around a holistic vision centered on land use planning; (ii) Promoting sustainable use and substitution of wood energy; (iii) Supporting land tenure reform and land use planning; (iv) Providing support to civil society organizations and forest monitoring system; and (v) Promoting forest management by indigenous people.

The baseline scenario in **Equatorial Guinea** builds on the IUCN/CARPE Program. The Monte Alén /Monts de Cristal (MA-MC) landscape (of which Monte Alén is in Equatorial Guinea) and the Campo-Ma'an/Rio-Campo landscape (of which Rio Campo is in Equatorial Guinea) are two key landscapes that have benefitted from the Congo Basin-wide IUCN/CARPE program. In the MA-MC, a landscape land use plan has been designed with USAID/CARPE funding, and the main issue now is to establish a formal mechanism to coordinate land use plan design, adoption, and implementation. The results of the CARPE program were capitalized in NRM policies and legislation at the national and regional levels to facilitate the implementation and subsequently the revision of the COMIFAC Forest Convergence Plan, elaborate and fine-tune the on-going REDD+ preparatory process, conceive and develop the National Economic and Social Development Plan "Horizon 2020", promulgate a decree prohibiting hunting of primates in Equatorial Guinea and a law banning exportation of unprocessed timber. In addition, through the CARPE small grants program, advocacy, institutional and management capacity of local civil society was strengthened and indigenous peoples' and women's rights and inclusive decision-making in the various landscapes was promoted. WCS is currently implementing a project that seeks to improve livelihood activities and biodiversity conservation in the Rio Campo landscape, notably through the creation and strengthening of institutional capacities of local fishing and agricultural groups (funded by Noble Energy, a US company). To facilitate sustainable management of wildlife in the Rio Campo landscape, INDEFOR-AP (with funds from Biodiversity Initiative) is currently carrying out an inventory of mammals, the results of which will be used to boost conservation actions in the landscape. The Government is currently supporting communities and private sector to prepare business plans that will support conservation of the Monte Alén National Park and Rio Campo Natural Reserve, just as communities will be supported to implement sustainable agricultural practices through the management of pilot agro-pastoral production units and groups.

The baseline scenario for **Gabon** is defined by its national development strategy (The Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan) that promotes a "Green Gabon" based on sustainable management of the forestry and agricultural sectors to preserve biodiversity and forests. In conjunction with its National Climate Plan, the country is finalizing a national land use plan (PNAT) that is financed by CAFI and designed for sustainable and optimal spatial management of lands and natural resources, protection of High Conservation Value Forests and Species, and mitigation of deforestation and forest degradation by informing the expansion of commercial and infrastructure activities. Gabon is currently in FCPF REDD+ Readiness process, having submitted their revised R-PP in 2018. World Bank-implemented GEFACHE has developed a management information system operationalizing an information infrastructure for Gabon's natural resource data, which will also provide socioeconomic data on rural communities.

In the **Republic of Congo**, the baseline scenario is of a landscape with only token participation of local communities in natural resource management decision-making. Harvesting of fish and wild meat is currently unsustainable and there exists no formalized management of fire or habitat management in forest fringes. Understanding and knowledge of these ecosystems, their function and services remain low, preventing effective management, and collaboration with neighboring countries remains marginal. Local formal community-based management structures have been initiated for sustainable fisheries and show promise, but the model needs to be replicated to other activities such as hunting and fire management. The institutional framework for peatland or community conservation is lacking. In the current context, peatlands remain at low risk of destruction from direct human disturbance. The exception is with any future unmanaged oil exploitation or climate change impacts of rapid drying or drainage of peatlands. In these scenarios, degradation of forest integrity will mean rapid wildlife and biodiversity loss, loss of sources of revenue and resources for local community, leading to increased poverty and significant carbon emissions. In terms of baseline projects, UN Environment is leading a collaborative effort with GRASP, the Global Peatlands Initiative, and FAO to ensure sustainable management of the Congo peatlands through a multi-level and cross-sectoral stakeholder process. The "Global Peatlands Initiative: Assessing, Measuring and Preserving Peat Carbon", a project of the German International Climate Initiative (IKI), works to highlight the status and importance of

peatlands in the global carbon cycle; improve the level of knowledge and data accessibility; and create a hotspot atlas. The project (2 Million Euro) enhances stakeholder capacity to improve the protection and sustainable use of peatlands; identifies gaps in global and national strategies; and works with partners to develop strategies and approaches to more effectively address the loss of peatlands. It uses innovation and South-South cooperation. In the pilot countries of Peru, Indonesia, RoC, and DRC the project will support the achievement of nationally-defined contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement. Options to reduce peatland degradation are being developed and the sustainability of peatland management improved through conservation, restoration and sustainable strategies.

### 3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the program

The CBSL IP will build on these baseline initiatives and projects so as to contribute to the long-term goal of preserving the globally important Congo Basin forest ecosystem. The specific objective of the CBSL IP is: To catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnership with the private sector. Successful realization of this objective/outcome by the program will lead to an intermediate state wherein the Congo Basin forest ecosystem is healthy and thriving with stable forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations. This, in turn, will help to conserve the globally significant biodiversity; maintain subsistence, cultural, and religious values for local people; safeguard regional climate regulation; and ensure that forests and peatlands continue to sequester carbon. (See Annex E for the program's Theory of Change diagram.)

Three main pathways have been identified to realize the program objective/outcome as follows, with each pathway corresponding to a program component: (i) in key transboundary landscapes of the basin, integrated land use planning is undertaken covering protected and productive landscapes and addressing current and future threats; (ii) in the key transboundary landscapes, the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services is improved by maintaining/enhancing connectivity between forested areas and/or biodiversity-rich protected areas; and (iii) the sustainable use of forests by local communities, forest dependent people, and the production sector with related benefit sharing mechanisms.

The CBSL program focuses on a few transboundary landscapes in the heart of the Congo Basin namely, TNS, TRIDOM, Cuvette Centrale/ LTLT, Grand Kivu[14], Monte Alén–Monts de Cristal, and Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo (see Annex F for details on these landscapes). These key transboundary landscapes have been selected by the countries. TRIDOM, TNS, and the Cuvette Centrale form the heart of the intact and dense rainforest landscape. Additional landscapes to the East (Kivu) and the West/South have also been included due to the importance of mixed landscapes and ecotones in evolutionary processes[15]. Each of the child projects has identified a target geography as follows:

- 1) Cameroon (CAM): TNS, TRIDOM, Rio Campo
- 2) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): LTLT, Grand Kivu
- 3) Equatorial Guinea (EQG): Monte Alén–Monts de Cristal, Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo
- 4) Republic of Congo (ROC): LTLT and surrounding forest
- 5) Central African Republic (CAR): TNS
- 6) Gabon (GAB): Minkebe/TRIDOM
- 7) Regional: TRIDOM (ROC sector), TNS (ROC sector), Monte Alén–Monts de Cristal landscape (Gabon landscape segment); in addition, the region-wide capacity building and knowledge management activities will have a bearing on all transboundary landscapes

Given that the Congo Basin is one biological unit spanning six countries, a key driver of program success is the extent of regional cooperation among countries. Specifically, the quality and depth of inter-country dialogue, coordination, and collaboration will be instrumental to all basin countries having shared capacities and approaches such that they work in tandem to promote sustainable development in the Congo Basin. The program's Theory of Change recognizes this as a fourth key pathway to success and addresses it through a separate component (Component 4). Together, these four components will help address the four main barriers namely, conflicting and isolated sectoral developments increase competition between different land uses and accelerate pressures on natural resources leading to habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict; forest landscape sustainability is compromised by poor governance of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors; lack of engagement of communities, forest dependent people, and private sector in conservation and sustainable use; and weak cross-border implementation of conservation actions and learning.

The CBSL IP framework, thus, consists of four components that are described below. All six national child projects and the regional project contribute to these components. The program and its constituent country and regional child projects, in developing these components further during the project preparation phase, will be guided by the following key principles that have been highlighted by the STAP and are of direct relevance to the success of the CBSL IP.

· Principle 1: Integration to Solve Complex Environmental Problems. STAP has noted that “environmental challenges are complex and interlinked, not only in themselves but also with social and economic issues” and that “solutions for one environmental problem, for example climate change, can, and often do, lead to unintended negative consequences, or create new environmental or socio-economic problems”.<sup>[16]</sup> The environmental challenges faced in the Congo Basin most definitely fit this description. The CBSL IP in its constituent projects aims for integration of (i) the objectives of multiple environmental agreements (UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD); (ii) social, economic and environmental aspects for forest dependent people; (iii) multiple production sectors (agriculture, mining, logging); and (iv) future threats to the Congo Basin. As described in the baseline section, baseline investments in the Congo Basin landscapes are still sectoral and lack integration. Multi-sectoral coordination is weak, resulting in lack of integrated policies and insufficient long-term planning. Under a business-as-usual scenario, the existing programs will continue to be implemented through a sectoral approach and will not be sufficient to enable a shift towards sustainable forest management through integrated landscape level planning and governance, an approach which is commensurate with the challenges face by the region. The CBSL IP will help optimize this baseline through mainstreaming an integrated approach to landscape management and sustainable production. It will deliver direct environmental and social benefits by shifting from the current sectoral approach to a cross-sectoral integrated landscape management approach that is backed by policies and legal framework, local and regional institutions with integrated decision making, empowerment of forest dependent people, access to finance and credits for sustainable production and promotion of conservation, sustainable practices, plans and participatory strategies. Improved inter-institutional and cross-sectoral coordination is essential for the long-term protection of global and local values of the Congo Basin forests. This is the innovation that this program will bring to the region: advancing an integrated approach to sustainable management and production in key Congo Basin transboundary landscapes. In keeping with the above, program/project development will be guided by the recommendation of STAP to increase “systems thinking” by doing the following: (i) introducing system description, and systems thinking; (ii) developing a realistic theory of change; (iii) assessing the potential risks and vulnerabilities of the key components of the system, to measure its resilience to expected and unexpected shocks and changes, and the need for incremental adaptation or more fundamental transformational change (for this the CBSL IP will use a tool such as the RAPTA<sup>[17]</sup> guidelines); (iv) following adaptive implementation pathways; (v) dedicating funding for good quality knowledge management and learning; (vi) engaging stakeholders, including local communities, civil society networks, industry associations or other key private sector actors.

· Principle 2: Environmental Security Dimensions and Priorities. STAP notes that there are four dimensions of environmental security that are of particular relevance to the GEF<sup>[18]</sup>: (i) ecosystem goods and services fundamentally underpin human well-being and human security; (ii) conflict, irrespective of its source, affects the viability or sustainability of investments in environmental protection and their outcomes; (iii) ecosystem degradation, resource competition,

or inequitable distribution of benefits increase vulnerability and conflict risk; and (iv) environmental cooperation can increase capacity for conflict management, prevention, and recovery. The six Congo Basin countries that are a focus of the CBSL IP are vulnerable to conflict/ collapse as evidenced in their ranking on the fragile states index, making these issues of environmental security highly relevant to the program. In developing child projects, the following guidance from STAP will be taken into account: (i) explicitly address environmental security in project and program design; (ii) assess conflict risk routinely among investment risks (GEF agencies leading child projects will draw on their experience with carrying out such analyses in their non-GEF financed portfolios); (iii) evaluate the relationships between environmental change and vulnerability through the use of the RAPTA framework; and (iv) contribute to conflict prevention through environmental cooperation.

**Component 1: Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM.**

This component will promote the use of ILUMPS (integrated land use management plans – see Box 1) in targeted transboundary forest landscapes that: (i) fully involve local communities and forest dependent people as active rights-holders, (ii) encompass protected and production areas, as well as wildlife corridors, (iii) integrate tools for valuing natural capital (e.g., natural capital accounting, economic valuation of ecosystem services), (iv) account for future threats such as climate change, industrial agriculture, and infrastructure expansion, and (v) align with local economic development plans. Specific attention will be placed on considering women's rights related to amendments to existing laws, and developing the capacity of women and women CSOs for sustainable land use planning and management. This component will build on the land use planning and management guides developed by COMIFAC with support from USAID, ensuring integration of natural capital assets in planning and implementation of land use in a broader inter-sectoral and inter-institutional approach, and thus anchoring the land use map produced as part of this process into the policy framework.

#### **Box 1: Landscape Land Use Planning**

Landscape planning seeks to outline and implement planning processes so that: 1) the long term ecosystem function of the forest and biodiversity present within landscapes is ensured; 2) the supply of products and income sources that local communities in the landscape have traditionally depended upon continues; 3) extractive zones within landscapes are contributing to the country's economy without negatively influencing local populations or the health of the ecosystem; and 4) in-country natural resource management capacity is strengthened. The following steps form the basis of the landscape land-use planning process:

1. Identify planning team members and define individuals' specific roles;
2. Identify existing and needed ecological, social and economic information on the landscape;
3. Create a Public Participation Strategy (PPS);
4. Landscape plan development:
  - a. Describe the landscape's unique value;
  - b. Describe characteristics of the landscape;
  - c. Develop landscape desired conditions;
  - d. Develop landscape objectives which reflect and address the desired conditions for the landscape;
  - e. Develop & map macro-zones, taking into consideration already legally designated areas, concessions, contracts;

- f. Define landscape-wide guidelines (optional);
- g. Outline a work plan and activity implementation schedule; and
- h. Design a monitoring and evaluation system and schedule.

(Source: Landscape Land Use Planning: Lessons Learned from the CARPE Program. Jim Beck. Accessed at [https://carpe.umd.edu/sites/default/files/documents/lessons\\_learned/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter1\\_synthesis.pdf](https://carpe.umd.edu/sites/default/files/documents/lessons_learned/lessons_learned_chapter1_synthesis.pdf); on 1 April 2019

Depending on the main barriers in each country, this component will provide support for identifying and addressing changes that are needed in the enabling environment to bring these ILUMPs to fruition. The component will finance activities including, but not limited to: (i) design of program-wide methodology for developing ILUMPs through a consultative process, (ii) amendments to existing laws (for example, to provide a legal basis for community governance and management of forests and natural resources) and sectoral policies (for example, to commit to preserving peatlands) (iii) technical support for natural and social capital accounting and economic valuation, and how findings can be integrated in the land use planning process, (iv) strengthening land governance[19], (v) developing the capacity of national and local governments, local communities and forest dependent peoples, private companies, and CSOs for sustainable land use planning and management, (vi) establishing multi-sectoral, cross-border stakeholder committees for discussion, review, and validation of ILUMPs; (vii) studying the potential ecological impacts of changing temperature and precipitation regimes and designing appropriate measures, (viii) securing inter-country agreements to facilitate cross-border initiatives, (ix) re-alignment of public sector funding and brokering of new private finance for SFM and SLM initiatives, (x) support for transboundary agreements in key landscapes with protocols for transboundary SLM/ILUMP cooperation.

While the target geographies have already been identified, as outlined above, the exact area in hectares to be covered by the ILUMPs will be finalized during the project development phase of the national and regional child projects. Key performance indicators could include:

- Increase in area covered by ILUMPs developed with the full involvement of local communities for targeted transboundary landscapes
- Increase in number of women participating in design of ILUMPs
- Increase in score of key institutions in participating countries as measured by a (to be developed) Capacity Development Scorecard for integrated land use planning
- Increase in public and private financing resources for SFM/SLM, including re-alignment of existing financial streams

**Component 2: Long-term viability of forests and area-based management of critical high conservation value forest providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services.**

This component will increase connectivity between forested areas and/or biodiversity-rich protected areas and improve wildlife management, governance and management effectiveness[20] of existing protected areas, in collaboration with local communities and forest dependent peoples. Consideration will be given to a diversity of protected area types (including for example Category V and VI), and to “Other effective area-based measures” defined by the CBD (conserved areas), which can be on land with a variety of tenures and owned by various landholders. In addition, given the important role of women in conservation and

sustainable use of forest resources, specific attention will be placed on including women in multi-sectoral stakeholder committees, ensuring women's participation in decision-making related to HCVF areas for non-exhaustive forest uses, improving women's participation and decision-making in PA management plans, and improving women's participation in community governance structures.

Depending on the main barriers in each country, the component will finance activities including, but not limited to: (i) establishing multi-sectoral stakeholder committees (including IPLCs as active rights-holders) for discussion, review, and validation of proposed measures for increasing connectivity, (ii) elevating the conservation status of globally significant forest ecosystems, (iii) set-aside HCVF areas for non-exhaustive forest uses (e.g., tourism, sustainable harvesting of NTFPs), (iv) restoration of forest areas that are identified as degraded by the ILUMPs, (v) improvement of protected area management plans with the involvement of local communities, forest dependent peoples, and women, (vi) establishment of community governance structures and bylaws to address the rights to land and access to natural resources of forest dependent peoples, (vii) developing technical and operational capacities of those responsible for PA management (government, local communities, forest-dependent peoples) to monitor and enforce protected area management plans in ways that respect the rights of local communities and forest dependent peoples, (viii) addressing wildlife crime through better deterrence, detection and prosecution of such crime, (ix) implementation of region-wide conservation strategy for great apes and forest elephants.

The focus will be on the target geographies already identified, but the exact area in hectares to be impacted both within and outside protected areas will be finalized during the project development phase of the national and regional child projects. Key performance indicators could include:

- Increase in area of forest land tagged as connecting corridors where exhaustive forest uses are curtailed
- Stable/increasing population sizes of African Elephant, Bonobo, Chimpanzee and Gorilla in the protected areas at program sites
- Number of communities participating in protected area management and forest restoration measures; and share of women's participation within these communities
- Increase in protected areas management effectiveness (METT) score for program sites

### Component 3: Sustainable use of forests by local communities and forest dependent people through strengthening of rights and tenure, and sustainable management of production sector activities.

This component will address the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use by local communities and private sector actors to minimize forest and peatland degradation, while respecting livelihood and economic development needs. To address pressures from local communities, emphasis will not only be placed on interventions that shift local people from using the forest to non-extractive uses and to labelled products where these are viable alternatives[21], but also interventions that strengthen indigenous and local community rights and tenure, and improve the sustainability of subsistence use. The latter will encompass a diversity of strategies in different contexts, but given the broad regional situation will need to include a major emphasis on making subsistence and small scale uses sustainable (including hunting). Given the role of women in conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, activities that could benefit women (e.g., ecotourism, agroforestry, sustainable NTFP value-chains and related access of women to markets and financing) will be prioritized. The component will also address forest and mining concessions, encouraging them to take more responsible and sustainable trajectories.

Depending on the main barriers in each country, the component will finance activities including, but not limited to: (i) studies and recommendations for increasing involvement of local communities, forest dependent peoples, women, and private sector in SFM (ii) regulations for community management of sustainable resource use and land management practices (e.g., sustainable hunting, fire use, fisheries), (iii) institutional and technical support to communities to establish and scale out alternative biodiversity-positive enterprises (e.g., ecotourism, agroforestry, sustainable NTFP value-chains), as well as secure

biodiversity-positive labeling and access to markets, (iv) technical support for increasing communities' access to financing, (v) providing communities access to efficient cookstoves for cooking, efficient kilns for charcoal production, and renewable energy sources as an alternative to firewood, (vi) private sector engagement to scale out sustainable tourism as a biodiversity-based income generating activity that will give value to nature and therefore support long-term sustainability, (vii) increase awareness of private sector partners on the impacts of production activities on the long-term viability of the Congo Basin, the importance of respecting the ILUMPs, and to discuss best practices in resource exploitation from across the globe, and (viii) securing jurisdictional commitments from the private sector to deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production systems, revisions to operational modalities on concessions, and financial incentive schemes to encourage small farmers to adopt deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production practices.

The number of communities and how they will be impacted, as well as actions taken by private sector actors, will be finalized during the project development phase of the national and regional child projects. Key performance indicators could include:

- Increase in area under integrated sustainable forest management practices
- Increase in number of community members (gender disaggregated reporting) engaged in alternative biodiversity-positive enterprises (e.g., sustainable tourism, production of biodiversity-positive labelled commodity production, sustainable timber)
- Qualitative indicator of empowered forest dependent and local communities
- Official commitments from private sector companies (i.e., forestry, oil, mining concessions) to deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production practices in areas identified as ecologically sensitive by the ILUMPs
- Increase in investments by private sector companies in conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Congo Basin

#### Component 4: Capacity building, knowledge management, and regional cooperation

This component will improve national and regional inter-agency coordination on efforts to maintain forest resources, protect biodiversity, enhance forest management, and restore forest ecosystems through enhanced knowledge, technology exchange, and adaptive management of the program. Local communities and forest dependent people – as key forest management stakeholders – will be included in all capacity building activities (ensuring participation of women). The component will finance activities including, but not limited to: (i) program oversight and coordination among basin countries, (ii) program-wide communications strategy and web-based portal, (iii) program and project level M&E system for monitoring of impact and adaptive management, (iv) development and dissemination of knowledge products to facilitate scaling up of innovative approaches from country projects, (v) studies and recommendations on mitigating the impact of climate change on the Congo Basin, (vi) strategic partnerships with the private sector on SFM such as through a platform to promote dialogue and strategic action with large companies, (vii) strengthening of transboundary cooperation through agreements. Key performance indicators will be finalized during the project development phase of the national and regional child projects and could include:

- Number of transboundary or bilateral agreements on program related topics
- Additional partnerships catalyzed for conservation of the Congo Basin through the establishment of a platform bringing together leading private sector companies in the Congo Basin for deforestation-free commodity supply chains
- Instances of south-south cooperation/information exchange with the 2 other biomes identified by the GEF's SFM IP (Amazon, Drylands)

#### 4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The CBSL IP is fully aligned with the SFM IP under the GEF-7 Programming Directions. Specifically, the Programming Directions document notes that the Congo Basin is one of only a few last geographies "...where a different approach to long-term development can be tested. In these globally important ecosystems, there is an opportunity to change the future development trajectory from natural resource depletion and biodiversity erosion, to one based on natural capital management and productive landscapes. The latest science also indicates that these globally important ecosystems require integrated ecosystem-scale management for maintaining their 'ecological integrity and functioning' and delivering Global Environmental Benefits. Because of the scale of these biomes, a comprehensive and large-scale set of investment is needed as fragmented and isolated projects will not be sufficient in these large ecosystems to maintain the integrity of these unique and globally important areas." Further, the IP will contribute to the objectives of the biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change focal areas under GEF-7 as follows:

- BD-1-1. Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors: Component 1 of the IP will contribute through ILUMPs; Component 3 through reducing adverse impacts of unsustainable natural resource use by communities and private sector (mining, logging, etc.); and Component 4 through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance mainstreaming efforts across the 6 basin countries.
- BD-1-2b. Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Global Wildlife Program for sustainable development: Component 2 of the IP will contribute through better management of protected areas and wildlife corridors, as well as through a coordinated regional strategy on addressing wildlife crime; and Component 4 through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts across the 6 basin countries.
- BD-2-7. Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate: Component 2 of the IP will contribute through better management of protected areas and wildlife corridors, set-aside HCVF areas, as well as through a coordinated regional strategy on addressing wildlife crime; Component 3 through reducing adverse impacts of unsustainable natural resource use by communities and private sector (mining, logging, etc.); and Component 4 through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts across the 6 basin countries.
- CCM-2-7. Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts for sustainable forest management impact program: the ILUMPs under Component 1, efforts to improve protected area management under Component 2, and the reduction of unsustainable use of forest resources by communities and the private sector under Component 3 will contribute to halting the release of GHG emissions through avoided deforestation and preservation of peatlands. Component 4 will contribute through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts across the 6 basin countries.
- LD-1-2. Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM): Component 2 will contribute through restoration of forest areas that are identified as degraded by the ILUMPs; Component 3 will contribute through promoting sustainable use of forest resources by communities and private sector (e.g., logging companies); and Component 4 through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts across the 6 basin countries.
- LD-1-4. Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape: the ILUMPs under Component 1, efforts to improve protected area management under Component 2, and the reduction of unsustainable use of forest resources by communities and the private sector under Component 3 will contribute to this objective. Component 4 will contribute through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts across the 6 basin countries.

The CBSL IP meets the justification for a programmatic approach by focusing on issues at the transboundary and regional levels that cannot be effectively addressed by individual country projects. The CBSL program focuses on a few transboundary landscapes in the heart of the Congo Basin namely, TNS, TRIDOM, the larger Cuvette Centrale including the Lac Tele Lac Tumba (LTLT), Grand Kivu, Monte Alén–Monts de Cristal, and Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo. Taking a programmatic approach will provide the following benefits; the regional project will play an important role in realizing these benefits:

- Maximizing global environmental benefits in transboundary landscapes: The IP identifies four main pathways to achieve the IP objective. All child projects (national and regional) will design and implement activities within this framework. This will allow for capitalizing on synergies among child projects thereby maximizing global environmental benefits. In addition, the programmatic approach will help ensure that investments to promote biodiversity conservation, SFM, and SLM in one country are not undermined by indirect threats from other countries within the same transboundary landscape. For example, the regional project will develop a land-use planning methodology that integrates systems thinking and natural capital economic valuation into decision-making. Once the methodology has been finalized and agreed in a regional workshop, the various child projects will take the lead in developing national integrated land use management plans. By having the same methodology applied by basin countries in different transboundary landscapes concurrently, the programmatic approach will enhance the global benefits of improved land use in the Congo Basin. Land use planning in sectors of the key transboundary landscapes that are not covered by national child project will be addressed by the regional child project.
- Ability to transfer knowledge and experience: In order to deal with one of the most pressing threats to the Congo basin, namely climate change, the project will work closely with the Congo Basin Institute (CBI) to expand to all six countries their current work in Cameroon and Gabon. The programmatic approach will facilitate leveraging of existing networks of scientists and students (including from Cameroon and Gabon) to train students and researchers from other countries in the region to assist with carrying out the sampling, analyses, and mapping.
- Testing various approaches in different contexts: The 6 country projects and 1 regional project under the IP will enable the testing of different approaches in different socio-economic, political and ecological contexts. Innovations in one context could be applicable to others. For example, community management of protected areas and natural resources will be demonstrated in several child projects, as will local income generation through sustainable tourism. This will lead to a broader set of experiences for further replication.
- Common approach to monitoring impacts and disseminating lessons: The 6 country projects will have a common system for monitoring impacts, and a shared knowledge base. This will facilitate comparisons and sharing of good practices across the different transboundary landscapes.
- Catalyze co-financing from different sources: Each of the child projects will mobilize co-financing all of which will contribute to the IP objective of conserving the Congo Basin forests and associated ecosystem services, thus greatly increasing resource allocation.

Furthermore, it integrates several GEF policies, principles, and decisions to emphasize the importance of livelihoods and well-being of forest dependent communities as follows. In terms of stakeholder engagement (ref. GEF C.55/Inf.08, Nov, 21, 2018), the ILUMPs under Component 1 will fully involve local communities and forest dependent peoples, Component 2 will rely on multi-sectoral stakeholder committees as a basis for discussion, review, and validation of proposed measures for increasing connectivity between forested areas, and Component 3 focuses on recognizing the rights and tenure of forest-dependent peoples and giving them a greater role in conservation and benefiting from sustainable use of forest resources. In terms of Indigenous People, the CBSL IP is aligned with the GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards (GEF/C.41.10/Rev.01), and GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (GEF/C.53/05/Rev.01). REPALEAC has been involved in the early stages of program development (see section 2. Stakeholders) and will be on the Program Steering Committee (see section 6. Coordination). GEF Agencies developing child projects will prepare an environmental and social review (for example, UNEP's Environmental, Social, and Economic Review Note or ESERN). In addition, the IP emphasizes gender equality as described below in Section 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

## 5) Incremental/ additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing

If the **threats and root causes** described in the section above continue unchecked, the ability of the Congo Basin forest to continue to provide a wide range of ecosystem services and values will be greatly compromised. As described in the **baseline scenario** there have been in the past and will continue to be various projects in the six countries to address threats. However, these are largely sector-based and a programmatic approach that, rather than looking at country-by-country interventions, focuses attention on transboundary landscapes and on region-wide joint and coordinated actions by all countries to address the main barriers will be lacking. All six basin countries need to work together to undertake national and cross-border actions that are based on inter-institutional and cross-sectoral participation to stabilize forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations, providing the incremental reasoning for the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program. GEFTF resources being requested total USD 57,201,127, and this will leverage co-financing of USD 388,383,108. This will cover the additional/incremental costs of securing global environmental benefits in the Congo Basin through actions that remove barriers at the country level, at the transboundary landscape level, as well as at the regional level as described below.

**Cameroon:** The child project builds on a strong national commitment to forest landscape management and restoration. Despite this commitment, weaknesses in inter-sectoral planning and management approaches, as well as related capacity challenges, remain barriers to achieving sustainable landscape level conservation goals. The child project aims to bring a new set of tools and approaches such as natural and social capital assessment, land use change and driver analyses to Cameroon, which will enable the government and partners to work **towards integrated landscape planning and management**. The focus will be on the Mintom and Ngoyla council areas, which are part of the TRIDOM transboundary landscape. The specific areas have the following characteristics: fall within the transboundary zone and within the Southern and Eastern region that has been prioritized by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development for land use planning; biodiversity rich; presence of indigenous people; ongoing reflection about the allocation of land for carbon, protected areas, agriculture, mining, with potentially highly conflicting interests from multiple stakeholders, including IPLCs. The child project will improve institutional, policy, legal and financial enabling conditions for sustainable land-use planning and management, as well as capacity building for local communities, indigenous people, and CSOs. The child project will promote **sustainable wildlife management** through developing and supporting public-private partnership models for wildlife management areas; strengthening wildlife law enforcement through capacity building; and promoting participatory wildlife management, including wildlife management in corridors. **Sustainable forest management** will be advanced by promoting models for SFM that include community forest initiatives, public-private partnerships and non-timber forest products; enhancing forest governance, including regulatory instruments for forest value chains, payment for environmental services and improved access and benefit sharing; and benefit-generation from sustainable forest management, e.g. through REDD+. Improved benefit generation from **sustainable tourism development** will be promoted by developing sustainable tourism opportunities through participatory (community/private sector) tourism models. These efforts on the Cameroon side of the TNS, TRIDOM, and Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo transboundary landscapes will be coordinated with other country/child projects through **transboundary coordination and cooperation on M&E, knowledge sharing/ learning/ synthesis, and communications**, as follows: in the TNS with the CAR project, ROC project on sustainable tourism, and the Regional project (the ROC child project will not be covering land use planning in this part of the landscape through its child project and hence the regional project will complete the coverage of the TNS landscape); in the TRIDOM with the Gabon child project and the regional project (same reason as above); and in the Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo with the Equatorial Guinea child project.

**Central African Republic:** The child project addresses a baseline scenario in CAR that is defined by extreme poverty and marginalization of forest dependent communities; institutional isolation and disconnect of PAs within the TNS landscape (i.e., Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park, its Ngotto forest buffer zone, and the forest corridor between the Ngotto forest and the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Zone that consists of Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and the Dzanga Sangha Reserve); gaps in the legal, institutional, and technical frameworks for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources (Forest Code, Environmental Code) and the government's limited human, material, and financial resources for effective implementation; challenges to participative management of natural resources due to the lack of awareness and accountability of local communities, and the poor technical and financial capacity of

national NGOs for carrying out activities in the field and negotiating with public authorities. The child project aims to promote enabling frameworks for **integrated landscape management and conservation** by supporting the development of policy, legal and/or technical instruments for land use planning, participative management of natural resources, and the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for protected areas. It will promote actions and investments for **enhanced protection and governance of natural capital** in the targeted landscape by supporting the management of protected areas (investments in infrastructure such as trails and guard stations, equipment, planning tools etc.); anti-poaching and environmental monitoring involving both the administration and local communities; and supporting forest and mining operators in adopting practices and standards considerate of natural resources (training, equipment etc.). **Alternative livelihoods and private sector interventions** will be promoted by supporting local communities to set up community structures and prepare/implement local development plans and integrate issues of rights and tenure and revenue sharing that underpin robust approaches for participative natural resources management; develop alternative income-generating activities (e.g. agroforestry, ecotourism) and related value chains. Partnerships will be considered with international and local expert organization in conducting value/commodity chain analysis studies (including assessments of potential buyers and markets) and in linking rural association/federations and markets/buyers, which could lead to true transformation and achieve impacts on rural livelihoods, leverage private sector investment, and generate jobs for communities. In terms of **transboundary and regional cooperation** in the TNS landscape, capacity and resources in CAR are lower than in other country partners of the CBSL IP, so the child project will rely on the regional project for actionable knowledge, just-in-time support, and country-to-country exchanges so that it can benefit from and contribute to the transboundary focus of the CBSL IP. In the TNS landscape, cooperation with neighboring countries (Cameroon and ROC) will be critical to promoting a shared vision on transboundary landscape management and related instruments for land-use planning, poaching, trafficking etc.

Democratic Republic of Congo: The baseline scenario is characterized by shortcomings in national policy and legal frameworks for land and natural resources access and utilization, inefficient enforcement of these regulatory frameworks at the national level, limited collaboration and learning from best practices across borders, and insufficient technical capacity incentives for responsible resource utilization. The child project will build on baseline initiatives (such as CAFI, the PARRSA World Bank project, and projects funded by Belgium and SIDA in the target area) having identified synergies with them to avoid duplication and enhance complementarity on the ground. The child project will ensure that three provincial governments (Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu) have indicative **land use zoning plans** and that **legislation on indigenous and local community land tenure and natural resource user rights** is promulgated at the national level. **Conservation on private lands** will be supported by ensuring that 400,000 ha of conservation areas (other than national protected areas) in the target landscape have efficient management in order to ensure the protection of the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity. This will include the creation of private (community) reserves. Improved agricultural production will be supported through the adoption of climate smart best practices for land use by local communities and forest dependent people. The **capacity to monitor wildlife trafficking, land use change, and SDG progress** in priority areas will be strengthened, and the governance structure (under current treaty) will be improved for better transboundary coordination and actions against wildlife trafficking. These efforts in the DRC side of the Lac Tele-Lac Tumba transboundary landscape will be coordinated with the ROC child project. Concerted and harmonized legislation and law enforcement between the neighboring countries may help minimize, regional wildlife off-take, timber and charcoal smuggling across borders, and coordination will also take place for consolidating and communicating lessons learned on effective conservation approaches at local, national and regional level. In terms of the Grand Kivu transboundary landscape (shared with Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania), because these countries are not part of the CBSL IP there are no child projects in these countries to coordinate with but the regional project could involve these countries in the capacity building aspect of land use planning to ensure regional understanding if deemed necessary during PPG.

Equatorial Guinea: The child project capitalizes on past and ongoing projects in the Monte Alén and Rio Campo landscapes to ensure a demonstrable decreased rate of deforestation and forest degradation, improved carbon stocks and biodiversity in forested lands, and enhanced livelihoods of local and indigenous populations. The child project aims to promote **integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management** through cross-border multi-

stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching, logging and mining, infrastructure development, connectivity, legal extractives, water); technical inputs to support development of improved policies governing transboundary landscapes, including cost-benefit assessments of alternative land management plans incorporating value of natural capital; capacity building of relevant national ministries to incorporate natural capital into land use planning, policies, and management; development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes, with the full participation of local and indigenous stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes. The project will **improve management of protected areas** within the Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes and the buffer zones, conservation areas and corridors, with collaboration and participation of local communities. This will include capacity building for key stakeholders, development and implementation of enhanced management plans, enhancement of protected area resources and infrastructure to facilitate monitoring and management, participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and illegal logging in the wider landscape. The project will support **development of local eco-tourism and NTFP industries to support local livelihoods** and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes. This will include capacity building for local entrepreneurs and community members, development of an eco-tourism strategy, small grants that focus on issues related to IPLC, eco-tourism and NTFP ventures for forest community entrepreneurs. Support will be provided to **sustainable logging practices** by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes through multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improving the enabling environment related to certification of private sector logging companies. These efforts in the Equatorial Guinea side of the Monte-Alén-Monts de Cristal (MA-MC) and Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo (CM-RC) transboundary landscapes will be coordinated with other country/child projects through **collaboration on best practices and lessons learned** as follows: in MA-MC with the Regional child project on land use planning (the Gabon child project will not be covering land use planning in this part of the landscape through its child project and hence the regional project will complete the coverage of the MA-MC landscape), and with the Gabon child project on other aspects; and in the CM-RC with the Cameroon child project.

Gabon: The child project builds on a baseline scenario in which the country is finalizing the National Land Use Plan (PNAT) for optimal spatial management of lands and natural resources, protection of HCV/HCS forests, and mitigation of deforestation/forest degradation by informing the expansion of commercial and infrastructural activities. It aims to support positive transformation in key forest landscapes, increasing the likelihood for success of other initiatives in the country. The project **integrates natural capital accounting knowledge for improved decision-making and governance in forestry management**. The CAFI-sponsored PNAT is the government's primary tool for the design and implementation of sustainable development policy and the sound management of national territory. The child project will leverage this exercise by analyzing its national resource inventory data and converting it into natural capital accounts. Procedures to make them accessible to pertinent stakeholders will be reformed/revised/simplified procedures to make them accessible to pertinent stakeholders. The child project will help to bring together stakeholders to ensure that implementation of the existing solid regulatory framework around sustainable development and access to resource rights is clear and fair and can be smoothly implemented in areas with limited government capacity. **Access to land and resource rights for forest-dependent communities** will be supported so as to promote resource conservation and diversify livelihood opportunities through **income-generating activities based on sustainable wood products and NTFPs** and the strengthening of their value chains. These efforts in the Gabon section of the TRIDOM landscape (Minkébé, Ivindo, and Mwagna National Parks, a biological corridor linking Minkébé and Mwagna NPs, and the "Blackwater" Ivindo River Basin) will be coordinated with other country/child projects through **improved transboundary cooperation and coordination** as follows: with the Cameroon and Regional child projects on land use planning, and with the Cameroon and ROC child projects on other aspects. The child project will build on bilateral agreements (e.g. TRIDOM) and regional fora (e.g. COMIFAC) to promote knowledge sharing and M&E.

Republic of Congo: The child project builds on baseline efforts of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other donors to promote a model for integrated community-based conservation and protected area management applied to the peatland area and forest ecosystems of the Republic of Congo. The child project supports the **development and implementation of land use plans** for the Lac Tele landscape protected areas and surrounding landscape with a focus

on ensuring and formalizing community involvement. Within the framework of Law n° 43-2014 on spatial planning (Guidance for Planning and Management of Territory) and capitalizing on the experience of partners deeply familiar with the landscape including WCS, African Parks, World Wildlife Fund, Man and Nature, the project will develop an innovative, integrated model for the sustainable use and participatory management of peatland ecosystems. The project will build the **capacity of local communities and forest-dependent peoples to participate in, manage, and benefit from actions to limit environmental degradation across the biome**, in particular the sustainable management of natural resources. **Communities' income sources will be diversified** (e.g. through promotion of ecotourism, certified sustainable cacao production). The project will focus on the provision of institutional and technical support to communities to develop a foundation for community-based enterprises. To limit the risk of unmanaged or poorly planned industrial exploitation, the project will provide technical support to private sector actors in the target geography through promotion of and training on Voluntary Sustainability Standards, capacity building and technical assistance on best practices, revising operational modalities of companies operating concessions, and increasing private sector commitment to sustainable peatlands landscape management. Project activities on **communication, knowledge management and M&E**, will not only empower local communities including women, but also enhance coordination and collaboration with other country/child projects as follows: in the TNS with the CAR and Cameroon child projects, in the TRIDOM with the Gabon and Cameroon child projects, and in Lac Tele-Lac Tumba with the DRC child project.

Regional: The Regional child project builds on baseline initiatives being undertaken by various entities in different countries of the basin (such as, CBFP, CAFI, Eagle Network, CBI, GRASP, REPALEAC, among others), by taking a more cross-sectoral and inter-institutional approach. The Regional project will complement the work of country child projects on **integrated national and transboundary land use planning** by completing sections of transboundary landscapes not covered by national projects (see references above – ROC sections of TRIDOM and TNS and Gabon section of MA-MC). In addition, it will support consistency, uptake, and scale up of land use planning through the development of methods and tools, and facilitating the political and technical process to smooth the implementation of the plans. It will develop land use planning methodology that integrates systems thinking and natural capital valuation in decision making, and provide technical support to ensure land use planning exercises under the national projects implement this methodology. The child project will support **region-wide actions for addressing wildlife crime and the conservation of elephants and great apes**, through measures such as supporting the creation and/or strengthening of networks addressing wildlife crime and raising the awareness and capacity of law enforcement and trade and custom agencies in the region, and implementation of actions under existing conservation strategies for great apes and forest elephants. **Empowerment of local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector** will be supported through studies, recommendations, and strategies, as well as the creation of a platform to facilitate partnerships between local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector. A study will be conducted to determine the current best practice and recommend future strategies on how to empower local communities and forest-dependent people in decision-making on SFM aspects (including land tenure, rights and access). A detailed study and recommendations will be put forward regarding the role the private sector currently plays in sustainable forest management (e.g., Taylor Guitars), with a focus on how to upscale approaches and increase private sector investments. **Knowledge management** will be undertaken to innovate and scale up best practices, by facilitating knowledge exchange and capture lessons learned amongst program participants and others to build capacities and enhance the impact of project interventions. Studies will be supported on current and potential climate change impacts on the Congo Basin focusing on biodiversity loss and strategies and policy briefs developed on the mitigation of climate change impacts on the biodiversity of the Congo Basin. The Regional child project will ensure **program coordination and communication** to maintain extensive and continued stakeholder consultations at national and regional level to support components of the program (formal consultative mechanisms; program and project level M&E system; CBSL Partnership Strategy and Communication and Outreach Strategy; information system and CBSL web portal).

## 6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

The table below summarizes the global environmental benefits (GEBs) to be generated by the CBSL IP:

Focal Area	Objectives and Priorities to be addressed through the IP	Global Environmental Benefits
Biodiversity	Conserving globally important biodiversity in key landscapes and forested areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (7,064,493 ha)</li> <li>- Improvements in METT scores for target PAs (to be provided at CEO endorsement)</li> <li>- Area of land restored (500,000 hectares)</li> <li>- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (4,387,267 hectares)</li> </ul>
Land Degradation	Sustainable management of forest landscape and dryland production systems – integrating the LDN targets into planning processes, focusing mainly on improved land use and management for crop and livestock production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area of land restored (500,000 hectares)</li> <li>- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (4,387,267 hectares)</li> </ul>
Climate Change Mitigation	Land-based and value chain GHG mitigation (sequestration and avoidance) - GHG emissions reductions from landscape forest conservation	GHG emissions mitigated (121,271,097 tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Multi-focal		Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment: Total 358,000 persons of which women 190,250 and men 167,750

The CBSL IP responds to guidance from the UNCBD and several of its Articles such as Article 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11. Of particular importance in the Congo Basin context is the CBSL IP's responsiveness to Article 8(j) (Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate: Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices). The CBSL IP also contributes to Aichi targets (see Table E). In addition, at UNCBD's COP13 (December 2016), Parties agreed on a Four-year

Framework of Program Priorities for the Seventh Replenishment Period (2018-2022) of the GEF Trust Fund (Decision CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/21). Under this framework, the CBSL IP specifically responds to the following guidance provided to the GEF: “framework encourages integrated approaches to project design as well as global and regional projects, noting that regional approaches are indispensable for addressing certain elements of the biodiversity agenda...”.

The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework will contribute to: (i) achieving the objectives of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and target 15.3 and other interrelated SDGs, within the scope of the Convention; (ii) improving the living conditions of affected populations; and (iii) enhancing ecosystems services. The CBSL IP, through its emphasis on integrated land use management plans (including natural capital valuation) and its efforts to promote SFM and SLM by local communities, forest dependent people and the private sector, directly contributes to the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework.

The UNFCCC COP in 2016 encouraged the GEF “to continue its efforts to encourage countries to align, as appropriate, their Global Environment Facility programming with priorities as identified in their nationally determined contributions, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.” The CBSL IP complements existing conservation and REDD+ initiatives for synergy and generate benefits in terms of carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector. Through its multi-focal approach addressing biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management (including peatland forests), and sustainable land management through integrated land use management planning, it will build on REDD+ initiatives with a special focus on landscape scale sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation, and focus extra attention on working with forest dependent communities in the management of their own forest resources.

In addition to the above direct global environmental benefits, the CBSL IP will also generate secondary benefits in other focal areas of the GEF such as adaptation to climate change, international waters, and chemicals and wastes. Sustainable forest management will reduce deforestation and forest degradation in turn increasing resilience to climate change. The CBSL IP includes support for studies and recommendations on mitigating the impact of climate change on the Congo Basin. Further, as mentioned in the [geographical context](#) earlier, the Congo River spans several countries and is a key element in the basin, with their being a close connection between water, peatlands, forests, carbon, rainfall patterns, and climate. The CBSL IP’s work on conservation and sustainable management of forests and peatlands through integrated land use planning in the Congo Basin watershed will have a beneficial impact in terms of reduced sedimentation flowing to the river. Integrated land use planning can also be expected to influence artisanal mining and associated toxic material contamination of soil and water.

## 7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

### Innovation

There are various projects taking place within the basin countries to conserve the Congo Basin forest. The CBSL IP, however, will bring the focus on transboundary landscapes within the Congo Basin and building shared capacities and approaches among the countries. Issues of integrated land use planning, wildlife crime, conservation of great apes and forest elephants, and recognizing the rights and tenure of forest dependent people to promote sustainable forest use, will be addressed in a concerted manner by all countries in the key transboundary landscapes, using the same methodologies where applicable, and sharing innovations in governance, business models, and partnerships. Furthermore, the program will promote an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to sustainable management and practices in production landscapes by working with both ECCAS, which is a regional cross-sectoral institution, and with COMIFAC, which is a regional sectoral institution. Until now, partners’ interventions in the Congo basin have been mainly based on sectoral approaches. Another added value of the program will be its support to natural capital accounting and its integration in land use planning and management. The CBSL IP will support the development of policies, plans and participatory strategies that improve inter-institutional and cross-sectoral coordination; strengthen opportunities for dialogue and consensus; build the capacity of national and landscape stakeholders; improve access to finance and markets for sustainable production; promote sustainable production practices; and promote partnership building with development institutions to support capacities of local

communities and forest dependent people. In addition, the CBSL IP puts emphasis on issues of rights and tenure for local communities and forest dependent people, as well as on better engaging the private sector through community-public-private partnerships for conservation and sustainable use of the Congo Basin forests.

### Sustainability

The CBSL IP will strengthen the enabling environment for land use planning and will integrate natural capital accounting and future threats such as infrastructure development and climate change into this process. By developing the capacities of national and regional stakeholders to design and implement these plans, the transformational change promoted by the program will help ensure a more sustainable trajectory of development in the Congo Basin. The program will rely on existing regional structures and platforms for facilitation of the technical and political process of land use planning. By taking a regional approach to wildlife crime and conservation actions for great apes and forest elephants with coordinated actions being taken in all basin countries, the sustainability of efforts to protect wildlife will also be improved. Program actions that enhance the ability of local communities and forest dependent communities to engage in non-extractive forest uses and make their current extractive uses more sustainable through capacity building support (training, access to finance, governance models based on rights and tenure, etc.) will ensure that communities are important conservation partners and sustain these actions beyond the program duration. Program actions to engage the private sector in jurisdictional commitments to deforestation-free and peatland-friendly production practices will ensure the sustainability of commodity value chains.

### Potential for scaling up

The CBSL IP will dedicate resources to capture, dissemination, and exchange of knowledge across the child projects with the specific aim to facilitate scaling up and replication. The regional child project in particular will undertake a number of activities in this regard, for example it will look at existing mechanisms and supporting structures that upscale investment of private sector in SFM and make recommendations to increase such investment to ensure scaling SFM in the Congo Basin. Work related to studying the impacts of climate change on the Congo Basin that is currently focused in Cameroon and Gabon will be scaled to other basin countries.

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[1] Dargie et al. 2017.

[2] Reference: Rupp, S. 2011. *Forests of Belonging: Identities, Ethnicities, and Stereotypes in the Congo River Basin*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press

[3] Déclaration de Yaoundé 1999 [https://pfb-cbfp.org/docs/key\\_docs/declarationyaounde.pdf](https://pfb-cbfp.org/docs/key_docs/declarationyaounde.pdf) et le Traité COMIFAC [https://pfb-cbfp.org/keydocs.html?file=docs/key\\_docs/traitecomifac\\_threelanguages.pdf](https://pfb-cbfp.org/keydocs.html?file=docs/key_docs/traitecomifac_threelanguages.pdf)

[4] [Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa and to Establish the Central African Forests Commission \(COMIFAC\), 2005](#)

[5] Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, and Rwanda

[6] [https://comifac.org/images/documents/Plan%20de%20convrgence%202\\_2015-2025\\_Fr.pdf](https://comifac.org/images/documents/Plan%20de%20convrgence%202_2015-2025_Fr.pdf)

[7] Priority themes: harmonization of forestry and fiscal policies; management and sustainable development of forest resources; conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; combatting climate change and desertification; socio-economic development and multi-actor participation.

[8] Cross-cutting themes: sustainable funding; training and capacity building; research and development; communication, awareness building and education

- [9] Déclaration de Brazzaville 1996 et statuts :[https://carpe.umd.edu/sites/default/files/documentsarchive/Statuts\\_Reglement\\_interieur-CEFDHAC\\_Cameroon\\_2008.pdf](https://carpe.umd.edu/sites/default/files/documentsarchive/Statuts_Reglement_interieur-CEFDHAC_Cameroon_2008.pdf)
- [10] Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda
- [11] Déclaration de Johannesburg 2002 <http://www.un-documents.net/jburgdec.htm> et cadre de coopération adopté en 2016 [https://pfbcbfp.org/keydocs.html?file=docs/key\\_docs/traitecomifac\\_threelanguages.off](https://pfbcbfp.org/keydocs.html?file=docs/key_docs/traitecomifac_threelanguages.off)
- [12] <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>
- [13] Lanjouw, A. and others. State of the Apes: Infrastructure Development and Ape Conservation. November 2018. Arcus Foundation and Cambridge University Press
- [14] The Grand Kivu area includes the Maiko, Tayna and Kahuzi-Biega protected areas, and the Itombwe community reserve. This area shares a border with several countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania).
- [15] Smith TB, Wayne RK, Girman D, Bruford MW. 1997. A role for ecotones in generating rainforest biodiversity. *Science* 276: 1855-1857
- [16] Bierbaum, R. et al. 2018. Integration: to solve complex environmental problems. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.
- [17] O’Connell, D., Abel, N., Grigg, N., Maru, Y., Butler, J., Cowie, A., Stone-Jovicich, S., Walker, B., Wise, R., Ruhweza, A., Pearson, L., Ryan, P., Stafford Smith, M. (2016). “Designing projects in a rapidly changing world: Guidelines for embedding resilience, adaptation and transformation into sustainable development projects. (Version 1.0)”. Global Environment Facility, Washington, D.C.
- [18] Ratner, B.D. 2018. Environmental security: dimensions and priorities. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.
- [19] Land governance “concerns the rules, processes and structures through which decisions are made about the use of and control over land, the manner in which the decisions are implemented and enforced, and the way that competing interests in land are managed. It encompasses statutory, customary and religious institutions. It includes state structures such as land agencies, courts and ministries responsible for land, as well as non-statutory actors such as traditional bodies and informal agents. It covers both the legal and policy framework for land as well as traditional and informal practices that enjoy social legitimacy” (Palmer, D. et al. 2009. Towards Improved Land Governance. FAO).
- [20] Management effectiveness (the operational level of day-to-day decision-making) relies crucially on governance effectiveness (the framework that determines who makes decisions and how). Getting this right is more important long term than the management level, as it determines how management will respond to future change and stress. Therefore, the emphasis is on improving **governance** of PAs (of all forms), rather than just management. There are clear principles and metrics for assessing this – see e.g. Lockwood, M. (2010) "Good governance for terrestrial protected areas: A framework, principles and performance outcomes." *Journal of Environmental Management* 91(3): 754-766
- [21] Alternative livelihoods cannot be the only focus since the evidence base on the effectiveness of alternative livelihoods is weak. For reference see: Roe, D., Booker, F., Day, M., Zhou, W., Allebone-Webb, S., Hill, N. A. O., Kumpel, N., Petrokofsky, G., Redford, K., Russell, D., Shepherd, G., Wright, J. and Sunderland, T. C. H. (2015) "Are alternative livelihood projects effective at reducing local threats to specified elements of biodiversity and/or improving or maintaining the conservation

status of those elements?" *Environmental Evidence* 4(1): 22; and Wright, J. H., Hill, N. A., Roe, D., Rowcliffe, J. M., Kumpel, N. F., Day, M., Booker, F. and Milner-Gulland, E. J. (2016) "Reframing the concept of alternative livelihoods." *Conserv Biol* 30(1): 7-13.

**1b. Program Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the program interventions will take place.**

(See Annex A1 - attached)

## 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the program identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none, please explain why:

**In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the program preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.**

In line with the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (GEF/C.53/05/Rev.01, November 10, 2017), a participative process has been followed to develop the CBSL IP since early 2017. Including a program for the Congo Basin in the GEF 7 programming strategies was a decision from the first replenishment meeting in Paris in March 2017. Since then, an iterative process has been followed to develop the outlines of the program: an informal Technical Advisory Group was set up to proof-read the first draft prepared by the GEFSEC; a consultation organized in June 2017 in Brazzaville led to the adoption of a motion of support for a Congo Program by the GEF Operational Focal Points from the region; a side event was organized at the 17<sup>th</sup> Congo Basin Forest Partnership meetings in Douala in October 2017 to extend the consultation with partners beyond the GEF partnership; the initial document was then enriched by comments from donors and partners over the different replenishment meetings (Addis Ababa and Brasilia), until its adoption at the last meeting in Stockholm in April 2018.

At the GEF Assembly in Danang in June 2018, a high-level roundtable on the Congo Basin gave the opportunity to highlight scientific and political messages[1]. Through a competitive process in October 2018, UNEP was selected as the GEF lead agency to coordinate the program and develop the regional project. In November 2018, UNEP and GEFSEC took part together in a side event at the 18<sup>th</sup> Congo Basin Forest Partnership meetings in Brussels, Belgium, to share the program development roadmap and listen to keynote speakers on the impacts of climate change on the Congo Basin landscapes and the opportunities and barriers to develop sustainable non-timber forest product value chains.

Between mid-November 2018 and end January 2019, the six considered countries were invited to select a GEF Agency and develop an Expression of Interest (Eol) to develop a project under the CBSL. A regional consultation was organized in Libreville, Gabon, on January 17-18, 2019, to support the countries, meet key experts and institutions from the regions, develop a dialogue among partners, and help countries and agencies to improve their Eols. Participants in the regional consultation included the six basin countries, six GEF Agencies (UNE, WB, WWF-US, IUCN, UNDP, and FAO), experts (private sector, investment fund, NGO, Universities, etc.), and representatives from regional institutions (Regional Economic Commission/ECCAS, COMIFAC/forests, REPALEAC/Indigenous People, CEFDHAC/Civil Society). In February 2019, a panel was constituted (GEFSEC, UNEP, the STAP, and an external reviewer) to review the Eols. Each reviewer made their own analysis, using the same evaluation sheet and scoring system. A meeting on February 22, 2019 gave the opportunity to the review panel to agree on the main observations, rank the Eols, and provide feedback for further development of the child projects under the CBSL IP. Discussions have also been held between CAFI, GEFSEC and UNEP to identify synergies between CAFI's work and that of the CBSL IP (conference call on 3 April 2019).

In addition, each child project has identified key stakeholders of the national projects and will engage them in project development through workshops and bilateral meetings. Stakeholders range from government ministries and their local counterparts, civil society and non-government actors, research institutions, private sector companies, to regional bodies and multilateral institutions. The role of local communities and forest dependent people is critical to realizing the

program's objectives and, to this end, each child project will work with these groups at the site level to design project interventions. The CBSL IP will ensure alignment with the Strategic Framework of REPALAC which has been agreed to by COMIFAC and reflects a bottom-up approach to IPLC rights and advancement in the region, much of which is tied to natural resource management. In addition, inputs will also be sought from donors, STAP, other relevant programs (e.g., Global Wildlife Partnership, Amazon Impact Program), impact investment funds, and key experts in research programs (e.g., University of Dschang, Cameroon, University of Kyoto, University of Wageningen, University of Belgium) through formal and informal means to shape the design of the CBSL IP.

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[1] <http://www.thegef.org/publications/gef-assembly-background-note-sustainable-landscapes-amazon-and-congo-basin>

### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Are gender dimensions relevant to the success of program.** Yes

**If yes, please provide indicative information on these dimensions and how these will be addressed in the program. If no, please explain why**

Women are important actors engaging in forest-based livelihoods; because of the persistent inequalities between men and women, a focus on gender dimensions will be critical to program success. A study in Équateur Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>[1]</sup> highlights “that men and women have different knowledge and use of forests, but these differences are not given due consideration in forest governance. Women’s voices are often muted in decision-making arenas and they occupy only a nominal position in both forestry and development initiatives as compared with men. Women’s bargaining power for equal inclusion in decision-making processes and for sharing benefits are constrained by existing social norms regarding local access to land and material resources, existing gender division of labor, local perceptions regarding women’s roles and contributions/responsibilities, as well as men’s dominant position in rural settings.”

Men and women play different roles in the value chains of forest products. A recent study for the Congo Basin<sup>[2]</sup> found that “high-value products are primarily male-harvested when customary rules govern tenure and access, enabling men to exert control. Whilst non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are important cash sources for both sexes, women tend to use more of their harvest for domestic consumption, while men sell a greater proportion. Interventions by research and development organisations, NGOs and projects have positively influenced women’s incomes in some NTFP chains. Suggestions include supporting women’s domesticating and cultivating NTFPs currently pressured by overharvesting; recognising the informal, often invisible nature of value chains; addressing unfavourable customary norms restricting the possession of valuable species by women; revising bureaucratic trade regulations; improving value-adding opportunities and supporting collective action to access credit and increasing bargaining.”

Therefore, the CBSL IP will make specific efforts to understand gender dimensions in designing interventions. It will ensure that women are actively engaged in activities related to land use planning, increasing the sustainability of extractive forest uses, and expanding the scope of non-extractive forest uses that generate benefits for the communities. During further program development, the CBSL IP will ensure full alignment with the sub-regional strategy for the integration of gender in the sustainable management of natural resources in the Congo Basin (currently under development by COMIFAC). Child projects will undertake a gender analysis during the PPG phase to better understand gender division of labor and patterns of decision-making, issues related to access to and control over resources, how women and men are regarded and treated by customary and formal legal codes, women’s priorities and interests, and the best approaches to mobilize women’s agency when it comes to conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.

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[1] Samndong, R. A., and D. J. Kjosavik. 2017. Gendered forests: exploring gender dimensions in forest governance and REDD+ in Équateur Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). *Ecology and Society* 22(4):34. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-09753-220434>

[2] Verina Ingram, Jolien Schure, Julius Chupezi Tieguhong, Ousseynou Ndoeye, Abdon Awono & Donald Midoko Iponga (2014) Gender implications of forest product value chains in the Congo basin, *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods*, 23:1-2, 67-86, DOI: [10.1080/14728028.2014.887610](https://doi.org/10.1080/14728028.2014.887610)

**In addition, please also indicate whether the program the program will include gender sensitive indicators in its result framework**

Yes

#### 4. Private sector engagement

##### Will there be private sector engagement in the program?

Yes

##### Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The CBSL IP will engage with the private sector at several levels of program interventions: (i) through partnerships in transboundary landscapes, and (ii) at the strategic level.

At the transboundary landscape level, the program will engage with the private sector (extractives industries, large scale agro-industrial plantation, etc.) to implement best practices for sustainable production as well as environment-friendly practices that take into account biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services[1]. This will include training and technical assistance to build capacities for adoption of sustainable production practices with the ultimate goal to increase productivity while at the same time contributing to maintaining ecological corridors and conservation of high conservation value forests (HCVFs) in targeted landscapes. Training and awareness-raising of private sector producers in targeted landscapes will be supported to achieve a shift towards sustainable management of natural resources. This training will enhance producers' knowledge on sustainable land and forest management and will ensure that future expansion of extraction or production in targeted landscapes is not at the expenses of biodiversity and natural capital assets.

The Regional child project will undertake a detailed study and recommendations will be put forward regarding the role the private sector currently plays in sustainable forest management – timber (e.g., Taylor Guitars) and NTFPs (e.g. honey, wild mango, rattan, okoueme and other resins, traditional and modern medicines), with a focus on how to upscale approaches and increase private sector investments. The country child projects focus on strategies to overcome barriers to private sector development in ecotourism and NTFPs in targeted landscapes. For example, this includes supporting public-private partnership models for sustainable wildlife management, sustainable tourism, and NTFPs in and around protected areas in Cameroon (TRIDOM and TNS), and partnerships with the private sector for agroforestry production and animal husbandry in DRC, as well as aspects such as legal requirements and regulatory instruments for forest value chains, assessment of the economic viability of sustainable use of NTFPs, and marketing strategies, etc.

During the regional consultation on the CBSL IP held in Libreville, Gabon in January 2019, the program began an initial dialogue with the private firm Investors & Partners (Investisseurs et Partenaires, in French) which is an impact investor dedicated to SMEs with activities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean. In addition to investing in capital, it brings its skills in strategy, finance and management to accelerate the growth of its partner companies, building a long-term relationship of trust with them. This is particularly important for the targeted landscapes of the CBSL IP where there are mixed successes in terms of entrepreneurship related to NTFPs and natural resource products. An initial dialogue has also been started with the San Diego-based Taylor Guitars that has made a substantial investment in a sawmill in Cameroon to provide the company with a sustainable supply of ebony wood. During PPG implementation, this dialogue will continue and broaden to other private sector companies with the aim being to build strategic partnerships with the private sector that support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the key transboundary landscapes targeted by the CBSL IP.

At the strategic level, private sector representation in program/child project steering committees and/or through a dedicated platform (to be defined during PPG implementation) will be promoted. This engagement will help anticipate future drivers and threats and promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus-building, as well as connect buyers and producers of deforestation-free products. The regional child project will support this platform with assessment and opportunities for sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains, studies on how private sector financing of SFM in the Congo Basin can be elevated, and any other relevant assessments as defined during PPG implementation.

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[1] GEF resources will not be associated with the exploitation of primary forests.

## 5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Program objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Program design (table format acceptable)

Indicate risks, including climate change risks, potential social and environmental future risks that might prevent the program objectives from being achieved from program implementation and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the program design (table format acceptable).

The table below summarizes risks, ratings and mitigation measures. During the coming PPG phase, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken to deepen the risk analysis at the program and project levels.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures
R1: National governments (ministries, politicians) and the various regional sectoral and cross-sectoral bodies do not provide adequate political, institutional, and financial support to the objective of the CBSL IP.	Low to Medium	The program countries confront problems of governance, transparency and rule of law, and commitment at the highest level is needed to ensure that these risks do not jeopardize program actions in transboundary landscapes. These stakeholders have been involved in the early design phases of the program and the child projects; this will be continued during further program/project development to secure their support. The CBSL IP supports the main axes under COMIFAC's Convergence Plan for 2015-2025. During the program and child project development phase, consultations will be held with stakeholders on their baseline projects to identify specific coordination opportunities. Stakeholders are also committing co-financing and the regional and child projects will work to secure these commitments with co-financing letters.
R2: Divergence with economic interests that could result in decisions in opposition of the program goals (infrastructure plans, agribusiness). Related to this, is the risk of resistance from different sectors (planning, environment, forests, tourism, etc.) to work together.	Medium to High	The program will build on existing entities, working with long-term partners in the region (research centers, NGOs, etc.), to develop a platform including political and economic stakeholders, including the private sector, and involving new stakeholders and networks to fight illegal activities (poaching, trafficking), as well as promoting cooperation in transboundary landscapes to reduce governance risks.
R3: Weak capacities of institutions in charge of the environment, particularly in the political agenda.	Medium to High	The program will mitigate this by promoting intersectoral approaches, and looking for allies in different sectors (water, local communities, international coalitions, etc.)
R4: Governments not supportive of IPLC rights to land and access to natural resources	Low to Medium	IPLC rights to access, manage and own traditionally held land and resources are a critical factor given the evidence on the impact

ources.	m	of strengthening such rights on deforestation, forest degradation, and wildlife outcomes. The program will emphasize the importance of IPLC tenure and rights in its activities related to land use planning and sustainable forest management, and to this end, it will be very important to gain the support of government institutions in recognizing these rights.
R5: Local communities, indigenous people and forest-dependent communities are hesitant to participate in program development and implementation activities.	Low	The role of local communities and forest dependent people is critical to realizing the program's objectives and, to this end, each child project will work with these groups at the site level to design project interventions in areas that benefit these communities (sustainable tourism, NTFP value chains, and such).
R6: Private sector partners not interested in diminishing their exposure to deforestation and other material risks.	Low to Medium	Key private sector actors have already been involved in program development (see <a href="#">Section 4. Private Sector Engagement</a> ) and have expressed their interest in partnering with the CBSL IP and scaling up SFM activities that support deforestation-free and peatland-friendly land use objectives.
R7: Environmental risks, including climate change, but also natural hazards (flooding): Climate change is one of the pressing threats to the Congo Basin, and it is assumed that appropriate responses to potential changes in parameters such as precipitation and near surface temperature will be made.	Medium	This has been identified as an important threat in the program's theory of change that will be addressed. Work is underway in some basin countries, notably by the Congo Basin Institute, that recognizes the importance of preserving ecological gradients, where natural variation is maximized, as a bet-hedging approach to the environmental changes caused by climate change, ensuring that some populations adapted to future climate are more likely to survive. During further program development, opportunities for scaling this work will be pursued so as to mitigate the climate change risk. Mitigation measures include targeted research, forecasting climate change impact, promoting cross-cutting approaches (forests, water, peatlands, carbon, rainfall, climate), and mainstreaming resilience in activities, especially for forest dependent people.
R8: High transaction costs related to coordination and collaboration in a program involving six countries, three GEF Agencies, and multiple partners.	Low to Medium	The program will mitigate this by building on existing platforms, using internet tools, and using remote technologies to reduce costs
R9: Resistance/ complexity related to transboundary collaboration.	Low to Medium	The program will build on the foundation of existing transboundary agreements/treaties and secure agreements on transboundary cooperation. The regional child project puts particular emphasis

		and resources on transboundary collaboration, as do the country child projects.
R10: Conflict situations	Medium to High	To mitigate this, the program will apply international rules of security for missions, workshops, and conferences
R11: Risk of duplication with existing programs	Low	There are ongoing programs in the Congo Basin with objectives that are linked to those of the CBSL IP (e.g., CAFI, GWP). To mitigate the risk of duplication, collaboration will be ensured through steering committee meetings. In addition, during the PPG phase meetings will be held with all donors/project implementors and overlap/duplication will be addressed.

## 6. Coordination

**Outline the institutional structure of the program including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the program level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed programs and other initiatives.**

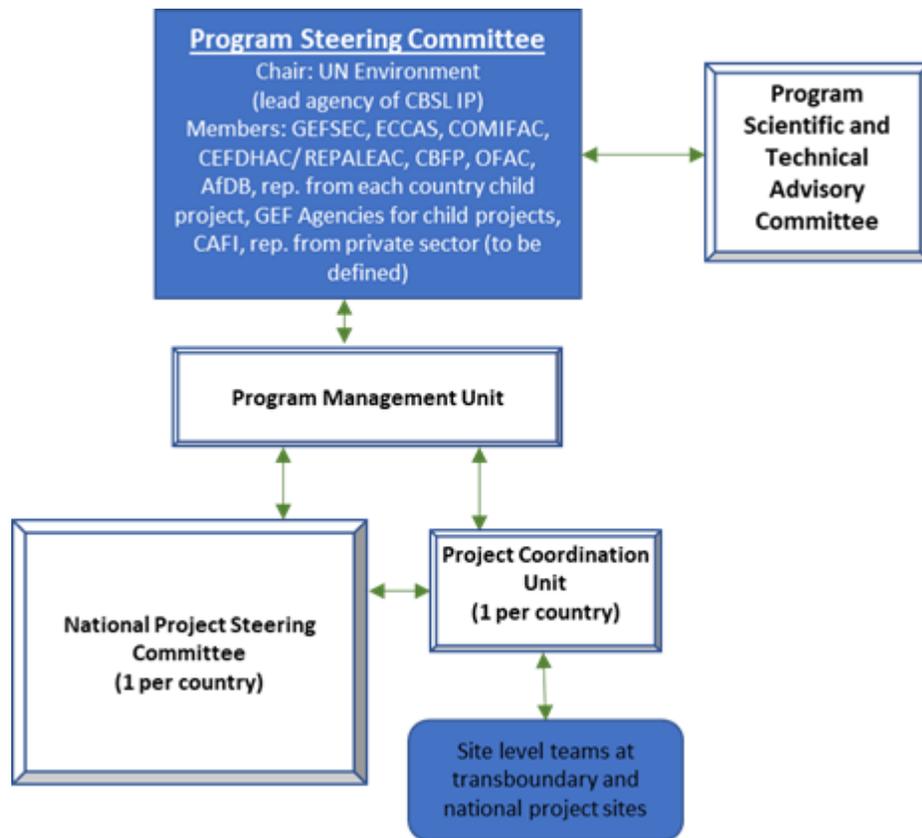
### Institutional structure

UN Environment as the lead agency of the program will serve as the hub for the program, soliciting inputs from the GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies, and STAP. It will follow UN Environment's standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures, consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The monitoring and evaluation system will track progress of all child projects and support adaptive management across the program.

The program will provide a single platform to feed innovations and policies developed under its child projects into regional and global organizations working on forest conservation and sustainable use, and to transfer knowledge from these bodies to the child projects. The program will also work closely with community-based organizations and local communities, who are invested in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. Thus, the proposed institutional structure for the program will build on existing network of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels, such as COMIFAC, ECCAS, CEFDHAC, REPALEAC, and ITTTA. For instance, on Component 1 (Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM), ECCAS, COMIFAC, CEFDHAC, REPALEAC, and ITTTA will be important partners for program delivery; on Component 2 (Long-term viability of forests and area based management of critical high conservation value forest providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services), all institutions active in conservation of corridors/ buffer zones, agroforestry, conservation of forest elephants and great apes, and poaching and trafficking (e.g., GEF 7 Global Wildlife Partnership) will be important partners for program delivery; on Component 3 (Sustainable use of forests by local communities and forest dependent people through strengthening of rights and tenure, and sustainable management of production sector activities), existing platforms under COMIFAC, such as the NTFPs Sub-Work Group of the Central African Biodiversity Work group (GTBAC) will be important partners for program delivery.

The program's institutional structure at regional level (Program Steering Committee, Program Management Unit, and a Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee), and at national level (National Project Steering Committee, Project Coordination Unit), builds on the existing networks and dialogue platforms outlined above. During the PPG, the institutional structure will be finalized in consultation with all stakeholders on the basis of comparative advantage. The structure is described in more detail below and summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Institutional Structure for CSBL IP



Regional structure 1: The **Program Steering Committee (PSC)**, chaired by UN Environment as lead agency, will include: GEF Secretariat, ECCAS, COMIFAC, CEFDHAC/ REPALEAC, CBFP, OFAC, AfDB, one program focal point from each country child project, GEF Agencies implementing child projects, CAFI, and a representative from the private sector (e.g., International Technical Tropical Timber Association and others; still to be defined). The PSC would improve coordination, and maximize synergies among country child projects, and between country child projects and other donors' initiatives, increase knowledge and awareness of CBSL program and ensure the successful design and implementation of the program. It will be a coordination forum and a monitoring platform during the implementation phase of the Program. It will meet virtually every quarter to track progress and provide opportunities for cross-fertilization; it will meet face-to-face once a year in a different project child site (or at country level) to increase uptake of lessons and build synergies.

Regional structure 2: The **Program Management Unit (PMU)** will take decisions on workplans and budgets. It will provide an overall, high-level, coordination of the technical alignment and synergy between the program's components. It will also provide guidance and support to the national child projects to ensure that the implementation of activities in each country is coherent with the overall CBSL objectives, and that lessons learnt at each site are shared with others. It will also implement the regional child project. As such, it will provide targeted capacity building for national and landscape stakeholders to access finance and markets for sustainable production, promote sustainable production practices, partnership building with development institutions to support capacity of IPLC, methodology

design for land use planning and management, and natural capital valuation and its integration in land use planning and management processes, as well as design of land use plans in 2-3 landscapes. It will address wildlife crime and the conservation of elephants and great apes. It will track progress and provide opportunities for cross-fertilization, replication, upscale of lessons and dissemination.

Regional structure 3: The **Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (PAC)**. This will be an adhoc committee called upon from time to time depending on specialized expertise that may be needed for the program. There are many technical interventions where advice from an Advisory/technical/scientific advisory body will be needed. This is the case for land use planning design methodology, stakeholders' access to finance and markets for sustainable production, partnership building with development institutions to support capacity of IPLC, gender mainstreaming, and natural capital valuation and its integration in land use planning and management processes. The PAC could be more permanent or also formed on an ad hoc basis to give guidance on the above-mentioned issues or other emerging issues. Members of the PAC could potentially include experts from US Forest Service/CARPE on land use plan design methodology, Investisseurs et Partenaires on access to finance and partnership building with development institutions to support capacity of IPLC, UN Environment on Natural Capital Valuation, Global Peatlands Initiative on peatlands issues, USFWS/EAGLE network/TRAFFIC on wildlife crime, etc.

National structure 1: The **National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)**. Potential representation on the NPSC (to be defined in consultation with national counterparts of each child project during the PPG) will be from sectoral ministries, communities' representatives from the project areas, GEF Agency implementing the child project in the country, head of the Program Management Unit, CAFI representative in the country, production sectors from the project areas (mining industries, agriculture industries, logging industries), other donors/partners operating in the project area, and UN Environment. The cross-sectoral nature of the NPSC will require senior government officials from sectoral ministries, and senior representatives from the private sector. The NPSC would strengthen opportunities for dialogue and consensus on policies, plans to implement integrated cross-sectoral approach to sustainable management and practices in project intervention areas. It will improve inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination.

National structure 2: The **Project Coordination Unit (PCU)** of the country child project will be responsible for timely achievement of all country child project's objectives. Its duties will include overall oversight and coordination of country child project implementation at the programmatic and operational levels. It will have responsibilities for developing work plans and budgets consistent with the country child project logical framework. It will seek to implement integrated cross-sectoral approach to sustainable management and practices in project intervention area under the guidance of the NPSC. It will also be responsible for periodic reporting to the UN Environment Program Management Unit.

#### Coordination

UN Environment will ensure coordination with the investments and initiatives funded by other donors (as described in the section on [baseline scenario and any associated baseline program/ projects](#)). Of particular note is the CAFI program that is an important stakeholder and player in the baseline scenario for the program countries. During PPG implementation, close coordination with CAFI will take place both at the country level in the development of national child projects, as well as at the regional level in the development of the regional child project, to identify and capitalize on synergies such that the CBSL IP builds on CAFI activities.

In addition, UN Environment will be responsible for coordinating with on-going GEF projects related to the program (including SGP). The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes program (CBSL) builds on GEF's 25-year experience in biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management. Under GEF-6, most of the investments in the region have been made along two strategic programmatic approaches: The Global Wildlife Partnership to tackle wildlife conservation, poaching, and trafficking and The Restoration Initiative to support the Bonn Challenge. (See Annex G for an initial listing of GEF projects under implementation or

in the pipeline.) In particular, in order to address the international illegal wildlife trade, the CBSL program will ensure strong links with the GEF 7 Global Wildlife Program and facilitate interaction between the six Congo Basin countries representatives and the GWP's country representatives. Congo Basin countries' representative will attend annual GWP meetings and participate in capacity building exercises of the GWP.

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Yes

### Is the Program consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

The CBSL IP is consistent with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the UNCBD, with National Communications (NCs) under the UNFCCC, and National Action Plans (NAPs) under the UNCCD. The alignment of individual “child” projects with key national strategies (under the UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD or otherwise) is explained in greater detail in each of the child projects. At the regional level, the CBSL IP is aligned with the axes of COMIFAC’s Convergence Plan for 2015-2025 which include: (a) Priority strategic themes: harmonization of forestry and fiscal policies; management and sustainable development of forest resources; conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; combatting climate change and desertification; socio-economic development and multi-actor participation; and (b) Cross-cutting themes: sustainable funding; training and capacity building; research and development; communication, awareness building and education.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Program, including, if any, plans for the Program to learn from other relevant Programs and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

A major justification for taking a programmatic approach is to enhance the transformational impact of GEF investments in the Congo Basin through introducing an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to conservation of the Congo Basin that also takes in to account emerging future threats of infrastructure development and climate change.

The programmatic approach greatly enhances the ability to transfer knowledge and experience across the region. It also facilitates the testing of various approaches in different socio-economic, political and ecological contexts and innovations in one context could be applicable to others. Knowledge management will play a central role to this end.

UN Environment as the lead agency for the CBSL IP will facilitate knowledge exchange and capture lessons learned amongst program participants and others to build capacities and enhance the impact of project interventions. The emphasis will be on bringing together child project leaders to network, present project results, obtain input from peers and get inspired by hearing from leading practitioners and conservation visionaries. The program will establish a process for child projects to capture and disseminate lessons learned on their projects and to consolidate this information across the portfolio. This will facilitate identification of best practices, important lessons, and innovative solutions to scale the most effective solutions across the program. Findings and results will be integrated into national integrated land use plans and where appropriate into the transboundary integrated land use planning.

The development of the CBSL IP has followed a knowledge-based approach insofar as the elaboration of this Program Framework Document (PFD) has been a participative process with countries, specialists, and partners, taking the lessons from past exercises, programs, and projects, as described below.

- Specific meetings with the countries (Brazzaville), side events at the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (Douala, Brussels), the GEF Assembly's High-Level Roundtable in Danang<sup>[1]</sup>, and a regional consultation organized in Libreville, Gabon, on January 17-18, 2019 were strategic moments to integrate feedback from scientists, regional organizations, experts, and various programmes.
- The selection of child projects and the improvements of selected concepts have been ensured by a panel composed of UNEP, the GEF Secretariat, the GEF STAP, and an external reviewer, giving the opportunity to enrich the proposals with up-to-date scientific and technical references.
- Various evaluation reports were used from the GEF portfolio, as well as from other programs and initiatives throughout the PFD development process to improve knowledge and learning aspects.

As a result, knowledge management (KM) is embedded in the PFD both as a full component (component 4), and as a cross-cutting issue in the different components to produce knowledge, tools and guidance on the key topics of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program:

- In the PFD, the strategic topics of interest in terms of KM are reflected both in the different components and the child projects: the role of ecosystem services and natural capital valuation in land-use planning methodologies, innovative mechanisms and technologies to fight wildlife poaching and trafficking, specific issues related to local communities, forest dependent communities, and the private sector (decision making on SFM aspects, land tenure, rights, and access, barriers, coordination of small grant mechanisms). The whole program should also keep a certain flexibility and adopt an adaptive management process to anticipate global changes and risks.

- The specific component 4 on knowledge management in the PFD will be firstly fed by the regional project. It is in the regional project that the “how” is described: making available tools and knowledge through an online portal, organizing physical and virtual meetings, proposing a capacity development strategy on key CBSL topics, organizing communities of practice among CBSL partners and the SFM community, proposing an adaptive management process to anticipate global changes (studies, targeted research), and integrate the results in policy briefs and methods (land-use planning for instance).
- The regional project also includes the development of the CBSL communication and outreach strategy. A partnership strategy will also help in implementing the CBSL and the KM component. An information system will be developed to support connections among the CBSL partners and beyond.
- At the level of the country concepts, in addition to a strategic approach of KM as described above, specific KM issues will be developed depending on the project focus, for instance:
  - o Sustainable tourism approaches and different Public-Private Partnerships models (PPP) (Cameroon and Republic of Congo);
  - o Promotion of sustainable Non-Timber Forest Product value chains (NTFP), including inclusive approaches with youth, women, forest dependent communities, and the development of the private sector (Equatorial Guinea, CAR, Gabon);
  - o The role of the private sector in conservation (CAR, Cameroon);
  - o Local governance, zoning, and land tenure rights (DRC, Gabon), etc.

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) will have a strategic role of orientation, also on KM. The Program Management Unit will have a role to reflect PSC’s guidance and provide guidance and support to country projects to ensure the coherence of the CBSL, identify best practices, and stimulate cross-fertilization, replication, upscaling, and dissemination.

During the PPG phase, the best platforms for KM will be identified. It will be important to avoid duplication of efforts and prioritize reinforcement of existing mechanisms rather than creating new ones. The aspects of sustainability, responsiveness, and adaptability will be important criteria. Examples and sources of inspiration could also be explored beyond the region, for instance using lessons from the Amazon region (<https://www.moore.org/initiative-additional-info?initiativeId=andes-amazon-initiative>), as well as other initiatives from the GEF (Global Wildlife Partnership for instance) but not exclusively.

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[1] with political guidance from Ministers from Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Gabon, and the COMIFAC’s Secretary, as well as technical and scientific feedback from COMIFAC, WCS, IRD, and the private sector.

## 9. Child Program Selection Criteria

### Outline the criteria used or to be used for child program selection and the contribution of each child program to program impact.

The following strategic criteria were considered under the CBSL Program: 1) high carbon storage values, 2) presence of globally endangered species, 3) presence of forest dependent people in the surrounding forest patches, and 4) significant baseline investments on conservation, SFM and/or REDD+ as a starting point. These criteria are available in the GEF-7 programming directions (GEF/R.7/19, April 2, 2018), and were developed in the Expression of Interest (EOI) template as follows:

- High potential/ability to generate multiple Global Environmental Benefits (carbon, biodiversity, resilience);
- Contribution to wider national/sub-national strategies and alignments with existing comprehensive land use-plans;
- Support of key government actors beyond the environmental sector (finance, land-use planning, interior);
- Political will of relevant government actors at landscape, subnational & national levels (demonstrated through support for jurisdictional approaches, implementation of green growth plans or policies, and similar proxies);
- Support to local communities, including forest dependent communities;
- Potential for achieving large-scale change;
- Ability to catalyze innovations generated in technology, policy, governance, financing, and business models (value chains, private sector)

Each country project will contribute to generating global environment benefits for the protection and sustainable management of key transboundary landscapes (see child project concepts in Annex H for more details). The regional project will complete investments in these key transboundary landscapes and will catalyze efforts for transformation at the scale of the basin.

### Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Dr. Haman Unusa	Unit Head for Studies and Prospection	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (Cameroon)	3/29/2019
Lambert Gnapelet	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Central African Republic)	3/20/2019
Ir NDAUKILA MUHINYA Godefroid	Operational Focal Point DRC, Director of Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Democratic Republic of Congo)	3/26/2019
Mr. Yannick Ongonwou Sonnet	Directeur General	de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature	3/29/2019
Antonio Micha Ondo Angue	GEF Operational Focal Point, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment (Equatorial Guinea)	3/22/2019
Mrs. Arlette Soudan-Nonault	Minister of Tourism and Environment	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	4/4/2019

**ANNEX A: LIST OF CHILD PROJECTS UNDER THE PROGRAM**List of "Child" Projects under the Program <sup>a/</sup>

Country	Project Title	GEF Agency	GEF Amount (\$)					Agency Fee (\$)	Total (\$)
			CC Focal Area	BD Focal Area	LD Focal Area	SFM IP	TOTAL		
			Project	Project	Project	Project	Project		
	<b>FSPs</b>								
Cameroon	Integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin	WWF-US	0	6,405,505	0	3,202,752	9,608,257	864,743	10,473,000
Central African Republic	Scaling up ecological corridors and transboundary connectivity through integrated natural resources management in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park	WB	1,196,372	2,540,106	1,334,776	2,535,627	7,606,881	684,619	8,291,500
Democratic Republic of Congo	Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba	WB	0	9,174,312	0	4,587,156	13,761,468	1,238,532	15,000,000
Equatorial Guinea	Transforming and scaling up results and lessons learned in the Monte Alén and Rio Campo Landscapes through an inclusive Landscape-scale approach, effective land use planning and promotion of local governance	IUCN	892,432	1,784,862	892,431	1,784,862	5,354,587	481,913	5,836,500
Gabon	Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in Minkebe/TRIDOM	WB	803,243	2,771,189	803,243	2,188,838	6,566,513	590,986	7,157,499
Regional	Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin	UNEP	0	0	0	8,192,366	8,192,366	737,313	8,929,679

Republic of Congo	Integrated Community -Based Conservation of Peatlands Ecosystems and Promotion of Ecotourism in Lac Télé Landscape of Republic of Congo – IC OBACPE /PELATEL	UNEP	896,958	2,282,544	894,535	2,037,018	6,111,055	549,995	6,661,050
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3,789,005</b>	<b>24,958,518</b>	<b>3,924,985</b>	<b>24,528,619</b>	<b>57,201,127</b>	<b>5,148,101</b>	<b>62,349,228</b>

a/ Total amount of child project concepts should equal the GEF program financing requested and consistent with Tables A, B and D.

#### ANNEX A1: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

See attached ANNEX A1\_Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

