PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	"Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon"			
Country:	Gabon	GEF Project ID:		
GEF Agency(ies):	WWF-US (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	G0054	
Anticipated Executing Entity(s)	The Nature Conservancy	CSO		
and Type:		(choose executing agency type)		
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Submission Date:	2024-03-01	
Type of Trust Fund:	GBFF	Project Duration (Months)	48	
GEF Project Financing: (a)	1,364,496	PPG Amount (c):	29,000	
Agency Fee(s): (b)	122,804	PPG Agency Fee(s) (d):	2,610	
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	1,518,910	Total Co-financing:		
Project Tags:	Support IPLC Contributions to the implementation of: ☐ GBF Target 1 ☐ GBF Target 2 ☒ GBF xTarget 3 ☒ X GBF Target 4 ☐ GBF Target 5 ☐ GBF Target 6 ☐ GBF Target 7 ☐ GBF Target 8 ☐ GBF Target 9 ☐ GBF Target 10 ☐ GBF Target 11 ☐ ☐ GBF Target 12 ☐ GBF Target 13 ☐ GBF Target 14 ☐ GBF Target 15 ☐ GBF Target 16 ☐ GBF Target 17 ☐ GBF Target 18 ☒ GBF Target 19 ☐ GBF Target 20 X ☐ GBF Target 21 ☒ XGBF Target 22 ☒ XGBF Target 23			

Indicative Project Overview

***POP-UP material start

Characterizing whether the project as a whole or certain project components support IPLCs could entail a number of circumstances including but not limited to: 1) IPLCs directly receive resources through the GEF agency for execution of project components/activities, 2) IPLCs are project beneficiaries of project components/activities but do not directly receive financial resources; 3) IPLCs are involved in the design and implementation of project components; 4) IPLCs are envisioned to be part of the project steering committee and/or project governance, etc. In the project description that follows please explain how the project provides support to IPLCs using these or other characterizations of the support provided by the project.

Only for projects with GEF TF, please provide indicative Co-financing regarding the expected amounts.

***POP-UP material ends

Project Objective:		nanagement of conserved areas nd managing human wildlife co	s in Gabon by integrating a national humar nflict at key sites	n wildlife co	onflict (HWC) strategy into the	PFP		
	Component			Trust	(in \$)	(in \$)		
Project Components	Туре	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Fund	GEF Project Financing	Co- financing		
Component 1. Enabling Conditions for Area based conservation and HWC Management in Gabon	Technical Assistance	1.1 Stakeholder and evidence driven National Strategy on HWC	1.1.1 Evidence-based and stakeholder driven national strategy on HWC informed by scientific studies, stakeholder engagement 1.1.2 Support for establishment of a national commission to manage HWC with stakeholder panel to advise. 1.1.3 Public awareness plan designed and implemented about supporting human wildlife coexistence and the preventative and responsive measures of the national strategy and ways to engage with it.	GBFF	250,000			
		1.2 PFP / CTF Strengthened for Area Based Conservation and HWC Management	1.2.1 HWC management integrated into PFP and CTF governing instruments incl. conservation plan, finance plan, operations manual(s), institutional capacity plans, and fundraising plans					
Component 2. IPLC- led HWC Solutions	Investment	2.1. Improved coexistence between humans and key wildlife conflict species in	2.1.1 Strategy-based HWC preventative measures, and approaches for human wildlife	GBFF	908,583			

		select areas, through IPLC-led evidence-based approaches	coexistence are tested, piloted, and scaled with IP&LC in target geographies. 2.1.2 Strategy-based HWC responsive			
			measures and human wildlife coexistence measures tested, piloted and scaled with IP&LC, e.g., micro- insurance, relief, rewards-based mechanisms.			
Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications	Technical Assistance	3.1 Lessons Captured and Disseminated	3.1.1 Case studies and other materials to showcase and share lessons learned	GBFF	40,934	
Component 4: Project M&E	Technical Assistance	4.1 Project monitoring and evaluation data contributes to efficient decision making and to adaptive project management.	4.1.1. Regular reporting and independent project evaluation	GBFF	40,934	
Subtotal		(select)	1,240,451			
Project Management Cost (PMC) (if this is an MTF project, please report separate PMC lines for each TF). ***If amount requested is above limits, a pop-up menu should open for the Agency to provide an explanation***					124,045	163,739
Total Project Cost				1,364,496	163,739	

ONE TEXT BOX to hold 7 pages of text maximum.

Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages <u>total</u>, **including 5 pages of text maximum.** Concepts longer than 7 pages will be returned. Please note the portal entry will be limited to up to 19,400 characters of text and up to two figures.).

***POP-UP material starts

1) Project Rationale

Gabon is home to a large part of the Congo Basin Forest block, the second largest rainforest on the planet after the Amazon, and is the second most forested country in the world, with 88% forest cover. Gabon harbors rich biodiversity, with over 95,000 forest elephants, over 50% of those remaining in Africa, as well as other globally significant species such as leopards, giant pangolins, mandrills, chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, and other endemic fauna and flora species.

A key barrier to achieving Target 3 goals in Gabon is a lack of sufficient and predictable financing over the long term for management of conserved areas (protected areas and OECMs). Under GEF-7 funding (Enduring Earth, GEF ID 11014), a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) is in development, by Government of Gabon and TNC, to secure longer-term, sufficient, and predictable financial resources to support conserved area management at the site and system level. However, the issue of human wildlife conflict needs to be more fully addressed in the PFP and associated work, as ongoing impacts from wildlife to life, property and livelihoods may lead to loss of IP&LC constituency for area-based conservation. As such, this GBFF project is proposed to help address that outstanding barrier, and more effectively deliver Target 3 goals.

Human-wildlife conflicts are a threat to wildlife populations and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Gabon given the prevalence of crop-raiding by different animal species (elephants and monkeys, among others). This reduces income and food security of communities, producing negative perceptions towards wildlife and perpetuating poverty. HWC is increasingly common in Gabon as its human population grows. Since 2021, the Gabonese Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has recorded 5,000 HWC complaints a year as well as 30 deaths and 60 physical attacks.²

When communities have low tolerance for such incidents, people may retaliate against wildlife, and conflicts may escalate.³ Recent anecdotal reports suggest, in addition to a general deterioration the constituency for conservation in rural areas, the following occurrences:

- Killings of elephants, not always in self-defense;
- A resurgence of ivory trafficking;
- Sharing of images/videos of elephants being killed on social networks; and
- The sale of protected species (manatee, hippopotamus) in certain markets.

Almost all communities living in or near the National Parks are subject to conflict with wildlife. The creation of new parks or the extension of the existing parks, if not carefully undertaken, may exacerbate these conflicts and increase distress and frustration in communities.

Failure to address HWC threatens to diminish efforts to protect species which often require large areas, often outside Protected Area (PA) limits, to survive, as well as public support for PAs and conservation writ large.

HWC is a barrier to effective PA management, and barriers to HWC management include: limited consultation with/awareness of communities in

¹ The Agence Gabonaise d'Études et d'Observations Spatiales (AGEOS)

² Directorate of Wildlife

³ Gross E, Jayasinghe N., Brooks A., Polet G., Wadhwa R. and Hilderink-Koopmans F. (2021) A Future for All: The Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence. (WWF, Gland, Switzerland).

conservation decisions and actions undertaken in elephant-prone areas; incoherent policies, including poor landscape level planning resulting in farming and other activities in areas that clash with wildlife patterns; and limited government financial and human resources capacity.

This GBFF project is complimentary to the ongoing PFP supported by the GEF-7 project "Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation." The GBFF project will improve protected and conserved area management practices in key sites in Gabon through: the participative articulation and implementation of a national HWC strategy; support for IPLC-led HWC management; and the incorporation of the HWC strategy into the operations of PFP financing mechanisms (transition and endowment funds) created under the GEF-7 project. This includes strengthening the capacity of the PFP Fund Administrator/Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) (the Fond pour la Preservation de la Biodiversité du Gabon (FPBG)) to finance HWC interventions and thus improve management practices in target areas. GBFF project funding will be directly spent on project activities by the EA, until the point of PFP close, after which the GBFF project funds will move through the transition fund of the CTF. This allows for immediate action on a government and community priority, and builds on the PFP supported by the GEF-7 project. This project will leverage the GEF-7 project's execution structure, safeguards procedures, *inter alia*, to expand the scope of the CTF's activities to include a stakeholder-driven, evidence-based strategy on HWC, thus enabling access to PFP financial resources.⁴ The PFP's endowment fund will support institutional capacity building activities to complement PA investment from other sources (e.g. government budget allocations, sustainable finance mechanisms), and enhance the efficiency of resource use and adaptability to unanticipated future management challenges (through improved absorption capacity, better project planning and sequencing, etc.). Capacity building is a focus of the PFP Conservation Plan, incl. training and skills development, personnel, mentorship for both government agencies and local communities.

GoG is committed to conservation, evidenced by continued effort finalize the PFP as well as execution of a debt swap for ocean conservation (the first of its kind in continental Africa) but there is a broad consensus among stakeholders that HWC is a critical issue. Under the current baseline scenario, available financial resources (i.e., budgetary allocations, self-generated resources) are insufficient to enable appropriate investment in protected areas management, including HWC management. The GBFF project will improve Gabon national protected areas management by removing the barrier of HWC and by increasing PA management sustainability through the PFP.

The project will deliver results against Core indicator 1.2, Terrestrial protected areas under improved management (468,000 hectares) through increased attention and direct action on HWC management, coupled with increased management activity for the same PAs from the overall PFP (supported by the GEF-7 EE project and other donors); Core indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity, with an estimated 14,000 ha of farmland outside of the PAs, in connectivity areas, under improved management, by promoting human-wildlife conflict management measures; and Core Indicator 11, an estimated 10,000 (50% men, 50% women, approximately) people directly benefiting from GEF-financed investments. This is mainly IP&LC but also PAs and environment ministries personnel.

2) Project Description

⁴ The \$97M Transition Fund will cover the costs of establishing new PAs and effective management of the full network of these PAs during a 10-year transition phase. The endowment fund –with a target initial capitalization of \$27M will support capacity building.

- a. The project will focus on addressing human wildlife conflict as an outstanding barrier, and leveraging the PFP as a mechanism, to achieve Target 3. The project will: develop national-level capacity for improved management of protected and conserved areas, including by managing HWC; support the Government of Gabon in the refinement and operationalization of a national strategy to manage HWC; and integrate this strategy into the operations of the PFP funding mechanisms (transition and endowment funds) to ensure resource availability to address the ongoing management challenge. Secondly, the project will focus on HWC management in the communities most impacted by HWC, particularly around PAs, areas of connectivity and other high human-wildlife interface areas. The project will work directly with affected communities to incorporate behavior change to reduce HWC incidents, as well as addressing the six elements of conflict management (understanding the conflict, mitigation, preventions, response, policy, and monitoring)⁵. This integrated approach will help to manage human wildlife conflict so that people's tolerance of wildlife improves, the constituency for conservation remains, and incidents of non-tolerance and retaliation are reduced, such that critical wildlife, like forest elephants, have improved protection and the integrity of protected areas is sustained.
- b. The following components will deliver the project's objective: *To enhance effective management of conserved areas in Gabon by integrating a national HWC strategy into the PFP financial mechanism and managing human wildlife conflict at key sites.*

Component 1. Enabling Conditions for Area Based Conservation and HWC Management in Gabon

This component will support the development of a Stakeholder- and evidence-driven National Strategy on HWC for Gabon and its integration into the PFP/CTF operations to support conserved area management sustainability. Activities include:

- Conducting and compiling scientific studies to inform HWC interventions and strategy, incl. surveys of best practices and innovations;
- Engaging stakeholders to develop and finalize the national strategy to manage HWC;
- Supporting the establishment of a national commission to manage HWC, incl. a stakeholder panel
- The validation and completion of the National HWC Strategy.
- Adjustments to the PFP and CTF governing instruments to integrate HWC and elements of the national strategy to ensure that the FPBG has good governance arrangements in place to administer the funds, e.g. policies and operating procedures.
- Completion of a public awareness plan designed and implemented about supporting human wildlife coexistence and the preventative and responsive measures of the national strategy and ways to engage with it.

Component 2. IPLC-led HWC Solutions

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The aim of Component 2 is to improve PA management through HWC management in the communities most impacted by HWC. Component 2 will roll out from project start, at target PAs, areas of connectivity and other high human-wildlife interface areas. It will inform the development of the HWC Strategy and integration into the PFP (Component 1). The mechanism for delivering funding will be direct funding initially, and following PFP close (anticipated by mid to late 2025), through the PFP Transition Fund of the conservation trust fund, FPBG. Under Outcome 2.1, the project will invest in HWC management to promote coexistence in select areas, through stakeholder-driven, evidence-based approaches. Project staff and affected communities (IP&LC populations), will work together to identify the drivers of the HWC and then co-develop solutions, following best practice of: understanding the conflict, mitigation, preventions, response, policy, and monitoring. Solutions will vary, as they will be appropriate for each community and the HWC drivers, but indicatively could include:

- Hotspot mapping and driver analysis;
- construction of barriers;
- acquisition of material and equipment;
- deployment of alternatives to electric fences, including alert systems and operational rapid intervention/response teams;
- exploration of financial mechanisms that support IPLCs at risk of HWC, which may include, e.g. micro-insurance, as well as other financial mechanisms to support IPLCs which may provide relief or reward, with analysis and testing to promote the best outcomes for people and wildlife;
- monitoring and adaptive management at the site-based intervention level.

Component 3: Knowledge Management

Under this component, the project will capture and disseminate project lessons to a broader, public audience.

Component 4: Project M&E

Under this component, the project will monitor and evaluate project data and information to ensure efficient decision making and promote adaptive project management.

c. Stakeholders

The stakeholders identified for this project fall into the following categories:

- Affected local communities: HWC in Gabon manifests at a national scale and primarily affects the livelihoods of small-holder agricultural communities as well as hunter-gatherers. The project will involve stakeholders who are affected by this conflict, such as local communities and Indigenous Peoples who might live near PAs and their buffer zones.
- Indigenous Peoples: This includes the indigenous people living in or near the targeted areas. There are numerous indigenous communities in Gabon whose livelihoods and cultures are inextricably linked to the forest and are affected by HWC.

- Government: This includes Ministries, Regulatory Authorities and Agencies (e.g. Ministry of Waters and Forests/ Ministry of Environment, Climate and HWC/ National Parks Agency (ANPN), and Local Government Authorities at the Province and Prefecture level (e.g. Provincial Directorates of Water and Forests) and others with interest in the Project.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): This constitutes non-state actors both locally and internationally (WWF, TNC, Space for Giants, WCS), working in project areas or on interventions related to the project objectives. There are a number of local NGOs that may be involved in the project, depending on site of activity.
- Academia/research institutes: Academic institutions and governmental research institutes (e.g. ANPN's research institute working on HWC) will play an important role in the articulation of the HWC national strategy, e.g. through the completion of studies; provision of data and information on solutions/approaches, etc.
- Private Sector: This includes companies and firms with an interest in the project's objectives and will vary depending on the site. A number of private sector constituencies (in particular in the extractives sector) are affected by HWC and invest in fences and other measures. Their knowledge, experience, and perspective, as well as resources, could add value to the project.

Through the PPG phase the targeted sites, communities, and avenues for intervention will be determined to give more precision to the stakeholders for engagement.

d. Action Areas

This project aligns to the following GBFF Action Areas:

- 1. Action Area 1: This project will support delivery of Gabon's Target 3 goals, through improved management within and near existing protected areas in Gabon with investment in HWC management to overcome a critical barrier to protected area management. The project will integrate HWC management into the PFP (under development from the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project) for sufficient and predictable financial resources for conserved area management.
- 2. Action Area 2: The project will provide (under component 2) direct support to IP&LC groups for HWC management in and around conserved areas where HWC may threaten harmonious coexistence with local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IP&LCs). This support along with integration of HWC management and strategy into the PFP structure, will address the following GBFF priorities: 1) strengthening organizational and individual capacity to sustainably manage areas and territories under indigenous peoples and community stewardship and governance; 2) supporting site-based conservation along with the development of sustainable financing strategies to increase access and availability of resources for IPLCs; 3) strengthening governance and organizational capacity of IPLCs at local and regional levels; and 4) enhancing effective indigenous governance systems to manage lands, territories and waters.
- 3. Action Area 4: Resource mobilization (Targets 18 and 19). The project will integrate HWC management into the PFP structure, and add GBFF funding to the existing transition fund, that will finance conserved areas in Gabon, to deliver Target 3.

3) Criteria

a. GEBs

For Core Indicator 1, an estimated 1M hectares within PAs will receive direct support for management actions to reduce HWC and overall improve management effectiveness to the benefit of globally important wildlife populations.

For Core Indicator 4, 14,000 ha of land outside of PAs will be under improved management, based on improved biodiversity management of small family subsistence farming, to reduce HWC, in areas outside of PAs.

b. Alignment with the NBSAP

Gabon's NBSAP - dated 1999, possibly updated or ratified in 2004 - expresses Gabon's vision to "by 2025, ... ensure the conservation of biodiversity and guarantee satisfactory sharing of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from biological resources by raising awareness of the importance of its biological resources and by developing human and institutional capacities." The project will contribute to the achievement of this vision by promoting human-wildlife conflict management, reducing threats to biodiversity including endemic and threatened species, and potentially reducing the degradation of habitat (incl. forests, and freshwater ecosystems) of national, regional and global significance.

c. Policy coherence

The project has the potential to support policy coherence and coordination across Ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture in particular will be a key partner to collaborate with regarding conflicting policies and approaches that may be exacerbating HWC. Smallholder farmers need capacity building. Crop selection and technical methods are not sufficiently developed in Gabon resulting in a lack of efficiency in the production and poor investments in terms of protection from wildlife.

d. Resources

The Gabon PFP, now in development, has catalyzed a number of major philanthropic commitments to invest in sinking and transition funds which, following this project, will integrate HWC as an additional strategic focus for improved area-based conservation. Existing efforts to prevent and respond to HWC are underway by NGOs Space for Giants and WWF. Private funding to support these efforts can be leveraged to the proposed project activities. If the project collaborates with the private sector to support effective human-wildlife coexistence measures and management of wildlife corridors, these efforts can be leveraged to the project.

e. IPLCs.

At least \$700,000 of Component 2 will support to HWC management measures designed and adopted by indigenous and local communities at risk of HWC. The communities will be invited to engage in the actions and co-define the priorities to address. If the interventions are effective, the IP&LCs participating in the project will have higher tolerance of wildlife and see greater benefits to the presence and coexistence of wildlife. They will also benefit from financial mechanisms that will be designed to improve outcomes for IP&LCs and biodiversity (Component 1). IPLCs will lead in the design and execution of the interventions, but will not manage financial resources, (the responsibility of the lead executing agency).

PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

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GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Project Grant	Agency Fee	Total GEF Financing
WWF-US	GBFF Error	Gabon	Biodiversi	GBFF Action Area 1	540,086	48,607	588,694
	! Bookmark not defined.						
WWF-US	GBFF	Gabon		GBFF Action Area 2	824,410	74,197	898,606
Total GEF	Total GEF Resources				1,364,496	122,804	1,487,300

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No

If yes⁶: fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)

GEF	Trust	Country/	Focal	Programming		(in \$)	
Agency	Fund	Regional/ Global	Area	of Funds	PPG	Agency Fee	Total PPG Funding
(select) WWF- US	GBFF (select)	Gabon	(select)	(select) GBFF Action Area 1	11,479	1,033	12,512

WWF -US	GBFF	Gabon		GBFF Action Area 2	17,521	1,577	19,098
Total PPG Amount				29,000	2,610	31,610	

Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects where GEF TF is included)

GFEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Source of Funds	Total
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select)	
Total GEF	Resources				

Indicative Action Area Elements

		(in \$)		
Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project	Co-financing	
		Financing		
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFFGBFF	540,086	-	
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	824,410	-	
Total Project Cost		1,364,496	-	

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

***POP-UP material start

In line with the aspirational 2030 programming share of 20% of GBFF resources to support actions by IPLCS for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity, please provide the amount of GBFF project financing, if any, the project plans to allocate to support such actions.

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Amount (\$)
700,000

Indicative Co-financing

***POP-UP material start

Only for projects with GEF TF, please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.

***POP-UP material ends

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
-	-	In -kind(select)	Recurrent(select)	-
Total Co-financing				-

RESULTS INDICATOR TABLE

As per the <u>GBFF Programming Directions</u>, the following subset of the current suite of the GEF TF Core Indicators is used to monitor implementation performance of the GBF Fund: 1,2,3,4,5,6, 11 and all their sub indicators; 8; 9 and its sub indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from project interventions on other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

Project (Core Indicators	Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	1M
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	
3	Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)	
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	14,000
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (hectare)	
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO ₂ e)	

7	Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)	
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)	
9	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	10,000

Rationales:

For Core Indicator 1, an estimated 1M hectares within PAs will receive direct support for management actions to reduce HWC in addition to support from the PFP transition fund (from the GEF-7 EE project and other donor funding) to overall improve management effectiveness.

For Core Indicator 4, 14,000 ha of land outside of PAs will be under improved management, based on improved biodiversity management of small family subsistence farming, to reduce HWC, in areas outside of the PAs.

The figure for Core Indicator 4 is based on a report from IFAD that notes that farming in the country is done by 70,000 small family subsistence operations averaging 0.20 hectares in size, which represents a major constituency for HWC management.⁷

The calculation of the number of project beneficiaries (Core Indicator 11) is based on an assumption that the project can reach 2,000 households (with 5 persons per household) in HWC-prone areas. 50-50 gender disaggregation is estimated.

⁷ https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/gabon