Gabon GBFF Stakeholder Engagement Plan

“Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon”HWC

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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon

27 March 2024

MINISTÈRE DES EAUX ET FORÊTS, DE LA MER, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, CHARGÉ DU PLAN CLIMAT, ET DU PLAN D'AFFECTATION DES TERRES

Contents

1. Introduction 4

2. Regulations and Requirements 5

3. Project Stakeholders 8

3.1. Government 8

3.2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) 11

3.3. International NGOs 12

3.4. Local Communities: 12

4. Summary of any previous stakeholder engagement activities 13

4.1. Mayumba National Park 13

4.2. Loango National Park 14

4.3. Minkébé National Park 15

4.4. Monts de Cristal National Park 17

5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan 0

5.1. Proposed Strategy to incorporate views of women and other relevant groups (minorities, elderly, young other marginalized groups) 0

5.2. Strategy to incorporate views of Indigenous Peoples 2

5.3. Proposed methods to receive feedback and to ensure ongoing communications with stakeholders 2

5.4. Other engagement activities for the plan 3

6. Timetable. 8

7. Resources and Responsibilities 9

8. Grievances Mechanism 9

8.1. Project-Level Grievance Mechanism 10

8.2. TNC PFP-wide Grievance Mechanism 12

8.3. WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism 13

8.4. GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner 14

9. Monitoring and Reporting 14

Appendix 1: PFP Stakeholder Analysis 16

Appendix 2: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations for the PFP project. 18

Appendix 3: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations at PFP PIF Stage 22

1. Introduction

Gabon is in the western region of the Congo Basin and is known for its high forest cover and low rates of deforestation. Approximately 88.97% of its territory is covered by tropical rainforest with low human density (estimated human population at 2.3 million people) and low agriculture pressure. Gabon's rich tropical forests harbor half of the world's remaining forest elephant population and 80% of the western lowland gorillas, among others. Marine and terrestrial protected areas (PAs) represent 25.1% of the total national area, with marine areas representing 28.8% of the total area and terrestrial areas, 22.4% Forests in Gabon comprise an estimated 8000 plant species with a 20% endemism rate.

To protect this rich biodiversity and high ecosystems diversity, a network of 13 National Parks was created in 2002 (Figure 1). In 2017, 20 Marine Protected Areas were created protecting 26% of Gabon's territorial waters.

Figure 1: Representation of the 13 Gabon's National Parks

On August 30, 2023 just hours after Gabon's election commission announced that President Ali Bongo Ondimba had been elected to a third term, a group of Gabonese military officers from the elite presidential guard unit seized power and named Brice Oligui Nguema as President. President Nguema has voiced concern about Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), mentioning the topic in his first address to the nation as president. HWC is a major threat to wildlife populations and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers worldwide, as crop-raiding by elephants, monkeys, and other species can drastically reduce income and food security of rural communities, producing negative perceptions towards wildlife and perpetuating poverty. In Gabon, human-wildlife conflicts have become more common with a growing population and a greater need for access to land. Gabon uses electric fences and monetary compensation to mitigate conflicts, though access to these programs can be difficult for rural communities. In March 2024, President Nguema approached WWF-Gabon, requesting that the organization convene a meeting to develop an HWC action plan as early as mid-April 2024.

This Gabon GBFF project, "Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon", builds on the GEF-7 Enduring Earth Project ("EE")

"Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation—GEF ID: 11014 – which leverages the EE partnership, an ambitious collaboration to support governments and communities to conserve the resources that sustain life by accelerating inclusive area-based conservation measures in furtherance of 30x30 and other development goals through the Project Finance for Permanence ("PFP") approach. Under a PFP approach, target countries define a unique set of commitments from multiple stakeholders in a single closing to ensure that, over the long term, large-scale systems of conservation areas are well-managed, sustainably financed, and benefit the communities who depend on them. This project reinforces the Gabon PFP by focusing specifically on HWC, aiming to develop a national HWC strategy which will be integrated in PFP governing instruments and inform PFP (and CTF) operations to support the long term sustainability of the HWC strategy; implement Indigenous Peoples/Local Community (IPLC)-led HWC actions in four sites; and publish lessons learned from this work for application in other Gabon PAs.

This project has four components:

Component 1: Enabling Conditions for improved Protected Area conservation and HWC Management in Gabon.
Component 2: IPLC led HWC Solutions
Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications
Component 4: Project M&E

This GBFF project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is built on the PFP SEP and responds to government and community concerns for increasing HWC incidents in areas surrounding PAs. As part of the PFP project preparation, field visits and community consultations were undertaken, between April 5 – 27, 2023, in four targeted landscapes around four protected areas (highlighted in red in Figure 1), namely:

(i) Mayumba National Park (in the province of Nyanga);
(ii) Loango National Park (in the province of Ogooué Maritime);
(iii) Minkébé National Park (spanning the provinces of Woleu-Ntem and Ogooue-Ivindo); and
(iv) Monts de Cristal National Park (in the Estuary province).

In March 2024, additional consultations were undertaken with a specific focus on HWC in these areas.

2. Regulations and Requirements

Government of Gabon Policies and Regulations

In Gabon, national IPLC regulations are based on international treaties ratified by the country, which following engagement with local populations and public authorities. Subject to the provisions of its national legislation, Gabon respects, preserves and maintains the knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promotes their wider application (with the agreement and participation of the custodians of such knowledge) and encourages the equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use (see Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by Gabon on 11 March 1997, in accordance with Decree No. 00278 / PR / MAEC, after adoption of Law No. 29/96 of 28 January 1996, authorizing the ratification of the CBD Convention (MPERNFM, 2014)).

Gabon has adopted and ratified several measures, in terms of commitments and requirements on Local Communities, and some of these commitments have taken effect since the ratification of certain international agreements by Gabon since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio De Janeiro on 12 June 1992. In addition, these commitments are mainly for the benefit of local and indigenous populations. It is necessary to highlight, as a prelude, the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*, in particular Article 13 which stipulates that all citizens have the right to

participate freely in the management of the public affairs of their country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives, according to the rules established by law (ACHPR / IWGIA, 2007).

The rights of citizens to participate in public affairs is tempered by the fact that exercising this right must be undertaken in accordance with the domestic legislative rules of each country and that, in the case of Gabon, all citizens are considered equal under the principle of equality provided for in the Gabonese Constitution. The national constitution explicitly and fully recognizes the right of peoples to self-determination and free disposal of natural wealth and resources; as stated in the preamble to the Gabonese Constitution (MPERNFM, 2014).

Although Gabon is a forest country, it is also a party to the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. One of the principles of this Convention, ratified by Gabon in 1996, is to raise awareness among local populations, especially women and young people, and to facilitate their participation, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in actions to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Article 8.3 of Annex I of this Convention specifies that national action programmes must include measures for the conservation of natural resources with a view to ensuring integrated management and sustainable development and conservation of forests and the local habitats residing therein.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Local Peoples (UNDRIP) adopted by Gabon in 2007, article 27 reads as follows: *States shall establish and implement, in consultation with the* local *populations concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent mechanism, taking due account of local laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, in order to recognise and decide on the rights of local* people *to their lands, territories and resources, including those traditionally owned, occupied or used. Local governments will have the right to participate in this process.*

In addition, the principle of *Free, Prior and Informed Command* (FPIC) is a collective right, which therefore belongs to a community as a whole. Under this right, a community can give or refuse consent to any proposed project that could affect lands and natural resources that it traditionally owns, occupies or uses (Clientearth, 2014). Article 32.2 also stipulates that States shall consult *and cooperate with the local authorities concerned in good faith through their own representative institutions, with a view to obtaining their free and informed consent prior to approval. any project having an impact* on their lands or territories and other resources, regarding the development, use or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

Subregional guidelines on the participation of local populations and NGOs in the sustainable management of Central African forests, outlined under the supervision of COMIFAC are also relevant—especially those concerning the participatory development of land-use plans, the classification and declassification of forests, and participatory forest management (COMIFAC, 2015-2025). These guidelines state "The State shall develop, adopt and implement, in a participatory manner, a national land allocation plan based on control of public and customary lands while ensuring and securing the current and future land needs of the State and local populations. The classification and development of protected areas and forest concessions are therefore also subject to such legal and regulatory frameworks and should (or even must) be carried out with the effective participation of local populations (Comifac, 2015-2025)".

WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The WWF GEF Agency requires all GEF projects comply with GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement and the associated Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the GEF Executing Agency to engage stakeholders throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution, and; disseminate information in a way that is relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible. The Standard on Stakeholder Engagement promotes an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that help to identify and manage risks, and which encourage positive outcomes for stakeholders and project activities.

GEF requirements on Stakeholder Engagement

The GEF has two instruments on stakeholder engagement:

- Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (2017); and
- Guidelines on Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (2018), which further defines the policy and resources necessary for implementation.

These instruments include mandatory requirements and procedures for GEF Partner Agencies and recipient government agencies to ensure transparency, inclusion, accountability, integrity, and effective participation of stakeholders and public for all projects financed by the GEF. The intention of these instruments is two-fold: to strengthen the design and implementation of GEF-Financed activities through effective stakeholder engagement thereby reducing risks and addressing the social and economic needs of affected parties; and to ensure country ownership of the project and developing stronger partnerships with civil society, local communities, private sector through harnessing their knowledge, experience and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups throughout the project cycle.

The policy outlines six requirements for governments and other executing partners implementing GEF financed activities, which are:

- Stakeholders are identified early in project and engaged throughout the project cycle
- The engagement of stakeholders should include mechanisms that allow stakeholders to express their views and receive feedback on project plans, benefits, risks, impacts, and mitigation measures that may affect them.
- The engagement of stakeholders be gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
- Throughout the project cycle, a public register of stakeholder engagement is developed, maintained and disclosed. In cases where confidentiality is necessary to protect stakeholders from harm, statistical information is recorded and made publicly available.
- Stakeholders to the project are given access to timely, relevant and understandable information about activities implemented, and there are clear procedures in place to request information.
- Where GEF-financing supports an activity implemented by the Agency, such support is clearly identified and related non-confidential information is made publicly available and easily accessible.

The GEF recognizes that effective Stakeholder Engagement and meaningful consultation enhance the transparency, accountability, integrity, effectiveness and sustainability of GEF governance and operations by, inter alia, strengthening the design and implementation of GEF-Financed Activities, reducing risks and addressing the social and economic needs of affected parties. In addition, effective Stakeholder Engagement and meaningful consultation promote country ownership by forging stronger partnerships, particularly with civil society, Indigenous Peoples, communities and the private sector, and by harnessing the knowledge, experience and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups.

There are several key elements to “meaningful consultation”. It is a two-way process that:

- Begins early in the project identification and planning process to gather initial views.
- Encourages stakeholder feedback and engagement in the project development and design process.
- Continues during the development and implementation of a project GEF Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines (SD/GN/01)
- Is based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in a timely manner and culturally appropriate format.
- Considers and responds to feedback.
- Supports active and inclusive engagement with project affected parties.
- Is free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation; and
- Is documented and disclosed.

3. Project Stakeholders

The stakeholders identified for this project, as detailed in Appendix 2, are clustered into the following groups:

- **Government**: This includes Ministries, Regulatory Authorities and Agencies, Local Government Authorities at Province and Prefecture level with either jurisdictional oversight over the identified project landscape. This also includes Government Agencies/Departments with interest in the Project.
- **Local Communities:** This is where the engagement plan mostly focus given that the project will affect either directly or indirectly all members of the communities. The local communities cited here are the populations currently residing near the targeted parks.
- **Indigenous Peoples:** This includes Indigenous people living in or near the targeted parks.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** This constitutes non-state actors both locally and internationally working in project areas or on interventions related to the project objectives. Similar to the government in terms of potential role, the majority of CSOs will be partners to the project for implementation and thus directly engaging with the local communities in the project sites.
- **Private Sector Companies:** This includes companies and firms with interest in engaging in businesses and financial investments aspects related to the project objectives.

These stakeholders will be informed about and engaged in the project as per the plan described further in this document. The process to identify and reflect on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders is a continuous process. The list provided here will be treated as a living document for the purpose of selecting changing social, economic and political environments throughout the project cycle.

3.1 Government

Government administration of HWC occurs through the Ministry of Environment, Climate and HWC and the Ministry of Water and Forests. The Ministry of Environment, Climate and HWC oversees the work of ANPN as implementation agency for matters relating to HWC. The latter Ministry appoints DGFAP (Direction Generale de la Faune et des Aires Protegees) and DGAPBC (Direction Generale des Aires Protegees Biodiversite et Conflit Homme Faune), mainly regulatory bodies. ANPN conducts work and operations on the ground, where the DGs are regulatory bodies.

Key government stakeholders for the project and descriptions of their mandates are listed below.

***Direction Générale de l'Environnement et pour la Protection de la Nature*—(The Director General for the Protection of the Environment and Nature (DGEPN))** DGEPN is an entity of the Ministry of

the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry and the Sea (MPERNFM) and in charge implementing the Gabonese government's policy on the environment and protection of nature.

DGEPN is mainly responsible for (i) coordination and control of the activities of its different units; (ii) the execution of plans and programs according to a fixed schedule; (iii) all studies relating to the projects to be implemented; (iv) the centralization of all the data necessary for the definition of the means and the evaluation of the results; (v) the application and enforcement of the texts relating to the environment and the protection of nature.

The provincial services are made up of so-called provincial brigades grouped together according to the following zonal division:

- North zone (Estuary, Ogooué-Ivindo and Woleu-Ntem provinces);
- South zone (Moyen-Ogooué, Ngounié, Nyanga and Ogooué-Maritime provinces);
- East zone (Haut-Ogooué and Ogooué-Lolo provinces).

***Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* – (National Parks Agency (ANPN))** Under DGEPN's leadership, ANPN provides execution support for Gabon's National Parks and other Protected Areas (PAs) such as nature reserves and Ramsar sites. The agency also engages with IPLCs primarily through "community co-management" in the peripheral areas of its national parks, supported by CCGLs (*Comités Consultatifs de Gestion Locale*/Local Management Advisory Committees).
By extension, decree n ° 00111 / PR / MEFPEPGE of 04 April 2017 creates a National Agency for the Preservation of Nature (ANPN) whose mission is the execution of the Government's policy in terms of knowledge, protection, management and promotion of national biodiversity. With respect to HWC, ANPN is responsible for overseeing and socializing protection techniques and their implementation in protected area buffer zones. ANPN also responds to incidences of HWC when they are in PA buffer zones. ANPN's scientific unit has a department and lab dedicated to elephant-related conflict issues.

As such, ANPN is responsible for:

- carrying out or contributing to inventories of genetic diversity, species and ecosystems;
- building and updating a database of genetic diversity, species and ecosystems;
- carrying out analyses of trends and the state of biodiversity;
- contributing to scientific research and development;

in terms of biodiversity protection:

- proposing strategies for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in situ and ex situ;
- carrying out or contributing to specific anti-poaching actions and the illegal exploitation of biodiversity;
- proposing measures for the prevention and management of human-wildlife conflicts;

in terms of biodiversity management:

- proposing measures for the management of natural resources; participating in the validation and implementation of national management strategies and plans; managing protected areas;

in terms of enhancing biodiversity:

- proposing strategies for enhancing the natural and cultural heritage, taking into account the balance and stability of ecosystems and monitoring their implementation; promoting and regulating ecotourism activities; proposing, in collaboration with other competent administrations, quotas for the exploitation of renewable natural resources subject to exploitation permits.

ANPN may receive any other mission related to its area of competence from the public authorities. ANPN comprises a Board of Directors; a General Direction; an Accounting Position; a Scientific Committee; and

comités consultatifs--advisory committees. Regulatory texts determine, as necessary, the provisions of any kind necessary for the application of this decree which also repeals all previous contrary provisions.

***Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées*--(Directorate General of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP))** DGFAP has the task of implementing the Government's policy in the field of fauna and protected areas. As such, it is responsible for:

- developing, revising, and enforcing legal instruments (regulations, policies, laws) on the management and exploitation of fauna and the development of protected areas.
- ensuring the knowledge, availability, enhancement, protection and restoration of wildlife resources and protected areas;
- proposing and following the general directives concerning the management of wildlife resources and protected areas;
- promoting protected areas developed with a view to securing short, medium and long-term funding for activities;
- developing and updating the directives on the fight against poaching;
- developing and revising technical standards for inventorying wildlife and managing protected areas;
- developing and updating models of specifications for the exploitation of protected areas by private operators;
- setting up and updating a database on the state of the resource and the development of protected areas;
- developing and implementing the national plan for wildlife management and the development of protected areas with the collaboration of the General Directorate of Forests and the General Directorate of Aquatic Ecosystems;
- developing strategies for a better valuation of fauna, hunting products and protected areas;
- negotiating international conventions and agreements on wildlife management and the development of protected areas;
- proposing a distribution grid for income from the exploitation of protected areas;
- initiating and monitoring partnerships with national and international NGOs, economic operators and other organizations;
- capitalizing on the results of applied research in the field of conservation and management of wildlife carried out by organizations or research institutes;
- initiating any measure necessary for the protection of endangered species and / or the promotion of little or unknown wildlife species;
- certifying the origin of wildlife products intended for export;
- coordinating the harmonious participation of all the other private, public and semi-public actors involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policy on wildlife and protected areas;
- ensuring capacity building and modernization of the wildlife and protected areas sectors; - to ensure the technical supervision of personalized public services of the State in the wildlife and protected areas sectors and to ensure compliance with regulations by all the players in these sectors;
- ensuring the supervision and coordination of the activities of all the services placed under its authority;
- proposing all measures relating to the general or local organization of its services, in particular with regard to the commitments, assignments, transfers and advancements of staff;
- studying and developing, in collaboration with the Central Directorate of Human Resources, reform projects and to propose any appropriate measure to improve the working environment and life of the staff; managing all the equipment, material and real estate assets of the central services;

- centralizing, stopping and defending the budget projects drawn up by the technical services of the general directorate for wildlife and protected areas;
- developing the annual work program of the General Management, in collaboration with the directions; preparing the annual budget, in collaboration with the directorates and ensure the proper management of the credits allocated to his directorates;
- writing periodic reports on all the activities carried out by the General Management.

Direction general des Aires protegees biodiversity et conflit homme faune (DGAPBC)

A newly created department in response to call from local populations by the transition government. The department is responsible for addressing HWC, mainly at the regulatory level.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

The "MAEP" works with local water and forest departments to identify crop-related incidents. They generally ask communities to refer problems caused by man-wildlife conflict to the Ministry of Water and Forests.

Local and Provincial Authorities

At the local and provincial levels, the "Direction Provinciale des Eaux et Forets" and the "Cantonnement des Eaux et Forets Departementale" and the "Brigade de Faune" are in charge of reporting incidents of HWC. As noted above, ANPN will respond in the event that incidents occur in and around PAs. The three local bodies report to the Ministry of Water and Forests, and these agents are in daily contact with the populations involved in conflicts. When communities notice damage, they must inform the structure closest to them.

3.2 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

There are several NGOs and CSOs working in the project areas including:

Association Gabonaise des Femmes Indigènes (Gabonese Association of Indigenous Women (AGAFI))

Initially a specialized body of MINAPIGA NGOs, AGAFI aims to gradually strengthen their autonomy within the *Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales du* Gabon (Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of Gabon (REPALEG)) framework.

***Association pour le Développement de la Culture des Peuples Pygmées du Gabon* (Association for the Development of the Culture of the Pygmy Peoples of Gabon (ADCPPG))**

Created in 2003, aims to defend the rights of the Pygmies in the development process of the country. ADCPPG is the response to UNESCO's request to set up a network of indigenous associations in Gabon. It was created with the aim of reconciling traditional cultures with modernity.

Association Culture Nature EDZENGUI

EDZENGUI is an association of indigenous people. It was Created in June 2002, and officially recognized in 2003. The general aim of EDZENGUI association is to promote and encourage, in partnership with private or public bodies and national or international institutions, cultural, scientific and tourist activities in the north-east of Gabon.

Association IBONGA
This is an environmental NGO based in Gamba. Association Ibonga operates in the southern area of Loango Notional Park and Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. They are very renowned in the area and recognized by the local authorities. Activities of Association Ibonga involve conservation, environmental education, monitoring of sea turtles, stakeholder engagement.

Association KOUSSOU
This is an environmental NGO based in Gamba. Association Koussou operates in the southern area of Loango Notional Park and Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. Their activities involve conservation, environmental education, monitoring of sea turtles.

Association OBANGAME
This is an environmental NGO based in Minvoul. The NGO regularly acts as Representative of Indigenous Communities during negotiations with forestry companies in in the Woleu-Ntem region.

Cooperative Ayebe Environnement
This is a community cooperative based in the village of Akoga in the province of Woleu-Ntem, grouping together 4 villages: Akoga, Zockbot, Avant and Mbe Akelayo. It is located near the Mont de Cristal park, and its activities are agriculture and beekeeping. The cooperative is supported by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for: (i) crop protection with mobile fencing. As well as (ii) beekeeping activities through capacity-building (training of cooperative members).

There may be other associations of equal importance based in other parts of the country, which will be determined during project implementation as the scope and nature of activities become more defined.

3.3 International NGOs

There are also several international NGOs that focus on wildlife conservation working in Gabon. These include:

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)--The Gabon Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. It does so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because "it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth".

Brainforest-- is an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) which aims to promote both sustainable and equitable management of the natural resources present in Gabon. The NGO actively involves the Gabonese population in its projects, and thus sensitizes local populations to the sustainable management of the various resources of Gabon. For its part, the Gabonese population benefits from the positive economic benefits of this mode of management and feels more involved in the preservation of their country.

Space for Giants is an NGO protecting Africa's remaining natural ecosystems and the large wild animals they contain, while providing social and economic value to local communities and national governments. In Gabon they are working with communities to install solar-powered electric fencing to mitigate HWC conflict in IPLC communities, especially those involving elephants.

3.4 Local Communities

Lessons learned from previous HWC projects in Africa have shown that community ownership and engagement in HWC strategies is essential to ensuring long term success. Rural peoples may perceive

HWC resolution as a national or provincial government responsibility, however, experience has shown that HWC success can only be maintained when local populations consider themselves responsible for the establishment and maintenance of management strategies.

Results of local stakeholder meetings during the PFP project showed that there are two main classifications of residents living in or near the targeted Protected Areas: The Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the mainstream local communities (non-indigenous; LCs)

The Indigenous People comprise of numerous ethnic groups (Baka, Babongo, Bakoya, Baghame, Barimba, Akoula, etc.) with different languages, cultures and geographical locations. They live both in the towns and in the forest. Their livelihoods and their cultures are inextricably linked to the forest. According to official data stated during a conference in Libreville on 27 April 2017[1], there are now some 16,162 Indigenous People living across the national territory. The Baka live in Woleu-Ntem region, particularly in villages near Minvoul (northern Gabon). Other Baka have also been noted in Makokou, and upstream of Ivindo. There are also Bakoya living in Ivindo, in Djouah (north) and Loué (east) districts of Zadié department (Mékambo). They live across Ogooué-Ivindo region. The greatest concentration of Indigenous People is found among the Babongo (in Ogooué-Lolo, Haut-Ogooué, Ngounié and Nyanga regions).

The largest non-indigenous of which is the Fang (32% of the entire population of Gabon), a group that covers the northern part of Gabon and expands north into Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. The other non-indigenous ethnic groups are the Mpongwè (15%), Mbédé (14%), Punu (12%), Baréké or Batéké, Bakota and Obamba.

The term Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) is used to refer to both indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

4 Summary of stakeholder engagement activities

A field visit and community consultation mission for the PFP project took place from 05 to 27 April 2023 in Gabon. The visit included meeting with communities living near and inside four National Parks (Mayumba, Loango, Minkébé and Monts de Cristal). Because the scope of the GEF-7 Enduring Earth: Gabon project encompasses the entire country, these sites were selected due to their representativity in terms of protected area type, presence of IPLCs, remoteness, economic activities, and transboundary aspects. These engagements are summarized below. In March 2024, additional consultations were undertaken with a specific focus on HWC in these areas. The findings of these consultations are marked in the summaries below as "HWC."

4.1 Mayumba National Park

The first communities visited were those living near the Mayumba National Park located in the southwest of Gabon, in the province of Nyanga. The local populations living in the villages identified around this park practices mainly fishing and agriculture. The communities encountered lived in the following villages: Ndindi, Yoyo and Malembe (Figure 2).

There are no people living within the boundaries of the Mayumba National Park, but communities in the surrounding area have much to gain from park activities. Fishing is vital to the local economy and nutrition. Uncontrolled industrial fishing in and around the park threatens the long-term survival of these resources, and thus the future of everyone living in the area. The presence of the Park and the project's activities in the surrounding area will provide a buffer against unsustainable fishing practices and guarantee this protein source for the future.

[1] International Working Group of Indigenous Affairs (2023), The Indigenous World 2023
URL: https://www.iwgia.org/en/resources/indigenous-world.html

In Ndindi, the meeting was held in the Mayor's Office with local authorities and representatives of Women and Youth Associations. In Malembe and Yoyo, community members gathered in a common area for the consultations. The consultations meetings were conducted for around one to two hours. The consultation meetings showed that artisanal fishing is the main source of income for the communities living along the Banio lagoon. The share of fish intended for sale is significantly higher than that intended for self-consumption. However, fish populations have decreased significantly due to overfishing and the use of illegal nets. Conflicts also exist at the level of continental fishing, which is reserved for nationals, but is also illegally practiced by foreigners. Agriculture is practiced as a second activity, to supplement income from fishing. However, the human/wildlife conflict disrupts this activity.

Gabon's coast has been recognized as a key nesting ground for leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) for many years, and the exposed beaches south of the town of Mayumba have received particular attention. Nesting densities calculated for the area place it as the number one or two leatherback turtle nesting sites in the world, highlighting their key role in the conservation of this threatened species. Mayumba National Park shelters 60 km of turtle nesting beach and coastal vegetation, and stretches for 15 km out to sea, protecting important marine habitat for dolphins, sharks, and migrating humpback whales.

HWC: Recent consultations (see 4.5 below) have yielded additional information on how this phenomenon manifests in Mayumba National Park. Specifically, HWC concerns both elephants and buffalo, who harm crops and demonstrate aggression towards humans. Here, communities have negative views toward conservation activities because they experience what they believe to be its negative impacts, and thus consider that animals boast a higher protection level than humans.

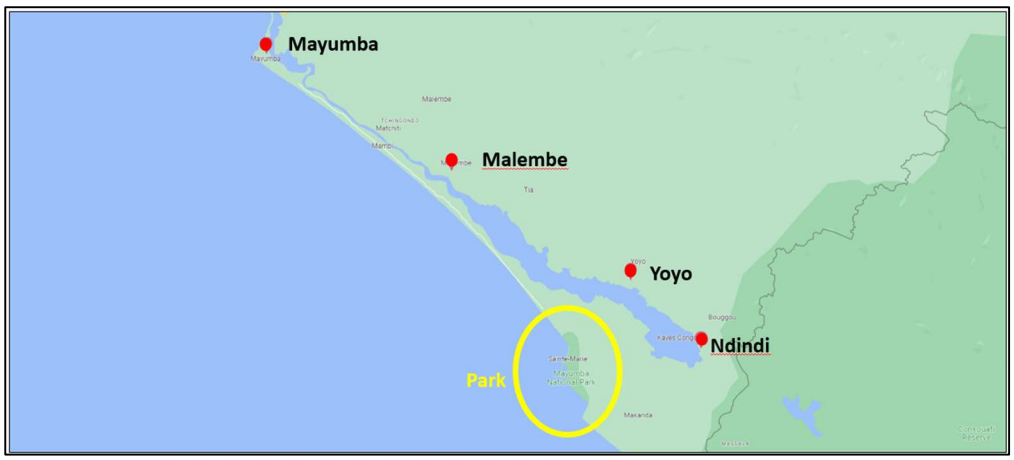

Figure 2: Communities consulted near Mayumba National Park

4.2 Loango National Park

The second area visited was Loango National Park (Figure 3). Local communities practice agriculture but complain about damage caused regularly by elephants. This problem is particularly difficult to solve and is a source of conflict between the communities and the Conservation Officer of the ANPN (National Park Agency). In addition to elephants, villagers mention that buffalo, porcupines and monkeys also destroy plantations. In the area, there is an overlap between the park and several protected areas, which weighs heavily on the communities in terms of restrictions.

Loango is one of thirteen national parks created in Gabon in 2002. Loango National Park protects diverse coastal habitat, including part of the 220 km^2 Iguéla Lagoon. The area also remains a relatively pristine landscape where large mammals wander onto the beaches and even enter the Atlantic Ocean.

About 500 people live in the park's vicinity. Recently, loggers have opened roads close to the park which facilitates the transport of bushmeat, fish, and the other natural resources and poses a serious threat. Illegal offshore fishing and, at times, petroleum spills, threaten important marine fish stocks and rare marine life. In addition to fishing, women also practice crafts. They weave mats which they sell to visitors, but they are rare these days. Hunting is practiced in this area, mainly by men. ANPN officers often visit the villages to raise awareness (arms permit, species authorized for hunting and species not authorized). However, communities complain that the boundaries between authorized and unauthorized areas for hunting are unclear (not physically materialized).

Consultation meetings were held in the following locations:

- The town of Gamba: The local authorities, two NGOs and a private sector company were met.
- The village of Sounga: Sounga is located inside the Park (southern portion) and the consultations were conducted with the people living in the village.
- The village of Sette Cama: Also located in the south of the Park, Sette Cama is outside the Park. Community members were consulted (men and women separately).
- The village of Tchogorove: The village is located north of the Loango National Park. Community members were consulted (men and women separately).
- The town of Omboue: The local authorities were met.

HWC: Recent consultations (see 4.5 below) have yielded additional information on how this phenomenon manifests in Loango National Park. Similar to what occurs in Mayumba, communities here also have negative views toward conservation activities because they experience what they believe to be its negative impacts, and thus consider that animals receive more protection than humans. In Loango, HWC also concerns elephants and buffalo, who harm crops and demonstrate aggression towards humans, as well as hippopotamus, who devastate crops.

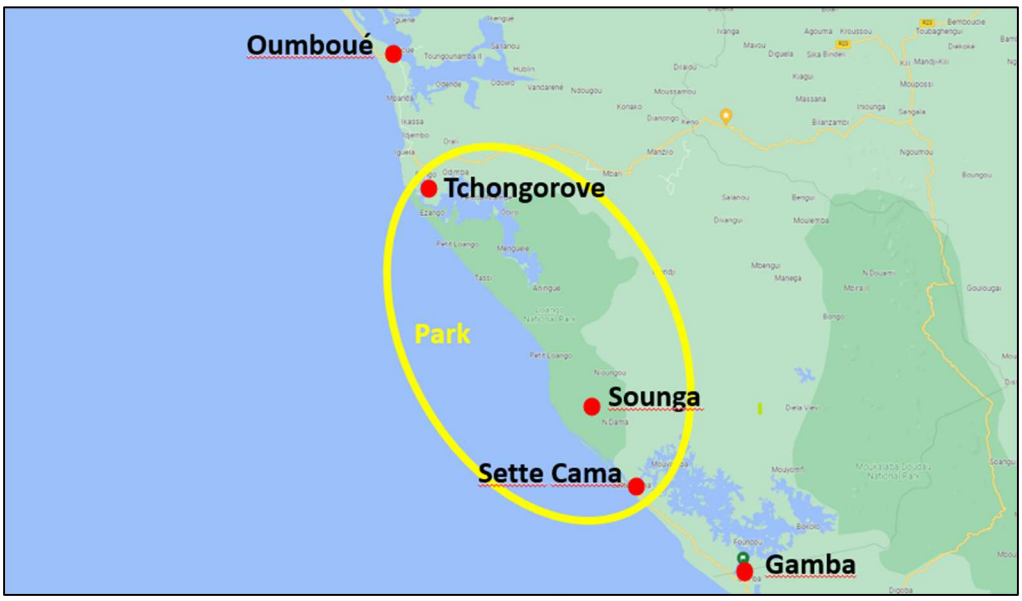

Figure 3: Communities consulted near Loango National Park

4.3 Minkébé National Park

In the area of Minkébé National Park, the communities visited were in the following villages: Konossoville, Koumbabo, Doumassi (village of Indigenous People), Eseng (village of Indigenous People) and Mvadi (Figure 4). All the meetings took place in the local language (the Fang).

The local population, including the Baka (Indigenous Peoples), once inhabited the Minkébé area, but on becoming a protected area the park now has no permanent human population. The communities live and carry out their livelihood activities outside the protected area. Though, it is reported that some Baka cultural heritage sites are within the park.

Consultation meetings were held in the following locations:

- The town of Minvoul: Local authorities
- The town of Mvadi: Local authorities and a mix group of community members (including farmers, fishers and gold panners)
- The villages of Esseng and Doumassi: A meeting was held in each of these villages. The two villages are exclusively inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. Men and women were consulted separately.
- The villages of Konossoville, Koumbabo and Akoc Mbong Seme: A meeting was held in each of these villages. These villages are inhabited by non-indigenous peoples (LCs). Men and women were consulted separately in Konossoville.
- The villages of Minbang, Mintebe and Nkok Akom: The people from these three villages gathered in Mintebe for the consultation meeting. The attendees were a mix group of indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

One of the main activities is agriculture, for women and men. To in the past, men grew coffee and cocoa, an activity that has been greatly reduced nowadays due to a drop in market prices. Women plant and harvest cassava, bananas, sugar cane, peanuts. However, elephants and hedgehogs destroy plantations. Despite complaints (formal and informal) from the community relating to those destructions, they remain largely unanswered. The other key activity is gold-panning (mainly near Mvadi).

The inhabitants of Konossoville mention that Minkébé Park is far away, and this therefore does not interfere with their agricultural activities. Young people seem to be less and less interested in traditional activities, and rather interested in tourism.

On the outskirts of Minkébé Park, the consultation team met with Indigenous Peoples. Their activities include farming, the harvesting of palm worms (November to December), fishing, etc. Women fish and collect palm worms and practice agriculture.

HWC: Recent consultations (see 4.5 below) have yielded additional information on how this phenomenon manifests in Minkebe National Park. In this PA, HWC is not as prevalent as in the aforementioned parks. Whatever incidences do occur, they concern primarily buffalo, hedgehogs and porcupines, who devastate crops. Despite the lower incidence, the perceptions of communities toward conservation activities remain negative.

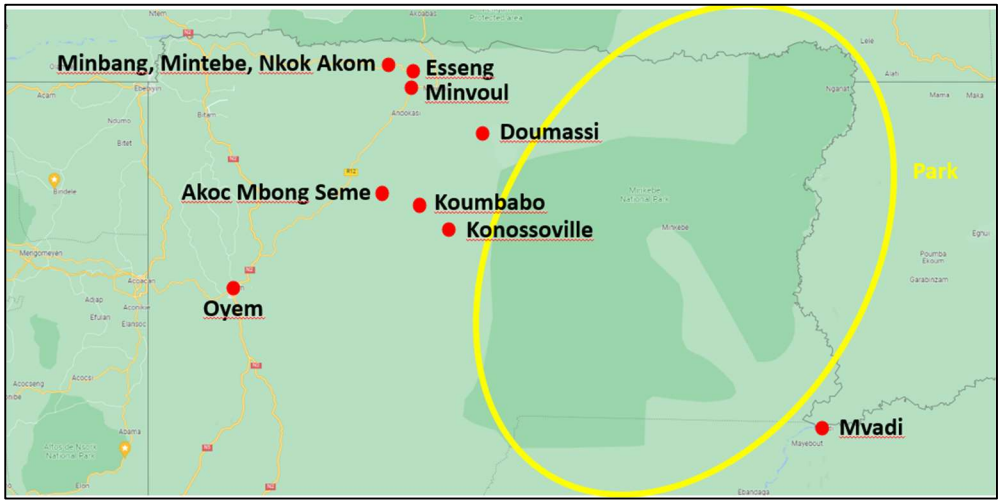

Figure 4: Communities consulted near Minkebe National Park

4.4 Monts de Cristal National Park

One of the stated objectives of the creation of the Monts de Cristal National Park (MCNP) was to protect the hydroelectric potential of the Mbé valley including the catchment of the existing Kinguele and Tchimbele hydropower dams. The Kinguélé Aval hydropower dam will be constructed in the buffer zone of the Monts de Cristal National Park, and the reservoir will cover about 2% of the national park's surface.

There are no populations living inside the park. Local authorities and community members were consulted in Andock Foula (Figure 5). The traditional activities of the communities are agriculture and fishing. Agriculture is severely impacted by damages by elephants. Nowadays, lots of income come from employment of youth in projects, such as Kinguele Hydropower. In the area, communities note that there are lots of restriction around the park, and do not understand some of the restrictions. Communities note lack of proper channel of communication between ANPN agents and the communities.

HWC: Recent consultations (see 4.5 below) have yielded additional information on how this phenomenon manifests in Monts de Cristal National Park. In this area, HWC solely concerns elephants, who are reported to have devastated crops and destroyed squares and sanitary facilities. As with the first PAs mentioned, communities have negative views toward conservation activities because they experience what they believe to be its negative impacts, and thus consider that animals boast a higher protection level than humans.

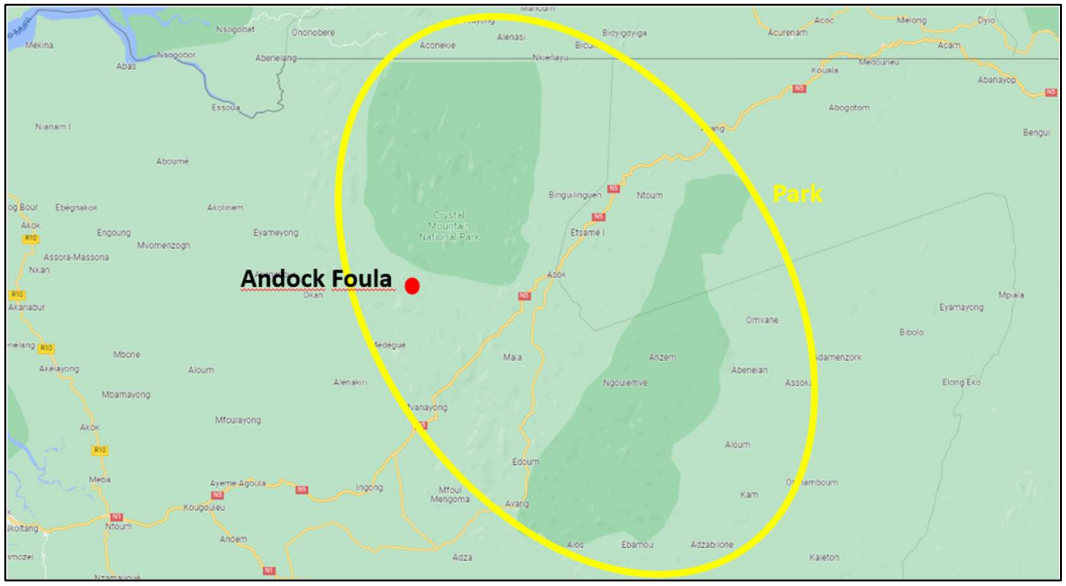

Figure 5: Communities consulted near Monts de Cristal National Park

It is important to note that in Libreville, the Director of DGEPN was also consulted who confirmed the findings from the consultations with local actors.

4.5. Additional consultations on HWC conducted in 2024

In March 2024, a stakeholder consultation was conducted with indigenous and local communities as well as conservation managers in and around the Mayumba, Loango, Minkébé, and Monts de Cristal National Parks in Gabon for the purpose of gathering information on the frequency, impacts, and types of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) faced by communities. Results were used to inform the design of the "Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 In Gabon" project submitted by World Wide Fund for Nature to the Global Environment Facility's Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. Portions of the study were completed by Tsayi Mouvagha (independent consultant) and Julia Biloghe Bi Ekonglo (The Nature Conservancy) on March 25, 2024 through in-person and tele-communication interviews. Additional data was retrieved from studies conducted in April 2023. This study monitored and disaggregated responses based on gender, ethnicity, language, source of income, and economic migration. Details of contact methods and findings by park are presented in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively below.

A total of 8,779 persons across nine ethnic groups in and around the national parks (Vili, Lumbu, Punu, PA, Komi, Guisir, Fang, Kwele, Baka) were consulted on topics of HWC and perception of conservation efforts. 51% of respondents were women. Results confirmed human-wildlife conflict occurs in all four parks, with a lower comparative frequency of occurrences in Minkébé National Park. Primary conflict species include elephants, buffaloes, duikers, hippos, hedgehogs, and porcupines. There were approximately 2,650 complaints of conflict with elephants in Mayumba, Loango, and Monts de Cristal national parks over the past three years; records of conflicts in Minkébé NP and with non-elephant species were not available.

The most consistently reported impacts of HWC are loss of crops and aggression towards humans. Though specific livelihoods and frequency vary by ethnic group, agriculture is a common source of livelihood in all surveyed national parks. Other common livelihoods include fishing, crafting, gold mining, and services-for-

hire. The commonality of agriculture as a main income-generating activity and crop destruction by elephants and other conflict species is likely to be a cause of reported negative perception of conservation across all communities. Respondents from all national parks indicated that conservation impacts are not appreciated due to the perceived greater level of protection for wildlife than humans, impacting both safety and livelihoods. Likely in part due to these perceptions, communities report no benefit of living in proximity to a Protected Area.

Though all communities employ mitigation techniques both led by communities (e.g., wood or tin fencing, planting chili peppers or managing beehives, and scaring wildlife with noise-makers) and conservationist-advised methods (electric fencing), HWC continues to occur, demonstrating an ongoing need for innovative in-community management measures. Reducing cases of HWC through national policy and community-led measures, combined with awareness and education campaigns on the benefits of conservation and wildlife, will seek to reduce the frequency of HWC and improve community perceptions.

5 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. The project will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

The consultation processes will be continued throughout the GBFF project as required by the nature of the collaborative platform ensuring steady growing interest of beneficiaries and donors and maintaining inclusive and diverse representation, including among women and men in target communities. Indeed, the project will undertake a community-driven approach to identify and then implement appropriate and priority interventions to manage human wildlife conflict in their areas. This is why one of the priorities of the project, as it enters its implementation phase, will be to conduct more comprehensive consultations with communities, including with the Indigenous Populations (IPs) affected by the project, so that these stakeholders can opt in to receiving project support.

Following the consultation period, and during the first stages of the project, a socioeconomic study will be carried out to learn more about the cultural and gender makeup of communities in and around the four national parks and past and perceived threats from HWC. The project manager will ensure that the information disclosed, the format, language and the methods used to communicate the information will be tailored to each stakeholder group (see Table 2).

Women and men in IPLCs will receive information about the project via appropriate channels chosen to reflect preferences (for example gender differences in access to technology and language), such as the internet, public notices, SMS, social media, as well as traditional mechanisms for consultations.

The project will then work directly with the affected communities to incorporate behavior change and deliver other interventions to reduce HWC incidents or increase tolerance. As such, upon gathering the necessary socioeconomic data and once the target communities are better identified, the project will proceed to seek consent (FPIC) if deemed necessary. If the project will be engaging with Indigenous communities to implement some of the tools identified, then IPPs will need to be developed together with any other necessary environmental and social management plans. Once these plans are completed, approved by WWF GEF US and disclosed, the work around implementing the identified tools can begin.

The SEP will be aligned with the gender analysis and gender action plan and will ensure that views of women and other relevant groups will be appropriately considered. As Gabon's population centers grow, men and younger people are moving to urban areas to seek employment. As a result, rural areas, including project field sites, are populated primarily by women, younger women with children, and older persons.

5.1 Proposed Strategy to incorporate views of women and other relevant groups (minorities, elderly, young other marginalized groups)

Participation of older persons

As mentioned above, as younger people increasingly migrate to cities to seek employment, many rural communities, including those in and around the project PAs, include many older persons. These

elders have enormous knowledge, life and firsthand HWC experience to share. Processes for the participation of older persons should include traditional means of communication (e.g. oral communication) as they are more likely to carry out activities and participate in related discussions when they can engage easily, as when communication is oral. The use of technological tools in participation may prevent these individuals from participating and sharing their knowledge. Generally, participation facilities for older people must be accessible through powerful visuals (images, TV) or audio (debates, radio).

Youth participation

Although local communities are the direct beneficiaries of the Project, children and youth are the long-term beneficiaries. As more men and young couples move to Gabon's urban centres, youth populations are prominent in rural areas and in the determination and maintenance of appropriate. HWC strategies. In view of the impact that the Project's decisions have on the future of children and young people, opportunities to improve their ownership of HWC concepts and encourage their participation in collaborative processes need to be examined and optimized.

Children and young people can also be involved in HWC processes through:

- Youth organizations and local networks.
- Local sports and relaxation clubs.
- Student groups.

Participation of persons living with disabilities

In engaging people with disabilities, it is essential to ensure that facilities are accessible, comfortable and stimulate their ability to listen and concentrate. Participation facilities must be well designed and accessible. Improving accessibility can include the use of plain language, or interpretation services and graphics that simply explain complex concepts.

Providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in small meetings instead of large community gatherings can also improve their participation. It is also important to cooperate with networks that support people living with disabilities in order to collect their input into the process and to access their networks in order to promote public events and disseminate information.

Women's participation

As men and young people migrate to Gabon's urban centres, rural communities tend to include high percentages of the rural population. dominate There are several challenges related to women's participation, including:

- Traditional/cultural functions may limit or prevent women's access to public awareness activities.
- Women's marital and economic functions may limit their availability and willingness to participate.
- Women's participation may be limited or totally restricted in patriarchal societies, which do not allow them to have a say in the community or to make decisions. This can cause conflict within the community if its management is not appropriate.
- Women's participation in activities may be limited if the facilitators are men.
- Women may be reluctant to participate in consultations that also include men.

The means required to address these challenges include:

- Master the gender context to determine approaches to participation.

- Work with the community, particularly women, to determine the best strategies to communicate with them.
- Work with women through focus groups coordinated by them to gather their views and information.
- Use participatory techniques to compile gender-specific information (e.g. gender matrices, seasonal calendars, hiking).
- Identify and cooperate with women's cooperatives/groups. Where these funds do not exist, support their creation.

Community engagement will be primarily conducted by the GBFF Community Engagement & Social Inclusion Officer. Capacity development training on gender-sensitive methods for consultation will be conducted by WWF-US before project implementation begins to enable gender equitable engagement. This will ensure the use of methods that will allow for the views of women and vulnerable groups to be incorporated in the project design, planning and implementation of activities at community level.

5.2 Strategy to incorporate views of Indigenous Peoples

The WWF Network's policy on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation: WWF Statement of Principles is to ensure that indigenous rights are respected in WWF's work, that indigenous peoples do not suffer adverse impacts from projects, and that they receive culturally appropriate benefits from conservation. WWF must ensure that:

- Projects respect indigenous peoples' rights, including their rights to FPIC processes and to tenure over traditional territories;
- Culturally appropriate and equitable benefits (including from traditional ecological knowledge) are negotiated and agreed upon with the indigenous peoples' communities in question; and
- Potential adverse impacts are avoided or adequately addressed through a participatory and consultative approach.

Whenever IPs are engaged during project implementation, prior consultations and FPIC will be sought (please refer to the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework on the ESMF, section 4.6)

5.3 Proposed methods to receive feedback and to ensure ongoing communications with stakeholders

The proposed methods are presented below:

- All stakeholders that have been consulted and identified will be kept in the register and updated regularly. These stakeholders will be kept abreast with information on project implementation reports and encouraged to provide feedback by individuals taking part in implementation of the project through various means including phone calls, emails, informal meetings among others. The fact that almost all stakeholders identified by the project have interest in the project areas will facilitate easy engagement and outreach throughout the project cycle.
- Government ministries and agencies that are primary partners to the project (e.g. DGEPN) will provide feedback on the project through meetings (or workshops), including the various technical and steering committees set up under the project, in designing and implementing activities throughout the project cycle.

- Notes will be taken during community meetings, interviews, or focus group discussions. These field notes will be used to write and analyse field reports and monitoring reviews to provide feedback to the project implementation.
- As it has been done during the design process of the project, all other stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, private sector, etc.) that have already been identified will be invited to workshops and meetings as per thematic topics and their interests to provide inputs and feedback during designing activities, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. These stakeholders will be involved through individual consultation (phone calls, emails), sharing of reports (workshops, monitoring).
- The national level government ministries, agencies and PMU may also represent the project in various local and international multi-stakeholder meetings, forums and workshops (where feedback can be provided). This engagement will allow for feedback from various invited stakeholders, forge new partnerships and identification of new stakeholders beyond that have been identified.

5.4 Other engagement activities for the plan

Other engagement activities for the plan will include the following:

- Training and capacity building across project partners, affected and interested stakeholders. The project will also build capacity on existing multi-stakeholder processes and established forums to provide room for partnerships and consultation with stakeholders beyond those directly affected by the project.
- Implementation of engagement approaches indicated in the engagement plan to ensure that all stakeholders and relevant groups can understand project technical information irrespective of their education level and background. In addition, the project will develop, manage and ensure quality assurance of communication and associated materials to be disclosed to stakeholders throughout the project cycle.
- In all meetings (individual, site visits, workshops, focus group discussions, key informants), records will be kept and documented for analysis and various reports will be prepared. The documentation will also be used to keep stakeholders informed at different levels on progress, challenges, risks, and emerging opportunities.
- The communities will take part in making decision and providing feedback throughout the project cycle. The communities are not only beneficiaries (or affected parties) but should be considered as partners to the project.
- The engagement of the project at community level will include assembly meetings (open meetings), meetings with village heads, focus group discussions. The communities will be notified and engaged through both traditional (local) and modern methods in light of the quality of phone networks, weather and road accessibility to ensure adequate outreach to all groups (including people with disability and who can't read).

Key stakeholders' categories and engagement methods are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Categories of stakeholders and proposed engagement methods

Stakeholder Type	Name	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
Government of Gabon	• Direction Générale de l'Environnement et pour la Protection de la Nature (DGEPN) • Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN) • Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DGFAP) • Direction general des Aires protégées biodiversité et conflit homme faune (DGAPBC) • Ministère de l'Agriculture, d'Elevage, de la Pêche (MAEP) • Direction Provinciale des Eaux et Forets • Cantonnement des Eaux et Forêts Départementale • Brigade de Faune • Authorities of the towns of Mayumba, Ndindi, Gamba, Oyem, Omboue, Minvoul • Other relevant local authorities	• Continuous engagement	• Engagement will be done through workshops, in person, email, phone calls, and meeting as part of the PFP Steering Committee. • Engagement will focus on topics such as: (i) project implementation (strategic direction, workplans, budgets, progress monitoring, issue resolution); (ii) Grievance redress mechanism; (iii) Alignment with Govt priorities, policies and strategies.

Stakeholder Type	Name	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
Communities and Indigenous People	• Village of Yoyo, • Village of Mallembe, • Village of Sounga • Village of Sété Cama • Village of Ntchogorévé • Village of Nkoum-Mbabo • Village of Konossoville • Village of Mimbang • Village of Nkokakom, • Village of Eyanebot • Village of Mintebe • Village of Doumassi • Village of Esseng • Other villages and communities in the project landscapes as sites and activities become more defined (including villages of Indigenous People)	• Every 6 months at a minimum, or ongoing if working directly within their territories/ lands they use or occupy.	• Workshops and meetings in each National Park ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups, Indigenous People, women. • The engagement will aim at ensuring access of the communities to information on the project, and the benefits. • Meetings could be organized and/or facilitated by NGOs, but relevant PFP and project staff (such as the safeguards specialist) should be present. • Data/information will be collected from the meetings and used to adjust the project when needed.
Community Based Organizations	• Association Hommes Battants (Tchongorove) • EDZENGUI • AGAFI • Cooperative Ayebe Environnement • Other Community-Based Organizations	• Every 6 months . (This could be done in conjunction with the meetings listed above, unless a different engagement strategy (such as a stratified approach) is identified as more appropriate)	• Workshops and meetings in each National Park ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups, women and Indigenous People. • The engagement will aim at ensuring access of the communities to information on the project, and the benefits. • Meeting could be organized and/or facilitated by NGOs, but relevant PFP and project staff (such as the safeguards specialist) should be present. • Data/information will be collected from the meetings and used to adjust the project when needed.

Stakeholder Type	Name	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
NGOs	• NGO Ibonga • NGO Koussou • NGO Obangame • NGO ADCPPG • WCS • Space for Giants • Brainforest • Other relevant local or international NGOs.	• Every 6 months (at the same time as the meetings for Communities and Indigenous Peoples, if appropriate) • Ad hoc engagement as needed	• Engagement will mainly be done through workshops • Engagement will focus on topics such as: (i) project implementation; (ii) opportunities to collaborate on the implementation of project activities;
Private Sector	• Transval (Transport and Logistics) • Forestry Companies (CBG, UFIGA, etc.) • Oil & Gas companies (Assala, Perenco, etc.) • Tourism companies operating in/near the Parks • Other relevant private sector companies	• Every 6 months (at the same time as the meetings for Communities and Indigenous Peoples, if appropriate) • Ad hoc engagement as needed	• Engagement will mainly be done through informal meetings • Engagement will focus on topics such as: (i) project implementation; (ii) opportunity for collaboration to achieve the objective of the project; (iii) opportunities for collaboration in community development and implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects.

Table 2 below complements Table 1 and describes some communication tips depending on the stakeholder groups and the involvement technique being used.

Table 2. Stakeholder and communication

Involvement technique	Stakeholder groups	Communication
Information Centre and Information Commissions	• Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) • NGOs	• The project should establish an information board in each selected community.
Correspondence (phone, emails, written messages)	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments	• Share information with government officials in ministries and agencies, NGOs, and the private/professional sector, organizations. • Invite stakeholders to meetings and follow-up.

Involvement technique	Stakeholder groups	Communication
Print media and radio announcements	• Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) • NGOs	• Disseminate project information to broad audiences, and to illiterate stakeholders. • Inform stakeholders about consultation meetings.
Individual interviews	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments	• Solicit the views and opinions of stakeholders. • Allow stakeholders to express themselves freely and confidentially on contentious and sensitive issues. • Establish personal relationships with the stakeholder group. • Record interviews if consent is given by interviewee.
Official meetings	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments • Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	• Present project information to the stakeholder group • Allow the stakeholder group to give their perspectives and opinions • Establish impersonal relationships with high-level stakeholders • Share technical documents • Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations • Take note of discussions, comments/questions raised and responses
Public meetings	• Local People and Communities (IPLCs) • NGOs and civil society organizations	• Present project information to a broad group of stakeholders, especially communities • Allow group members to share their perspectives and opinions • Build relationships with communities, especially affected and vulnerable/disadvantaged communities. • Sharing non-technical information (and , if needed, technical information in an accessible way) • Facilitate meetings with presentations, PowerPoint, posters, etc. • Take note of discussions, comments, questions

Involvement technique	Stakeholder groups	Communication
Focus group meetings	• IPLCs	• Allow a smaller group of 8-15 people to contribute their perspectives and opinions on basic information • Building relationships with neighbouring communities • Use a focus group interview guideline to facilitate discussions • Save responses ensuring anonymity OR confidentiality depending on the consent given by participants.
Social Media	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments	• Facebook page, WhatsApp groups, X account, among others
Workshops	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments • IPLCs	• Present project information to a group of stakeholders; • Allow the stakeholder group to give their perspectives and opinions • Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyse information, and develop recommendations and strategies; • Save responses
Surveys	• NGOs • Private sector • Government departments • IPLCs	• Gathering stakeholders' opinions and perspectives • Gather baseline data • Record data ensuring anonymity OR confidentiality • Develop a reference database to observe effects
Direct communication with owners of affected properties, land, crops/wealth	• IPLCs	• Aim for the participation of IPLCs during socio-economic surveys

6 Timetable.

The frequency of various stakeholder engagement activities including consultation, is presented in Table 1. The dates by which such activities will be undertaken is not in specific terms as the engagement will be updated. As outlined before, the engagement of stakeholders began at very early stages of project as part of the first activities of the project. The stakeholders' engagement will

continue throughout the project cycle including during identification of beneficiaries (including, Indigenous People, women and other relevant groups) and during periodic monitoring to allow for reflection of the progress, adjustment and corrections.

7 Resources and Responsibilities

The WWF GEF Project Agency is responsible for oversight. The PMU (TNC) is responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

At the country level, the Project will recruit at least one Human Wildlife Coexistence and Project Management Specialist, who will be a qualified facilitator in stakeholder participation to undertake/facilitate some of the activities related to stakeholder participation. The Specialist will be assisted by the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer (see below) and could be assisted, if necessary, by additional community facilitators (ideally from the same ethnicity/culture as appropriate) or NGOs who are able to work using local languages.

The Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer will lead and track the implementation of the SEP as well as lead implementation of steps and procedures outlined in the ESMF. This Officer will also manage all gender-sensitive planning aspects, leading and tracking implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP).

8 Grievances Mechanism

As with the GEF 7 project, this GEF GBFF project will also have four operating GRMs. However, given the differences in implementation arrangements and the timelines of both projects, only three of those GRMs are equally applicable to both projects—namely, the TNC one, which operates at the global PMU level for the entire GEF 7 project, the WWF US mechanism and the GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner. Consequently, a specific project level GRM will be created for this GBFF project, which will be different from the project-level GRM to be created for the GEF 7 EE project.

These GRMs are designed to enable the receipt of complaints of affected women and men and public concerns regarding the environmental and social performance of the project. In short, their aim is to provide people fearing, or suffering, adverse impacts with the opportunity to be heard and assisted. As such, the mechanisms are designed to address the concerns of the community(ies) with a particular project, identify the root causes of the conflicts, and find options for the resolution of grievances. Therefore, they constitute an essential tool to foster good cooperation with project stakeholders and ensure adequate delivery of previously agreed-upon results.

The mechanisms are designed to:

- Address potential breaches of WWF's policies and procedures;
- Be independent, transparent, and effective;
- Be accessible to project-affected people;
- Keep complainants abreast of progress of cases brought forward; and
- Maintain records on all cases and issues brought forward for review.

The project PMU (TNC) will be responsible for informing project-affected parties about the grievance mechanisms. Contact information of the staff member responsible for the grievance mechanism in the PMUwill be made publicly available.

8.1 Project-Level Grievance Mechanism

The project will have a direct and tangible effect on local communities and individuals residing within or in the vicinity of project sites, as will the GEF 7 project and PFP. There is thus a need for an efficient and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints. However, given that these projects present slightly different implementation arrangements and will likely follow different timelines, a new project-level grievance mechanism for this GEF GBFF project will need to be developed. Consequently, the following section describes the details of the GRM, the process to submit a grievance, how long the PMU will have to respond, and who will be responsible for its implementation and reporting.

The GRM will operate based on the following principles:

1. ***Fairness*:** Grievances are assessed impartially, and handled transparently.
2. ***Objectiveness and independence:*** The GRM operates independently of all interested parties in order to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment to each case.
3. ***Simplicity and accessibility:*** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them and in a language that is accessible to everyone within a given community, especially those who are most vulnerable.
4. ***Responsiveness and efficiency**:* The GRM is designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances must be trained to take effective action upon, and respond quickly to, grievances and suggestions.
5. ***Speed and proportionality:*** All grievances, simple or complex, are addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
6. ***Participation and inclusiveness:*** A wide range of affected people—communities and vulnerable groups—are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of the project implementers. Special attention is given to ensure that poor people and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.
7. ***Accountability and closing the feedback loop:*** All grievances are recorded and monitored, and no grievance remains unresolved. Complainants are always notified and get explanations regarding the results of their complaint. An appeal option shall always be available.

Complaints may include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

(i) Allegations of fraud, malpractices or corruption by staff or other stakeholders as part of any project or activity financed or implemented by the project, including allegations of gender-based violence or sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment;

(ii) Environmental and/or social damages/harms caused by projects financed or implemented (including those in progress) by the project;

(iii) Complaints and grievances by permanent or temporary workers engaged in project activities.

Complaints could relate to pollution prevention and resource efficiency; negative impacts on public health, environment or culture; destruction of natural habitats; disproportionate impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; discrimination or physical or sexual harassment; violation of applicable laws and regulations; destruction of physical and cultural heritage; or any other issues which adversely impact communities or individuals in project areas. The grievance redress mechanism will be implemented in a culturally sensitive manner and facilitate access to vulnerable populations. Special training will be provided to the ESS Specialists within the first 6 months of

project implementation, or before the GRM is finalized, whichever is sooner. This will help to ensure they have the capacity to address SEAH-related grievances in a culturally sensitive and victim-centered way.

(1) **Disseminating information about the GRM:** All materials describing the GRM, once cleared by TNC and WWF-US, will be made publicly available through posting them on the WWF/TNC websites and disseminated as part of the Project stakeholder engagement activities. The GRM will be communicated with all communities and stakeholders by the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer, who will also develop GRM materials (brochure, flyers, etc.). Materials will include basic information on GRM and contact information on all grievance uptake locations as follows:

1. Name of locations/channels to receive grievance.
2. Address of locations.
3. Responsible person.
4. Telephone(s).
5. Email.
6. Days and hours for receiving verbal grievances.

The materials will also include a summary of the process for registering, reviewing and responding to grievances including the estimated response time. The information about the GRM will also be presented as a chart to make it easy for people to view. The materials will be produced in English and French.

(2) **Submitting complaints**: Project affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions to the PMU through a variety of communication channels, including phone, regular mail, email, text messaging/SMS, or in-person. The appropriate addresses and phone numbers will be identified after the CTF has been established (within the first 6 months of its operation).

(3) **Processing complaints**: All grievances submitted to the PMU shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) comments, suggestions, or queries; (b) complaints relating to nonperformance of project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (c) complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (d) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in the project management; and (e) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories.

(4) **Acknowledging the receipt of complaints**: Once a grievance is submitted, the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer will oversee grievances regarding this Gabon GBFF HWC project and shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance (which should be said PFP Safeguards Specialist), and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint.

(5) **Investigating complaints**: The Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer will gather all relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary, and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the complaint investigation process. The PMU should ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation.

(6) **Responding to complainants:** A written response to all grievances will be provided to the complainant within 15 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 15 working days. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation.

(7) **Appeal**: In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, they will be able to submit an appeal within 10 days from the date of decision. In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the decision of the appeal committee, the parties can submit their grievances directly to TNC, the GEF Agency or the Court of Law for further adjudication.

(8) **Monitoring and evaluation**: The Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer will compile a quarterly report with full information on the grievances they received. The report shall contain a description of the grievances and their investigation status. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting, and shall be submitted to the global TNC PMUand WWF GEF Agency.

The GRM seeks to complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of Gabon.

8.2 TNC PFP-wide Grievance Mechanism

After the project- level GRM, the next GRM available to complainants is the one established by TNC, as global PMU, which is applicable to all the PFP geographies under this project. It will operate as follows:

1. **Disseminating information about the GRM:** All materials describing the GRM, once approved by the PMU and cleared by WWF US, will be made publicly available through posting them on the WWF/TNC websites and disseminated as part of the Project stakeholder engagement activities. The GRM will be communicated with all communities and stakeholders by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, whose responsibilities include safeguards duties, and who will also develop GRM materials (brochure, flyers, etc.). Materials will include basic information on GRM and contact information on all grievance uptake locations, including:
    1. Name of location/channel to receive grievance.
    2. Address of location.
    3. Responsible person.
    4. Telephone(s).
    5. Email.
    6. Days and hours for receiving verbal grievances.

    The materials will also include a summary of the process for registering, reviewing and responding to grievances including the estimated response time. The information about the GRM will also be presented as a chart to make it easy for people to view. The materials will be produced in English and French.

2. **Submitting complaints**: Project affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions to the TNC PMU through a variety

of communication channels, including phone, regular mail, email, text messaging/SMS, or in-person.

3. **Processing complaints**: All grievances submitted to the TNC PMU shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) comments, suggestions, or queries; (b) complaints relating to nonperformance of project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (c) complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (d) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in the project management; and (e) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories.
4. **Acknowledging the receipt of complaints**: Once a grievance is submitted, the M&E Officer at the TNC PMU shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance (which should be said M&E officer), and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint. Please note that, although the personal identifiable information of the grievant should remain confidential to the M&E Officer in all cases, this anonymity should be furthered maintained by the M&E Officer if the complainant does not want to file a grievance with their identifying information.
5. **Investigating complaints**: The M&E Officer at the PMU will gather all relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary, and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the complaint investigation process. The PMU should ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation.
6. **Responding to complainants:** A written response to all grievances will be provided to the complainant within 15 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 15 working days. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation
7. **Appeal**: In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, they will be able to submit an appeal to TNC within 10 days from the date of decision. In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the decision of the appeal committee, the parties can submit their grievances directly to the GEF Agency or the Court of Law for further adjudication.
8. **Monitoring and evaluation**: The M&E Officer at the PMU will compile a quarterly report with full information on the grievances they received regarding the project. The report shall contain a description of the grievances and their investigation status. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting, and shall be submitted to the WWF GEF Agency. These reports should also be available on the websites of TNC and WWF GEF Agency

8.3 WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism

Project-affected communities and other interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the WWF GEF Agency. Contact information of the WWF GEF Agency will be made publicly available.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the WWF GEF Agency, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address:
Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Complaints may be submitted in the Affected Party's native language and should include the following information:

- Complainant's name and contact information;
- If not filed directly by the complainant, proof that those representing the affected people have authority to do so;
- The specific project or program of concern;
- The harm that is or may be resulting from the project;
- The relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards policy or provision (if known);
- Any other relevant information or documents;
- Any actions taken so far to resolve the problem, including contacting WWF;
- Proposed solutions; and
- Whether confidentiality is requested (stating reasons).

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online or over the phone through an independent third-party platform at https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html.

8.4 GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner

In addition to the country-level, WWF GEF Agency GRMs, a person concerned about a GEF-financed project or operation may submit a complaint to the GEF Resolution Commissioner, who plays a facilitation role and reports directly to the GEF CEO. The Commissioner can be reached at:

E-mail: plallas@thegef.org

Mailing Address:

Mr. Peter Lallas
Global Environment Facility
The World Bank Group, MSN N8-800
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433-002

Complaints submitted to the Commissioner should be in writing and can be in any language. The complaints should provide at least a general description of the nature of the concerns, the type of harm that may result, and (where relevant) the GEF-funded projects or program at issue

9 Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported throughout project implementation.

The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer and others in the TNC PMU, every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement activities and progress will be monitored through the following indicators:
    - GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
    - SEP Indicator 1: Number of people (sex disaggregated; organization/stakeholder disaggregated) that have been consulted in national HWC strategy development (cumulative) Reports of trainings, stakeholder engagements, workshops, etc. TNC
    - SEP Indicator 2: # of IPLCs (people-men and women) trained and/or participating in the design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of HWC management interventions
    - SEP Indicator 3: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by independent consultants recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluation.

The WWF GEF Agency will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.

Appendix 1: Gabon PFP and GBFF HWC Project Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Name	Interest/Involvement in the Project	Project Effect on Stakeholder / Stakeholder Influence on the Project
Government of Gabon	• Relevant Departments of the Ministry of Environment, Climate and HWC, incl.: -DGFAP (Direction generale de la faune et des aires protegees) -DGAPBC (Direction general des Aires protegees biodiversity et conflit homme faune) • Local Authorities in the jurisdiction of the National Park • Ministry of Water and Forest	• Strong interest in the project • Responsible of the management of the natural resources, parks, reserves and protected areas, including natural resources; • Alignment of national tourism and conservation related priorities with the project • Creation of national parks and other protected areas. • Involvement in managing conflicts with communities • Creation of regulations/restrictions related to the protected areas.	• Beneficiary of the project (PFP, 30x30x30) • Receive support from donors and other stakeholders • Project supports the country's conservation goals
Communities and Indigenous People	• All the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in the project landscape	• Beneficiaries of the project in terms of community projects. • Strong interest in receiving the benefits of the project (income, livelihood, etc.) • Their consent is sometimes needed for the project to move forward.	Their influence resides in the fact that they can raise concerns or complaint against the project. **Positive** • Restored revenue (gender-equitable), • Better collaboration with ANPN • Rights promoted • Livelihoods and financial security **Negative** • Contested and possibly gendered benefits • Support not equitably reaching identified beneficiaries • Lack of capacity building for long term resilience

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Name	Interest/Involvement in the Project	Project Effect on Stakeholder / Stakeholder Influence on the Project
Community Based Organizations and NGOs	All CBOs identified in the project landscape	• Close to the communities • Understand the communities • They can influence community response to the project. • Some NGOs are subject matter experts in topics such as (Conservation, Community Development, Environmental Education, etc.) • They can provide legitimacy for the project and ensure alignment or complementation of initiatives	• The project will involve CBOs/NGOs that have expertise in working and researching at the community level. • Receive funding • Involvement in conflict resolution
Private Sector	All private sector organizations identified in the project landscape	• Private sector companies will share the same communities as the project, and will be impacting the same people. • The companies have strong interest in peaceful environment, to ensure business continuity • The businesses are interested in having good relations with the communities. • Communities unhappy/frustrated against elephant damages could protest, and protests in a community could impact the operation of those companies.	**Positive** • Opportunity to collaborate on conservation projects • Opportunity to collaborate on addressing community development issues in common areas. • Buying goods and services produced by the community **Negative** • Business disruption in case community protest or frustration

Appendix 2: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations for the PFP project.

(Extensive IPLC stakeholder consultations will occur according to IPLC stakeholder engagement protocols during project startup).

Date	Stakeholder	Village / Town	Consultation	Participants
2023/04/07	Local authorities	Prefecture of Lower Banio	• Inform local authorities of upcoming consultations with local and/or indigenous communities in the region of Lower Banio	Prefect, General Secretary of the Prefecture
2023/04/07	Local authorities	Ndindi Town hall	• Inform local authorities of upcoming consultations with local and/or indigenous communities in the region	Prefect, Mayors,
2023/04/07	Local communities	Village of Yoyo, Nyanga Province	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	The village chief and the villagers
2023/04/07	Local communities	Village of Mallembe,	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	The village chief (a woman) and the villagers
2023/04/09	Local NGO: Koussou	Gamba	• Inform the NGO about the project in their area • Collect some information about their work in the project area • Collect their feedback about the project.	The President and the Director of the NGO,
2023/04/09	Local NGO: Ibonga	Gamba	• Inform the NGO about the project in their area • Collect some information about their work in the project area • Collect their feedback about the project.	The President and the Director of the NGO,
2023/04/10	Local communities	Village of Sounga	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Sounga community
2023/04/10	Local communities	Village of Sétté Cama	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Sette Cama community
2023/04/10	Local Private sector	Transval office	• This stakeholder is working on several projects • This company could be an off taker of community products.	The CEO
2023/04/11	Local authorities	Gamba Prefecture	• Inform local authorities of upcoming consultations with local and/or indigenous communities in the region	The General Secretary of Gamba Prefecture

Date	Stakeholder	Village / Town	Consultation	Participants
2023/04/12	Local communities and an NGO	Village of Ntchogorévé	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	The village chief and the villagers
2023/04/12	Local authorities	Omboué Prefecture	• Inform local authorities of upcoming consultations with local and/or indigenous communities in the region	The Secretary General of Omboué Prefecture
2023/04/12	Local communities	Village of Nkoum-Mbabo	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	The villagers
2023/04/16	Local communities	Village of Konossoville	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Konossoville communities
2023/04/17	Local communities	Village of Mimbang	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Mimbang communities
2023/04/17	Local communities	Village of Nkokakom, Eyanebot and Mintebe	• Inform local communities about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Nkokakom, Eyanebot and Mintebe communities
2023/04/17	Meeting with Indigenous Peoples	Village of Doumassi	• Inform the Indigenous Peoples about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Doumassi community
2023/04/18	Meeting with Indigenous Peoples	Village of Esseng	• Inform the Indigenous Peoples about the project. • Collect information of their livelihoods and challenges living near a National Park. • Collect their feedback about the project.	Esseng community
2023/04/18	Local authorities: the Prefect of Minvoul	Minvoul prefecture	• Inform local authorities of upcoming consultations with local and/or indigenous communities in the region	Prefect

Date	Stakeholder	Village / Town	Consultation	Participants
2023/04/18	Local NGO Obangam	Minvoul	• Inform the NGO about the project in their area • Collect some information about their work in the project area • Collect their feedback about the project.	The representative of the CCGL, the president of the association and the General Secretary of the association
2023/04/23	Meeting with UFIGA (Association of Forestry Companies)	UFIGA office	• The purpose of the interview was to obtain information on their activities and about laws and regulations in Gabon on forestry	IFIGA CEO
2023/04/23	Meeting with BRAINFOREST (NGO)	Online	• Inform the NGO about the project in their area • Collect some information about their work in the project area • Collect their feedback about the project.	Brainforest Deputy Director
2023/04/23	Association for the Development of the Culture of the Pygmy Peoples of Gabon	Libreville	• Inform the NGO about the project in their area • Collect some information about their work in the project area • Collect their feedback about the project. • Discuss about the state of Indigenous People in Gabon	Denis Massande
2023/04/24	Director-General for the Environment and Natural Protection (DGEPN)	Libreville	• Discuss environmental laws and regulations in Gabon	The General Director of DGPEN
2024/03/25	Association for the Development of the Culture of the Pygmy Peoples of Gabon	Libreville	• Collect some information about their work in the project area	M. Denis Massande, President of the association
2024/03/25	Meeting with the conservator of Loango National Park	Phone conversation	• Obtain information about the communities living in and around the parks	M. Bashohi Ulrich

Date	Stakeholder	Village / Town	Consultation	Participants
2024/03/25	Meeting with the conservator of Mayumba National Park	Phone conversation	• Obtain information about the communities living in and around the parks	M. Gilbert
2024/03/25	Meeting with the conservator of Minkebe National Park	Phone conversation	• Obtain information about the communities living in and around the parks	M. Rembeyo Christian (par conservator) and M. Stephane Louembe (farmer conservator)
2024/03/25	Meeting with the conservator of Monts de Cristal National Park	Phone conversation	• Obtain information about the communities living in and around the parks	M. Josue Edzang
2024/03/25	Meeting with the Cooperative Ayebe environnement	Phone conversation	• Obtain information on their activities with the local communities	Mrs. Marguerite

Appendix 3: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations at Gabon PFP and GBFF CER Stage

Stakeholders	Dates (only listing for 2022)	General Concerns and Commentaries	How concerns were addressed
Gabonese Government			
Ministry of Water and Forests, the Sea and the Environment Including: -Minister White -Director General of Environment (and GEF OFP) -Director General of Aquatic Ecosystems	Recurrent, regular meetings Two workshops: -Jan 22-23, 2022 -Mar 26-27, 2022	During regular meetings with the Minister and the Director Generals, both sustainable marine conservation finance mechanism and PFP have been introduced as potential vehicles to materialize the Government's vision for 30:30:30 protection. Conversations have ranged from the strategic level, addressing institutional and resources mobilization aspects, and also at a technical level, addressing the best way to establish a robust conservation plan for Gabon. The Jan 22-23 workshop allowed to introduce the PFP concept to a range of gov't institutions. The Mar 26-27 meeting was a deep dive on the PFP, to discuss deal hypothesis, deal outcome, indicative financial numbers, deal financing, potential fund sources. There is overall strong support from all members in this administration, including for GEF OFP.	Ministers identified the need to present the PFP as the vehicle for 30x30x30 (in the near future) to the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) for full endorsement There is also a concern about existing capacity within ministerial staff to engage in the planning. Experts and institutions (such as Sovereign Wealth Fund, FGIS) have been identified to join the process to provide most needed capacity. There is a very strong engagement from the Minister as a champion for the PFP and he has been opening additional doors and identified potential additional supports for this project.
ANPN Including: -Executive Secretary (SE) -Deputy ES -Technical Director -	Workshop: -Jan 22-23, 2022 Individual meetings: -Mar 22, 2022	The Jan 22-23 workshop allowed to introduce the PFP concept to a range of Government institutions. Further meetings have allowed to continue explaining the process of developing a PFP and the potential benefits. ANPN sees the benefit and is interested in seeing this project develop, but has currently very limited capacity to engage in this project.	One of the main purposes of the PFP is to increase the capacity of ANPN.

Presidency: -Economic Advisor -Legal Counsel	Recurrent meetings Workshop: -Jan 22-23, 2022 Strategic planning meeting: -Jan 28, 2022	During recurring meetings and workshop, we have introduced and advanced in the work to establish a BB, the CTF, and recently, the PFP. There is a very strong engagement from the Presidential Economic advisor who has play a leading role in helping advance the BB, the CTF and now the PFP.	
Prime Minister	Audience: -Mar 30, 2022	During this Audience and facilitated by Minister White and Presidential advisor, TNC introduced the PFP and the marine conservation sustainable finance mechanism project. There was interest from the Prime Minister to see these innovative mechanisms deployed in Gabon.	Anticipate continued engagement with the PM as a potential champion of the PFP deal.
Ministry of Economy Including: -Minister Roboty -Special Advisor	Meetings: -Jan 24, 2022 -Mar 30, 2022	Meetings with Ministry of Economy have primarily focused on the BB debt restructuring, as we launched that project before the PFP. Min of Economy is still new to these novel financial mechanism for a green economy, so is still learning and assessing how to best deploy them in Gabon. However, there is openness and willingness to jointly explore and develop a project that can benefit Gabon.	Additional technical material has been prepared to communicate and explain both the BB transaction and the PFP project.
Sovereign Wealth Fund (FGIS) experts	Recurring meetings Strategic planning meeting: -Jan 28, 2022 Workshop: -Mar 26-27, 2022	FGIS was brought on board given their excellent skills and experience in financial modeling and planning. During the meetings and workshop, TNC staff introduced and advanced in the work to establish a CTF that will serve the BB project and the PFP. They have engaged very actively and are facilitate fast tracking of the design of the CTF.	
NGOs			
WCS	Meetings: -Jan 24, 2022 -Mar 28, 2022	The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.	

		A subsequent meeting on Mar 28 allow to go deeper into identifying possible areas of involvement and support of WCS in the planning and implementation of the PFP.	
WWF	Meetings: -Jan 24, 2022 -Mar 28, 2022	The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added. A subsequent meeting on Mar 28 allow to go deeper into identifying possible areas of involvement and support of WWF in the planning and implementation of the PFP.	
Panthera	Workshop: -Jan 22-23, 2022 Meeting: -Apr 2, 2022	The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added. Panthera has a long experience with conservation planning and will bring that contribution to the PFP.	
Space for Giants Forest Stewardship Council	Meeting: -Jan 24, 2022	The Jan 24 meeting on sustainable finance introduced the PFP – there was strong interest from all NGOs present to be part of the initiative and contribute with expertise and value added.	
Private Sector			
Compagnie des Bois du Gabon (CBG)	Meeting: -Jan 27, 2022	CBG is one of the 4 FSC certified primate concessionaires operating in Gabon, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to best forest management with biodiversity and social benefits. This meeting was to introduce the PFP and to better understand the challenges of the forestry sector and assess ways in which a PFP project could contribute and benefit from.	There is a need to clearly identify ways in which catalytic investment can promote a broader adoption in the forestry sector of the best practices that deliver biodiversity and climate benefits, while becoming a strong engine for growth.
Africa Conservation Development Group (ACDG)	Meeting: -Mar 29, 2022	ACDG has acquired the concessions for a large portion of land in southern Gabon and intends to develop a model of integrated sustainable landscape. It is seeking to develop new sources of funding for conservation, including Biodiversity Bonds. The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as the PFP process moves forward in its planning and development and to take advantage of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.

International Development / Diplomatic delegations			
European Union Delegation in Gabon	Meeting: -Mar 29, 2022	The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as we progress in PFP planning and development and take advantage of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.
UNDP Delegation in Gabon	Meeting: -Mar 29, 2022	UNDP has been supporting a national assessment for an Integrated National Financial Framework for sustainability. Also, UNDP will be the implementing agency for a new GEF 7 project in Gabon that could be articulated in support to this project. The meeting was to introduce the PFP and assess potential collaboration and contributions of this initiative.	There was interest in maintaining communication as we progress in PFP planning and development and take advantage of potential synergies, particularly in the creation of funding streams and investments in catalytic activities.
Community Engagement			
Local authorities, NGOs and communities living near and inside four National Parks (Mayumba, Loango, Minkébé and Monts de Cristal)	April 2023	The purpose of the visits was to inform people (including indigenous communities) about the project; collect information on their livelihood activities and challenges and; collect feedback on the project	Input on stakeholder engagement and project activities was collected from local authorities and people living around protected areas to inform the stakeholder engagement plan
National Park conservators (Mayumba, Loango, Minkébé and Monts de Cristal) as well as other local organizations, such as Cooperative Ayebe and the Association for the Development of the Culture of the Pygmy Peoples of Gabon	March 2024	The purpose of these consultations was to obtain more information on the populations living in and around the national parks, as well as on the role of some of the local organizations mentioned.	The input obtained from these consultations provided significant information on the way in which HWC presents in the different national parks, including its main impacts and how communities perceive it.