

PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)		
Country:	Cameroon, CAR, ROC	GEF Project ID:	
GEF Agency(ies):	WWF GEF Agency	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Anticipated Executing Entity(s) and Type:	TNS Trust Fund (FTNS)		
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Submission Date:	
Type of Trust Fund:	GBFF	Project Duration (Months)	48
GEF Project Financing: (a)	6,460,126	PPG Amount (c):	200,000
Agency Fee(s): (b)	581,412	PPG Agency Fee (d):	18,000
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	7,259,538	Total Co-financing:	
Project Tags:	<p>X Support IP&LC Contributions to the implementation of: <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 1 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 4 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 5 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 6 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 7 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 9 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 10 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 11 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 12 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 13 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 14 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 15 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 16 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 17 <input type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 19 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 21 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBF Target 23</p>		

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective:	To provide sustainable, long-term investment in the globally significant TNS contributing to the 30*30 goals of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo					
Project Components	Comp. Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-fin
1. The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) endowment fund capitalized to invest in improved management effectiveness of the TNS	Inv	<p>1.1 Capitalization of FTNS endowment fund to support the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved Protected Area (PA) management - Improved transboundary cooperation and management - Enhanced support for IP&LC's efforts to steward their traditional land, including funding to IP&LCs and funding to improve capacities of IP&LCs - Improved livelihood of IP&LCs in TNS - Enabled conditions for sustainable tourism 	<p>1.1.1 Financing Agreement finalized</p> <p>1.1.2 Assess internal systems of fund governance, finance, risk management</p> <p>1.1.3 Operations Manual for GBFF project funds in place and adopted by Board</p> <p>1.1.4 FTNS annual work program approved by Board that includes GBFF project outcomes captured in 1.1</p> <p>1.1.5 FTNS capitalization after output 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 have been met</p>	GBFF	5,361,948	
2. Enhanced capacity and procedures of the FTNS	TA	<p>2.1 Enhanced capacity of FTNS staff to address social & env. safeguards requirements, risk management, IP&LCs inclusion and gender mainstreaming</p> <p>2.2 Strengthening governance and organizational capacity of IP&LCs that engage with FTNS</p>	<p>2.1.1 Internal systems ameliorated related to social and env. safeguards, risk management, as well as IP&LCs inclusion and gender mainstreaming</p> <p>2.1.2 Capacity increased for tracking of safeguards requirements, risks, IP&LC inclusion and gender mainstreaming</p> <p>2.2.1 Inclusive FTNS governance system in place and procedures to assure that 20% of all funding benefits IP&LCs</p>	GBFF	596,561	
M&E	TA	Project M&E informs adaptive project management	Regular monitoring and reporting and independent project evaluation	GBFF	193,993	
Subtotal						6,152,502
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***						307,625
Total Project Cost						6,460,127

ONE TEXT BOX to hold 7 pages of text maximum.

Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages *total*, 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.).

1) Project Rationale

Located in the heart of the Congo Basin (CB) forest, the Tri-National de la Sangha (TNS) is a 4.4 million hectare cross-border area straddling the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), and the Republic of Congo (RoC). It is a forest complex made up of three contiguous Protected Areas (PAs) covering 1,328,278 hectares, including Lobeke National Park (LNP) in Cameroon, the Dzanga Sangha Protected Area complex (DSPA) in CAR and Nouabalé Ndoki National Park (NNNP) in RoC, surrounded by different use zones like logging concessions, community forests, community hunting zones and rural settlement areas. Created in 2000, the TNS was the first area in the region to have a formal agreement to cooperate on the management of transboundary PAs recognized by the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and still serves as a model for Central Africa (CA). The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) recognizes TNS as one of the most important priorities for the conservation of CA's forests. TNS was classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July 2012. The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) was established in 2007. The initial endowment fund was established in 2010 through the contributions of the German Cooperation (5,000,000 euros) and AFD (3,000,000 euros). FTNS adheres to the CTF Practice Standards¹ and is mandated to fund transboundary protected area management through the endowment revenue and through one-off donor-funded projects. FTNS has raised about 58.6 million euros over the period 2010-2023. The investment policy foresees an interest return of 4% per year from international markets with an annual maximum withdrawal of 3% to support conservation activities. From 2016-2023 FTNS had an average annual investment performance of 4.3%. By the end of 2023, the endowment fund amounted to 66.4 million euros which remains under the objective of 100 million euros by 2025 as targeted in its strategic plan.

The TNS dense tropical rainforest ecosystem is considered one of the most stable and important in all of CA. It is estimated that TNS contains about 340 mammal species, 920 bird species, and 274 reptiles. These forests provide valuable ecological goods and services at the local, regional and global levels, such as the provision of food and medicine, the maintenance of the hydrological cycle and important flood control in a region with high rainfall and it is a giant carbon sink.

Several cross-border agreements among Cameroon, CAR and ROC are in place to address pressures such as (a) commercial poaching of large mammals for bushmeat, (b) poaching for ivory, and (c) increased human-wildlife conflict (HWC). In 2019 Cameroon, CAR, and ROC adopted agreements aimed at promoting cross-border tourism.

About 190,000 people live in TNS with around 20,000 or about 10% of the total population being indigenous hunter/gatherers whose culture and way of life is highly dependent on the forest. The majority of the local population are Bantu (+170,000 inhabitants or about 90%) and others who are attracted by the trade and employment opportunities in the forestry and mining sector. The small-

¹ <https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/practice-standards-for-ctfs>

scale economy is dominated by subsistence and semi-commercial agriculture, trade in bushmeat, palm wine, fish, shrimp, artisanal mining, and marketing of non-timber forest products.

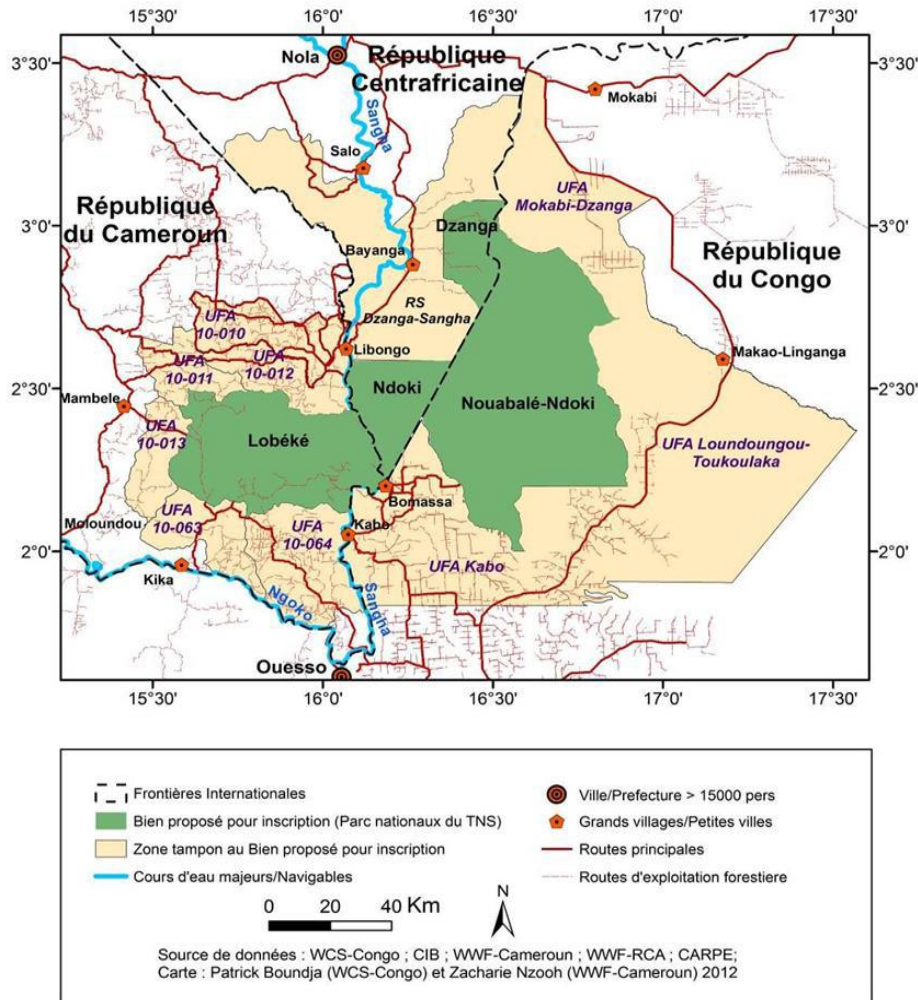


Figure 1: Land Extent and Land Use Map in the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)

The project seeks to address the following problems:

Insufficient long-term financial resources and human resource constraints negatively affect management effectiveness. The TNS is being managed by various supervising and executing structures and despite receiving funding through FTNS still lacks sufficient funding and coordination. Management plans for LNP, DSPA and NNNP follow their respective country models, which differ substantially and only partially address the transboundary issues of this World Heritage site².

The **critically endangered forest elephant is highly threatened by poaching for the ivory trade**. Its population has rapidly declined in the Cameroon section of the TNS. In DSPA and NNNP, the elephant population is stable but pressures due to increasing human presence hampers their free movement across the TNS.

² IUCN World Heritage Outlook, 2020

Unsustainable (and illegal) hunting of bushmeat continues to be a major threat to wildlife (particularly ungulates and arboreal primates) in and around the TNS, which increases with road expansion and demand to supply bushmeat to urban centers, logging camps and towns around the TNS. In addition, controls on trans-border roads are difficult to enforce and require the collaboration of the three governments³.

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). Increased fragmentation and encroachment of habitat and inadequate management strategies and capacity are barriers to a harmonious coexistence of communities and wildlife. The project seeks to improve HW coexistence through strengthened protected area management, improved multi-stakeholder processes, behavior and social change approaches and increased transboundary collaboration.

Limited capacity and involvement of IP&LCs in the management of their traditional land and PAs. Effectively engaging IP&LCs in PA management and protecting their rights while also facilitating improved livelihoods is challenging. Many communities depend on the forest but have faced land use restrictions due to PAs and the fact that surrounding areas have been mostly leased to private companies - often overlapping with community managed areas - resulting in conflicts. Mediation and communication through existing and revitalized multi-stakeholder governance platforms remains critical. Further support is needed to facilitate Indigenous People having full representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to their rights over land, territories, and resources. Increased efforts are necessary to support these communities with the necessary means to be their own advocate of their rights, respecting their cultures and traditional knowledge, be able to manage funding themselves, and ensure that they can play the important role of a steward of their environment.

The project objective is to *provide sustainable, long-term investment in the globally significant TNS contributing to the 30*30 goals of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo*. The project seeks to improve PA management as well as collaboration on various aspects of transboundary management. It will improve protected area management effectiveness in 1,328,278 hectares, as well as improved practices to benefit biodiversity in areas outside of the PAs. The project will benefit an estimated 5,500 people (a third are Indigenous People).

2) Project Description

a. Theory of Change

If sufficient and predictable financial resources to support conserved area management are available and adequate institutional capacity of the FTNS is existing, and **if** Indigenous and local communities are an integral part of conservation activities and their livelihood is being increased, and **if** transboundary cooperation increases, **then** the integrity, connectivity and resilience of the TNS ecosystem is maintained and contributing to the 30x30 goals of Cameroon, CAR, and ROC.

The proposed project will provide sustainable, long-term investment in the globally significant TNS to advance the achievement of goals set under the GBF and other development objectives, specifically to (a) Enhance the effective management of the three protected areas and improve their existing governance systems (b) Strengthen institutional and individual capacities including by Indigenous Peoples to manage the protected areas; (c) Strengthen governance and

³ IUCN World Heritage Outlook, 2020

organizational capacity of IP&LCs at local and regional levels; (d) Improve transboundary cooperation.

B. Components

Component 1: FTNS endowment fund capitalized to invest in improved management effectiveness in TNS

Under component 1, GBFF resources will be used to increase the endowment of the conservation trust fund for large-scale, transboundary biodiversity conservation. GBFF capitalization of the endowment fund will be tied to several disbursement conditions, supported by component 1 outputs, such as a financing agreement, due diligence of internal systems, development of an Operations Manual and the approval of an annual work plan, which includes activities to increase PA management effectiveness, improve transboundary coordination and corridor management, enhance IP&LC's efforts to steward their traditional land and improved livelihoods.

The annual disbursement from the GBFF endowment interest will be used to improve management effectiveness of the three connected PAs and transboundary coordination in TNS, reduce poaching and HWC, establish enabling conditions for sustainable tourism and strengthen IP&LC capacities to manage areas and increase their access to resources via conservation and other activities. The activities will be part of the annual work program of the FTNS. Detailed activities will be developed during the PPG phase but will include new inclusive conservation approaches such as joint biomonitoring with IPs using the ExCiteS/Sapelli tool, exchange visits of IP associations to promote the maintenance of the cultural heritage, empowerment through Extreme citizen data collection, improvement of community wildlife management areas, training and capacity building opportunities to IP&LCs in order to build skills and knowledge around conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and self-governance. By supporting inclusive conservation and sustainable development, the project would have a positive impact on neighboring communities and ecosystems, including the nearby PAs such as Boumba-Bek, Nki and Odzala, which would help to create a "conservation corridor" that protects biodiversity and promotes sustainable use over a wider area.

Component 2 will directly support capacity building activities of the FTNS to assure internal systems are in place related to social and environmental safeguards, risk management, as well as IP&LCs inclusion and gender mainstreaming.

C. Stakeholders

The stakeholders are:

- Government Cameroon: MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINADER, MINAS, MINTOUL, MINEE; CAR: Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing (MEFCP), Ministry of Tourism.

These ministries will be involved in the design & implementation of the project and play a role in developing and enforcing policies.

- IP&LCs will be involved in the design & implementation of the project and play a key role in ensuring the project is tailored to their needs and priorities. They will benefit through improved livelihoods and access to education and training and play a role in protecting the environment and biodiversity of the region.

- NGOs: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) for PA management; Chengeta Wildlife as executing partner on law enforcement in the DSPA & data analysis, training and long-term mentoring; Maison de l'Enfant et la Femme Pygmée, (MEFP); Human Rights Centers and RACOPY. These organizations will play a role in the design &

implementation and help to raise awareness and support for the project among the public. They will also be involved in M&E.

- Associations: partners related to BaAka, ASBABUK and Sangha-Sangha cultural heritage and rights and serving as a platform for indigenous issues

- Academic and research institutions: including universities and research centers to provide research and expertise to support the project. They would also play a role in training and capacity building for local communities.

- The private sector, including organizations involved in forestry and tourism through commitments to sustainable practices, including reducing deforestation and poaching, and supporting local communities through employment and other forms of support.

D. Action Areas

This project aligns to the following GBFF Action Areas:

1. Action Area 1. Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning. This project will support improved effective management and governance systems of three PAs and the wider transboundary TNS, an ecosystem of high ecological integrity, through investment in a conservation trust fund (FTNS) which finances the majority of biodiversity conservation work in TNS. The project seeks to improve ecosystems function and services, ecological integrity and connectivity through the management of wildlife corridors and buffer zones around the PAs. The project will contribute to ensuring sufficient and predictable financial resources are available, including external funding to support conserved area management costs to support Cameroon, CAR and ROC in their 30 by 30 target.

2. Action Area 2. Support to IP&LC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters. The project will address the GBFF priorities 1) IP&LCs will receive resources for execution of project components/activities, 2) IP&LCs are beneficiaries of project activities; 3) IP&LCs are involved in the design and implementation of project components; 4) IP&LCs are envisioned to be part of the project steering committee and project governance.

3. Action Area Four: Resource mobilization. The project will increase the endowment of the FTNS and therefore increase long-term finance for the TNS including its three PAs.

3) Criteria:

a. GEBs

The project will deliver results against the following:

Core Indicator 1. Improved management effectiveness in the intervention landscapes, which include 1,328,278ha of PAs.

Core Indicator 4. To be calculated in project development, including buffer zone land outside of protected areas that are key for connectivity will be placed under improved management, by promoting transboundary cooperation, transboundary corridor management, human-wildlife conflict management measures, conditions for sustainable tourism, and IP&LC's inclusion to steward their traditional land.

Core Indicator 11. An estimate of 5,500 (app. 50% men, 50% women, 33% IP) people will benefit from the project. This figure includes mainly IP&LCs, and also PAs and Government personnel, small landowners who depend on subsistence agriculture, and community groups. The project assumes

that most beneficiaries will be IP&LCs who will benefit from the measures to access and use the forests of TNS, reduce pressures for HWC, and support mapping and biomonitoring activities.

b. Alignment with NBSAPs

Cameroon: The project is fully aligned with the Cameroon NBSAP. The project will contribute to NBSAP goals: strengthening scientific data collection through community-based approaches with involvement of IP&LC in order to facilitate the decision-making process; increase awareness on the importance of biodiversity; sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits.

CAR: The proposed project will contribute to the implementation of two of the priority measures proposed as part of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Diversity (SNPA-DB): the wildlife conservation strategy and the strategy for the sustainable use of natural resources.

ROC: The project is aligned with the country's NBSAP.

The project will work closely with the three governments to ensure alignment with NBSAPs and other relevant national and regional priorities.

c. Policy coherence and coordination

TNS complex is governed by the cooperation agreement signed on December 7, 2000, between the governments of the Republic of Cameroon, the CAR and the Republic of Congo. This agreement defines the framework for the management and operation of the transboundary conservation zone. Law n°08.001 ratifying the TNS Treaty was promulgated on January 1, 2008. Memorandums of understanding have been signed between TNS member governments on anti-poaching measures and the free movement of people and goods. Multiple Ministries are coordinating within each country, including from environment, development, social, agriculture and planning sectors.

The proposed project will help achieve policy coherence in the TNS through collaboration and coordination among the governments, stakeholders, and communities. The project will foster partnerships with local communities, indigenous groups, civil society organizations, and the private sector to promote inclusive conservation, to leverage local knowledge and to reduce conflict among different land users. Engaging these stakeholders in the work planning for TNS, sustainable livelihood initiatives, and community-based monitoring programs can integrate the perspectives and contributions of all stakeholders, and enhance ownership of conservation measures.

d. Resources

The projects seeks to identify additional funding from bilateral donors to contribute to the FTNS endowment during the project development phase.

e. IP&LCs

The project will provide meaningful support to IP&LCs and ensure their voices and perspectives are heard and considered in all aspects of the project. In a cultural context in the region, it can be difficult to solicit input from IPs and women. To facilitate their equal participation in activities without disrupting cultural protocol and gender norms which could damage stakeholder relationships and trigger community conflict, the project seeks to speak to vulnerable groups and women separately, look at team compositions and keep traditional authority figures informed. The

project will focus on providing training and capacity building opportunities to IP&LCs in order to build their skills and knowledge around conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and self-governance to empower IP&LCs and ensure that they have the tools and resources they need to be successful in the long term. The project will provide also funding directly to IP&LCs for the execution of activities such as biomonitoring programs and participatory research activities. IP&LC will actively engage in a substantial part of the project activities. The work will include sustainably managed hunting zones so that IPs can have long-term access to wild protein and NTFPs. The project plans to include IP&LCs in the management of the three PAs of the TNS. For example, the “committee de suivi” (which functions as a board) in DSPA and LNP has IP&LCs representation. It is envisaged that there will be a steering committee representative from all villages to manage the community hunting zone in the CAR part of TNS. Strengthening cross-border cooperation would have a number of additional benefits for IP&LCs. It facilitates greater cooperation in the management of natural resources, by establishing common rules and regulations around the use of natural resources, coordinating biomonitoring of wildlife to prevent illegal activities, and sharing information and expertise on best practices for sustainable resource use. This will also open up new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, through ecotourism and sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), including wild fruits, nuts, herbs, and fibers.

PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds			
					GEF Project Grant	Agency Fee	Total GEF Financing
WWF -US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	2,211,355	199,022	2,410,377
WWF -US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	1,769,084	159,218	1,928,302
WWF -US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	442,271	39,804	482,075
WWF -US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	516,131	46,452	562,583
WWF -US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	412,905	37,161	450,066
WWF -US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	103,226	9,290	112,516
WWF -US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	502,577	45,232	547,809
WWF -US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	402,062	36,186	438,248
WWF -US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	100,515	9,046	109,561
Total GEF Resources					6,460,126	581,411	7,041,537

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No

If yes⁴: fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)

		Country/	Focal Area	Programming	(in \$)
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GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Regional/ Global		of Funds	PPG	Agency Fee	Total PPG Funding
WWF-US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	68,458	6,161	74,619
WWF-US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	54,766	4,929	59,695
WWF-US	GBFF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	13,692	1,231	14,923
WWF-US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	15,978	1,438	17,416
WWF-US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	12,781	1,150	13,931
WWF-US	GBFF	CAR	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	3,196	288	3,484
WWF-US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 1	15,565	1,401	16,966
WWF-US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 2	12,452	1,120	13,572
WWF-US	GBFF	ROC	Biodiversity	Action Area 4	3,112	280	3,392
WWF-US					200,000	18,000	218,000

Indicative Action Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Action Area 1	GBFF	3,230,063	
Action Area 2	GBFF	2,584,051	
Action Area 4	GBFF	646,012	
Total Project Cost	GBFF	6,460,126	

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IP&LCs 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 IP&LCS 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.

***POP-UP material ends

Amount (\$)
800,000

Indicative Co-financing (not needed for PPG request)

***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

Trust fund	FTNS	Cost sharing	1,202,488,28
Public sector	GEF	Cost sharing	109,185.16
Partnership			

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

RESULTS INDICATOR TABLE

As per the [GBFF Programming Directions](#), 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) 1.2 area under improved management	Lobeke National Park: 217,854 ha Dzanga Sangha 686,554 Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park: 423,870 ha Total: 1,328,278 ha
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare) 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, non-certified)	TBC
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO ₂ e)	TBC
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	5,500 (app. 50% men, 50% women, 33% IP)

ⁱ <https://uclxcites.blog/about/>