

Annex 5. Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

See attached file (embedded)



SESP_Gabon_6626_16Oct21.docx

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in the Lower Ogooué – Lower Nyanga Landscape Corridor, Gabon
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	ATLAS Award ID: 00131063 / ATLAS Project/Output ID: 00124212 / PIMS number: 6626
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Gabon
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	01 September 2021

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

The project is designed and will be implemented in line with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, which includes Principle 1 on Human Rights as well as ensuring the full integration of gender dimensions and social inclusion. The project will also align with the recommendations of the Policy Brief from the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment (August 2021). Inclusive and equitable stakeholder participation and a respect for human rights, including no-discrimination, will underpin all aspects of the project's design and implementation. It also will specifically recognize and respect the traditional rights of community members (women and men), including non-Bantu (mostly forest dwelling, indigenous) groups living in the project area and using the forest and forest-wetland natural resources. The project seeks in particular to remove any obstacles for women and men from traditional forest dwelling communities to be able to participate and contribute effectively to decisions made about project activities on equal footing with non-indigenous people. Making use of participatory methodologies and identifying barriers to participation such as low levels of literacy, high incidence of poverty and difficult access in remote areas, which potentially affects local livelihoods, the project will work with Government and other stakeholders in the region including civil society organizations that represent the legitimate concerns of Indigenous Peoples to secure traditional individual and collective rights and to strengthen the livelihoods of those groups. Where the creation or extension of formal protected areas and/or changes in practice within already existing protected areas are considered by the project, forms of conservation – including both governance and management – will be promoted that are accepted and accessible by female and male members of traditional and local communities and fully compatible with the livelihoods of women and men. At the same time, the project will identify and co-develop specific activities and outputs that target the improvement of livelihoods and rights of women and men from Indigenous peoples and local communities, or IPLCs, within and beyond formal protected areas where these are deemed necessary or expressly desired by those groups, based on equitable and inclusive consultations. Such consultations with key beneficiaries will take into account specific barriers to participating, especially for women and other vulnerable populations. Biodiversity (or a healthy environment) also is recognized as a human right in this project, since access to and use of biodiversity provide the essential foundations upon which local and traditional livelihoods are based – and its degradation impinges directly on people's well-being. Considering the maintenance of biodiversity and resultant ecosystem services (as well as cultural services) from a rights-based perspective is particularly relevant for indigenous peoples, whether this be in relation to legally recognized protected areas or to *de facto* conserved areas such as ICCAs—territories of life, i.e. lands and territories conserved by local and indigenous communities (also note that these two categories may overlap with each other, they are not mutually exclusive).

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

The project is designed to support the equal participation of women and other vulnerable populations in decision-making about the use of natural resources, and to also empower women to benefit equitably from the benefits that will accrue from this project. In addition to a stock taking exercise to identify specific barriers that women and other vulnerable populations face to participating in consultations and related project activities, steps will be taken to devise strategies to overcome these barriers. This will include the development of an approach to consultations that enable women to have an equal voice in identifying issues or concerns they may face as part of the process of continuously designing/adapting the project, during the PPG and beyond. A detailed gender analysis has been conducted to determine the role of women in natural resources management including identifying barriers they face in participating in such processes, challenges faced in deriving benefits from a project of this nature, and documenting the specific impacts of resource degradation and unsustainable use of natural resources on women and other vulnerable populations from both a gender and reproductive perspective; all this will be further visited as part of gender mainstreaming during implementation. Efforts will also be made better understand the perspectives of men vis-a-vis women's participation in this project, such as potential male resistance or sexual harassment. Consideration will be given to potential vulnerabilities women and girls may face to sexual and gender-based violence, particularly for outputs and activities that involve external workers. Overall, the project will take deliberate steps to propose and advance activities and interventions geared towards improvement of the situation of women that are based on ensuring that measures to improve the situation for women does not result in hostility and backlash on the part of men in the community. A gender action plan forms part of the project strategy and a gender-disaggregated results framework will monitor outcomes of the project on women taking into account specific vulnerabilities, including for Indigenous women.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project is focused on strengthening the sustainability and effective conservation of the forest landscapes of the lower Ogooué – Lower Nyanga corridor, an area of significant forest and wetland biodiversity and of enormous value to Indigenous peoples and local communities. It will work with government, the private sector (e.g., timber concessions, value add enterprises) and local communities to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the area's natural resources. Interventions will be designed to promote the conservation of the forest and forest-wetland complexes and their biodiversity, while ensuring improvement of livelihoods of local women and men who have a diversity of needs and uses of those natural resources. The project will contribute to climate change mitigation through maintained carbon sequestration in the vegetation and soil, and it will be geared towards making local livelihoods more resilient to climate change and other shocks and pressures while specifically taking into account the fact that women tend to be more adversely impacted by climate change; for example through improving tenure security, ensuring equitable access to income derived from forest products and services for forest communities (both women and men), protecting and restoring riparian buffers, and conserving forest and wetland ecological integrity that are important for preventing downstream flooding in the case of extreme weather events.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

The project design aims to ensure full accountability for project activities by local stakeholders. Consultations and participation of stakeholders, including both women and men in local communities, is not only a component of project design but will be implemented as a guiding principle throughout the project’s implementation and mainstreamed into forest landscape governance principles promoted by the project. Consultations will seek to ensure that both women and men are able to fully participate, with ability to safely voice their own particular needs, concerns and interests. This may require the hosting of separate consultations for women and girls using different methodologies and outreach approaches. Ensuring and strengthening local livelihoods as well as people’s culture and sense of identity – and even the direction and speed of change, e.g. amongst forest dwelling communities who in several respects remain marginalized in Gabonese society as well as amongst other forest dependent communities – will be a major focus of the project. The project also will work with relevant Government departments or agencies and liaise with private sectors to increase mutual trust and accountability as well as to establish clear principles, rules and best practice guidelines in regard to the use of natural resources in the project area and beyond. Grievance mechanisms will be established early in the project and communicated to all stakeholders, with core focus on accommodating any emerging cases of gender discrimination, gender-based violence or sexual harassment and any cases of discrimination or violence against indigenous people and other socially marginalized groups; access to these mechanisms will be ensured, with special attention to the specific challenges and obstacles faced by members of forest dwelling and other forest dependent communities. A multi-stakeholder, participatory approach will be a guiding element during project implementation for the project’s entire lifespan, with such principles also anticipated to be integrated as standard operational procedures for the implementing agency and key partners beyond the project *per se*.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
<p>Risk Description <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i></p>	<p>Impact and Likelihood <i>(1-5)</i></p>	<p>Significance <i>(Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i></p>	<p>Comments (optional)</p>	<p>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</p>

<p>Risk 01 - Consultation may not be comprehensive</p> <p>Full participation of potentially affected stakeholders in the design and implementation of the Project is critical. However, because of logistical, language and cultural barriers, there is a risk that consultations with local women and men (incl. FPIC with Indigenous People) may not be comprehensive. If the Stakeholder Engagement is not properly designed and managed including by ensuring the full and equitable participation of women and the most vulnerable, there is a risk that women, Indigenous People, minorities, marginalized groups, and other excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities) could be discriminated, sidelined, and not effectively involved during the different project phases resulting in them being negatively impacted by the project or in not benefiting from positive project results.</p> <p>Principle 1: No One Left behind</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Principle 5: Accountability</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>UNDP SES require Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plans for High Risk projects, which means comprehensive and meaningful consultations and/or engagement.</p> <p>Many project activities involve consultations and engagement with stakeholders, including Indigenous Communities. Ensuring the engagement activities are inclusive and comprehensive is key to the success of the Project.</p>	<p>The project is assessed as “high risk” on account of three interrelated aspects: the project’s engagement with (i) protected areas, including national parks; (ii) gender aspects of access to natural resources (cf. governance, decision-making) and the sharing of benefits derived from their use; and (iii) presence of indigenous peoples (forest dwelling people) who have traditionally valued and used the territories that are now overlapping with the formally designated protected areas and other land and natural resources in the project landscape.</p> <p>During the PPG, assessments and meaningful, effective and informed consultations were conducted in the project landscape. These consultation activities, following FPIC approach, were led by an experienced Environmental and Social Safeguards Expert and by a Stakeholder Engagement professional who also has good understanding of local contexts and profound knowledge of consultation with local communities, in order to both gather views and concerns of stakeholders and facilitate their full contribution to project design. This engagement process, captured in the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), includes means of disclosure of information in a format that is understandable and relevant to local women and men and participation with consultations in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner.</p> <p>An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed during the PPG phase to predict, evaluate, avoid, and where avoidance is not possible mitigate the adverse social and environmental impacts of activities. The ESMF and an Indigenous People Planning Framework (IPPF) developed during the PPG phase will further</p> <p>During the implementation phase, an Indigenous People Plan (IPP) will be elaborated and included in the project</p>
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			<p>documentation. The IPP will identify potential risks and impacts, risk avoidance and mitigation measures, and specifies measures for provision of culturally appropriate benefits, continued consultation and participation processes, grievance procedures, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and a budget and financial plan for implementing agreed measures.</p> <p>During implementation, the Project also will put measures in place to ensure local people are provided with regular feedback on how their input is taken into consideration and to address any additional concerns that may be identified as the project moves forward. This engagement process will include disclosure of information in appropriate format that is understandable and relevant to local women and men and consultation in a culturally appropriate manner.</p> <p>The SEP will also ensure that someone is responsible for developing and disseminating regular updates to the local stakeholders in an understandable and accessible format. A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be undertaken to assess the potential adverse risks and impacts associated with “upstream” project activities (those involving planning support, policy advice and reform, and/or capacity building). Output-based <i>Environmental and Social Impact Assessments</i> (ESIAs) will also be undertaken in the first year of the project’s implementation to address adverse risks and impacts associated with “downstream” project outputs (physical footprint). This will ensure that all appropriate social and environmental safeguards are well developed and put in place.</p> <p>An Indigenous People Plan will also be developed in the implementation phase. The IPP will identify potential risks and impacts, risk avoidance and mitigation measures, and specifies measures for provision of culturally appropriate</p>
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				<p>benefits, continued consultation and participation processes, grievance procedures, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and a budget and financial plan for implementing agreed measures.</p> <p>A gender-sensitive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be developed early during the project's implementation phase. This detailed GRM will present a set of arrangements that enable local communities, Indigenous People, and other affected stakeholders to raise grievances with the Project and seek redress when they perceive or predict a negative impact arising from the project's activities</p>
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<p>Risk 02 - Project activities affecting the rights of Indigenous People</p> <p>While the project has an explicit focus on strengthening the human rights, participation, and self-determined development of local and forest dependent communities, experience throughout the Congo Basin has shown that the use of forest resources, whether for conservation or resource utilization, has often been perceived as negatively affecting the basic rights of Indigenous People.</p> <p>Because the Project involves impact on lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples in this particularly sensitive region (i.e. Congo Basin), there is the risk that the Project could face grievances or concerns about project activities affecting the rights of Indigenous People.</p> <p>There is also a risk that project activities can conflict with the development priorities of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC), as defined by them.</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Principle 5: Accountability</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 5</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The Project will engage with Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) in a way that ensures that they are fully aware of the Project and able to provide meaningful input in its development and implementation, as well as the activities, the outcomes, the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, the risks and impacts associated with the Project, as well as the project's mitigation and management measures.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>FPIC consultations started during PPG and the input from Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) informed the design of project activities. Meaningful engagement will continue during the implementation phase. The engagement process will take into consideration the rights of Indigenous People and the disadvantages faced by them, linked to vulnerabilities, such as limited access to education, low literacy levels, negative stereo-typing and inadequate understanding of national or site-specific policy and programming processes. Where necessary, civil society organizations representing and deemed acceptable by Indigenous Peoples will also be engaged to provide additional support.</p> <p>The IPPF was developed during the PPG phase. An IPP will be developed during the implementation phase.</p>
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<p>Risk 03 - Perpetuation of discriminations against women</p> <p>The project might perpetuate existing or lead to new discriminations against women in their access to natural resources, especially where communications are hampered by cultural and language barriers or when and where they are not appropriately engaged by the project in its communications and planning.</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 5</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>This risk is prevalent given the baseline situation in the project landscape (including gender-based violence – GBV)</p>	<p>During the PPG, the project ensured women’s full participation in the discussions and decisions about project activities.</p> <p>In advance of undertaking consultations, steps were taken to gather information about obstacles faced by women, their preferred approaches for consultation, and how to provide and share information with them.</p> <p>A Gender Expert is part of the PPG Team and the Project Management Unit also will hire such an expert part-time to ensure gender mainstreaming, and a Gender Analysis and Action Plan have been developed during the PPG phase and will be regularly updated, implemented, and monitored during the full project.</p>
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<p>Risk 04 - Unintended economic exclusion of people.</p> <p>Despite consultations and a commitment of the project to focus on the strengthening of the rights and livelihoods of women and men from IPLCs, i.e. local communities including Indigenous People in the project landscape, there is still risk that Project activities may lead to the unintended economic exclusion of some people.</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Principle 5: Accountability</p> <p>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>For example, a focus on tourism activities involving the viewing of wildlife may exclude those who used to live from hunting, and the protection of community managed forest areas may reduce the income opportunities for those who used to work for logging or mining companies in those same areas.</p>	<p>As part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), a comprehensive socio-economic and livelihood assessments of the targeted communities will be carried out by people with expertise and understanding of the local contexts and concerns of local women and men. These assessments will lead to better understanding of the socio-economic dimensions and challenges in the project area (livelihood strategies, existing sources of livelihood, and other socio-economic information as appropriate). This baseline information will be analyzed including from the perspective of gender and social inclusion and factored into the design of specific activities, to ensure that socioeconomic and community consequences (both positive and negative) of the planned interventions of the Project are appropriately addressed. A Livelihood Action Plan will be prepared.</p> <p>A monitoring process which will include regular consultations with local women and men will be put in place to identify any issues or concerns that may arise and address them in a timely and transparent manner.</p> <p>Consultations will follow FPIC approach.</p> <p>An Indigenous People Planing Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be developed for the implementation phase.</p>
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<p>Risk 05 - Impact on elements of cultural value</p> <p>Because the Project sites overlap with lands and territories traditionally used by Indigenous People, there is a risk that tangible and intangible elements of cultural value will be impacted by the project activities. There is a risk that such traditional knowledge and practices could be mishandled or mismanaged by project staff or experts, whether this be intentionally or otherwise. Such situations could lead to serious grievances and/or erosion of trust between the Project and Indigenous People, ultimately jeopardizing project outcomes.</p> <p>Non-indigenous elements of cultural value could also be impacted.</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) across the Project landscape possess traditions and cultural (tangible and intangible) assets that should not be negatively impacted.</p>	<p>The Project will identify existing information-sharing structures for local communities and partners and determine the most appropriate way to manage sensitive information, in agreement with the community. The Project will implement globally recognized practices for field-study and collection of TEK. The project will also draw upon current work of the World Intellectual Property Rights (WIPO) that seeks to protect the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Indigenous Peoples worldwide.</p> <p>Where potential adverse impacts on traditional ecological knowledge may be significant, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed as part of the overall Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).</p> <p>Th Project will implement Cultural Awareness training for project staff and personnel of implementing partners to raise awareness about both tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage in the Project area.</p> <p>The Project will also, per the ESMF and as part of the ESIA/ESMP, outline actions and measures necessary for the effective management of risks and impacts to cultural heritage. This will include a Chance Finds Procedure, which details the necessary steps to be taken if any culturally significant artifact is found during the Project.</p> <p>All these consultations for this matter will be done following FPIC approach.</p> <p>An Indigenous People Planing Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be developed for the implementation phase.</p>
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<p>Risk 06 - Environmental pollution due to project-sponsored activities</p> <p>Where the project activities result in improved incomes and livelihoods for local communities, the increased generation of waste (e.g. human waste, metal scraps, plastic, batteries, chemicals, etc.) may be an unintended consequence that requires management. If not properly managed or disposed of, such wastes could easily pose risk to the health and safety of local communities, as well as wildlife (especially conservation priority fauna species) and ecosystems that support them.</p> <p>To a limited extent, the promotion of activities such as agroforestry and fisheries may involve the use of pesticides, hydrocarbons (fuel), and other chemicals, without the Project always being aware or able to adequately control such use. This could pose a risk to the environment and community health, which in turn will likely pose an undue burden on women and girls given the role they play in caring for the sick and elderly.</p> <p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks</p> <p>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security</p> <p>Standard 8: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Pollution due to project-sponsored activities should be prevented.</p> <p>Any environmental and/or health issues resulting from an eventual pollution should be addressed using appropriate safeguards.</p>	<p>The Project will ban the use of pesticides and other chemicals or materials subject to international bans, in its sponsored activities. More importantly,</p> <p>On a larger scale, the project will ensure sustainable procurement, careful waste management, avoidance of contribution to POPs (eg by reducing the use of pesticides including unauthorized ones in/around the target landscape) and GHG emissions (through forest conservation).</p> <p>the project will include environmental awareness activities with local communities on how to avoid issues related to waste management and environmental pollution.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will promote efficient and effective use of resource and pollution prevention to avoid, minimize or adequately mitigate adverse impacts on human health and the environment (i.e., wildlife and ecosystems). Good project management and monitoring & evaluation will minimize these risks.</p> <p>Additionally, involving community members in water monitoring activities will not only generate credible data and information, but also builds trust and helps resolve or avoid issues/conflicts surrounding perceived or actual impacts on water.</p> <p>The project will allocate resources (financial, human and material) to ensure safeguard measures are in place and that responses are planned in the event of environmental disasters, such as chemical spills or health impacts linked to Project-sponsored activities.</p>
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<p>Risk 07 - Raised concerns or grievances not being properly addressed</p> <p>Project-affected people (PAP), including Indigenous People, might not be able to effectively claim their rights, raise their concerns or file grievances, due to limiting factors and barriers. Such barriers include, but are not limited to, awareness, logistics, language, culture, literacy, and technology.</p> <p>If the questions, concerns, grievances and/or objections raised by the PAPs are not properly addressed, the achievement of the Project's objectives could be jeopardized.</p> <p>Principle 1: Leave No One Behind</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Principle 5: Accountability</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 5</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Ensuring all stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to a rights-compatible grievance redress mechanism is key to the local buy-in and to the success of the Project.</p>	<p>The Project will carry out comprehensive, gender-responsible consultations with local communities and other stakeholders within project sites, and will allow them to raise objections or concerns and/or to request additional information. The Project will accommodate their expressed interest and concerns in the final project design and the design of particular project outputs and activities.</p> <p>The Project will also develop a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is proportional, culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent, and that ensures appropriate protection for claimants, and the Project also will inform the stakeholders about the existence of the mechanism and how to use it.</p> <p>The GRM will include an early warning system, helping to identify problems and close gaps in a timely and cost-effective manner, avoiding escalation into more entrenched or complex disputes.</p> <p>The GRM will be executed through the implementing partner. As needed or as requested, UNDP will be available to help the implementing partner to address project-related grievances as part of its oversight and assurance roles.</p>
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<p>Risk 08 - Some project stakeholders not adhering to Safeguards standards</p> <p>UNDP Values and Principles and UNDP Social and Environment Standards are high standards drawn from international best practices, and the project stakeholders may not be aware of the requirements and obligation of these standards. There is a risk that project stakeholders including the implementing partner and other Government agencies do not have adequate knowledge, capacity or commitment to meet their project obligations, especially in relation to the above Principles (e.g. Human Rights, Leave No One Behind, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, etc.) and/or UNDP’s Social and Environment Standards.</p> <p>A failure on the part of one or more project partners to adhere to these high but widely agreed standards could negatively impact the achievement of project objectives.</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights Principle 5: Accountability</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>The project will involve personnel from several parties for its implementation (various Government ministries, NGOs and other third-party institutions).</p> <p>At the time of project implementation, all these partners will not necessarily be aware of UNDP technical and safeguarding requirements. Capacity gaps are also expected to have a dimension on gender and Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>Implementation of the SES is integral to UNDP’s quality assurance responsibilities and to the project’s design.</p> <p>All project components, especially component 3, will involve the participation of many implementing partners. UNDP is responsible to inform all implementing partners and responsible parties of their obligations to duly incorporate the Social and Environment Standards in their respective activities, including those related to gender equality.</p> <p>Throughout consultations and other project engagement processes, the Project Team will ensure that stakeholders are aware of the requirements and their obligations under UNDP Social and Environment Standards and overarching Principles. This will be done through meetings, training, and document sharing.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Management Plans (e.g. Indigenous People Plan, Livelihood Action Plan, etc.) will also specify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder involved.</p>
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<p>Risk 09 - Impact to land and livelihood (economic displacement)</p> <p>The Project and its activities in or supporting forest concessions will potentially bring changes to land use and/or tenure arrangements. There is a risk that such changes could limit access to some portions of land, livelihood and natural resource previously used by communities, including Indigenous People. Additionally, loss of assets or of access to such assets could lead to the increased competition between project-affected communities (including Indigenous People) in remaining available and accessible land and natural resources. There is a risk that this situation could impact on or change land tenure arrangements, and competition could create or fuel conflict among community members.</p> <p>Since project activities will be developed in areas where Indigenous People are present, and on lands and territories claimed by Indigenous People, the Project, therefore, has the potential to impact the lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods and rights of indigenous peoples. This could also result in economic displacement, loss of assets or loss of access to land and resources.</p> <p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Not all forests used by local communities are formally recognized or registered, and their geographic scope is not always clearly known to local stakeholders. Therefore some community members might be carrying out activities outside the boundaries of the community forests. These people could be economically displaced when the community forest are clearly demarcated (Activity 3.3.1) and activities/uses prohibited outside the limits of the forests. Since the Project and its activities will potentially bring changes to land access and/or land tenure arrangements. It is important that the rules for those lands are established in a participatory</p>	<p>Beside the risk of conflicts, loss of assets or loss of access to assets can lead to the loss of income sources or other means of livelihood to the affected parties which in some cases can exacerbate pre-existing high rates of poverty and inequality. As part of the ESIA process, the Project will carry out a socio-economic survey that will determine baseline data on income generation (e.g. monthly income, livelihood strategies, existing sources of local livelihoods, and other information; taking into account also the challenges and differences in terms of options for both male and female indigenous peoples, as appropriate).</p> <p>The Project will develop a Livelihood Action Plan (LAP) outlining the procedures and actions that will be undertaken in order to ensure that the capacity, production levels, and standards of living of economically displaced people are improved or at least restored, and that displaced people are compensated adequately. The LAP will also include consideration of gender differences in terms of access and type of livelihoods. The LAP is to be provided with sufficient project resources and opportunity to enable IPLC stakeholders who could lose access to their assets or resources to benefit from the project activities. The LAP will aim to improve affected persons' livelihoods, both women and men, in real terms compared to the pre-impact levels or to levels prevailing prior to the start of implementation, whichever is higher.</p> <p>An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage and an IPP will be developed at the project implementation stage to address the impacts related to Indigenous People.</p> <p>The Project equally will ensure that stakeholders are aware of the existence of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and encourage them to use it to raise concerns and complaints. The purpose of the project Grievance Redress Mechanism is to establish the</p>
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			<p>manner with the communities. That way, even if there are residual negative impacts associated with the new land tenures, they will be limited because they will be in alignment with community decisions.</p>	<p>procedures for hearing and addressing satisfactorily the complaints and disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of the Project.</p>
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<p>Risk 10 - Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and disease transmission</p> <p>Project-sponsored activities could increase the frequency of interactions between humans and wildlife (e.g., chimpanzees, gorilla, elephants, etc.), consequently increasing the likelihood of conflicts between people and animals in agricultural contexts and of disease transmission from human to wild animal populations in the case of tourism.</p> <p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p>	<p>I = 5 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>The majority of all emerging pathogens in humans are zoonotic (nonhuman animal) in origin. Population, ecological, and behavioral changes that increase contact with wildlife may exacerbate emergence or transmission of these pathogens.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are immense challenges in addressing HWC, in particular because underlying cultural, political and economic aspects that shape these conflicts are often very complex and poorly understood</p>	<p>The Project will implement a protocol and programs for promoting the health of project workers and partners likely to interact with great apes, if/where this may be advanced through the project. These protocols will be designed to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases between humans and primates in the project area.</p> <p>The project will also design and implement a health-related program, strengthening vaccinations (among workers and contractors) for human diseases that are of some concern particularly for great apes.</p> <p>The Project will develop and implement a human-wildlife conflict mitigation program, following widely-recognized IUCN Best Practices guidelines or similar, to ensure that efforts to manage human-wildlife conflicts are pursued through well-informed, holistic and collaborative processes that take into account underlying social, cultural and economic contexts.</p>
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<p>Risk 11 - Exposing communities to COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks</p> <p>Project activities (e.g. frequent meetings, field visits, travelling, etc.) could increase the risk of exposing communities to Covid-19 and other potential disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>This risk is prevalent in the current context of Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>To manage potential risks and vulnerabilities related to biological hazards, such as Covid-19, the project will implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an assessment of the social and economic impacts of ongoing Covid-19, including on vulnerable populations, as part of the ESIA/ESMP preparation. • Develop plans for responding to and ensuring income recovery for affected vulnerable populations, targeting specific livelihood interventions to help facilitate such recovery as well as improving awareness of risks of diseases. • In addition, awareness will be promoted to ensure that people are aware of the risks and undertake mitigation measures.
<p>Risk 12 - Project activities vulnerable to climate change</p> <p>NTPF collection, agroforestry activities and other land use options promoted by the project in the landscape are likely to be vulnerable to climate change (flood, increased precipitation, extreme events).</p> <p>Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience</p> <p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 4</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Project-sponsored activities or interventions could be affected by droughts of floods, occurring more frequently and with greater intensity with climate change.</p>	<p>The Project will outline risk information in order to address vulnerability to climate change. Actions will include, though not be limited to preparedness, and reinforcement of resilience and recovery methods for Project partners to implement at local level.</p>

<p>Risk 13 – Revision of regulatory frameworks Revisions to regulatory framework and status review of commitments (international treaties) as well as national laws, regulations, approved certification systems (Output 1.3) and the Conservation sector review (Output 2.1) could reveal serious gaps in implementing best environmental and social safeguarding practices.</p> <p>Principle 1: Leave No One Behind Principle 5: Accountability</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Regulatory revisions, , need encourage transparency, accountability and best environmental and social safeguarding practices.</p>	<p>Best practice guidelines and methodologies will be produced and disseminated in selected sectors, aiming to strengthen effective management and to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity and PAs across these sectors.</p> <p>Sector guidelines will be produced for EIA/ESIAs, SESAs and safeguarding approaches as well as landscape-level planning, integrated watershed management, natural capital accounting, economics of nature, and rights of IPLCs</p> <p>The project will also introduce Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) approaches and their potential to contribute to national sustainable development in regional-level planning, management, and oversight activities – through reviews, meetings, and workshops.</p>
<p>Risk 14 – Introduction of exotic tree species Project activities supporting rehabilitations or greening of artisanal mine sites could inadvertently encourage planting of exotic tree species, which then leads to adverse environmental effects through becoming invasive or lowering the water table.</p> <p>Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Although the project is designed around biodiversity conservation, it is possible that project participants undertake planting of exotic and potentially invasive for land rehabilitation</p>	<p>The project will develop an ESMP that will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien tree or other species. The project will promote the regeneration of useful and resilient indigenous tree species for greening. Species chosen should be those that have, amongst other properties, the potential to retaining soil moisture, increasing soil organic carbon, promote nutrient recycling, provide shade, wind and dust barriers, or provide fruit and medicine for the community.</p>

<p>Risk 15 – Introduction of invasive alien fish species Project activities supporting fisheries could inadvertently enable the introduction of invasive alien fish species into local water bodies, leading to adverse effects on freshwater ecology and native species.</p> <p>Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>It is possible that project participants introduce exotic fish species. These could escape from aquaculture ponds into local waterbodies, leading to these fish preying on small indigenous fish species. Such exotic species could be fast-breeding, voracious omnivores that eat plants and animal matter, living or dead, and can therefore be high-impact invaders that alter the structure and function of ecosystems.</p>	<p>The project will develop an ESMP that will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien fish species. The project will promote best practice in integrated rice-fish farming using indigenous and/or non-invasive fish species.</p>
<p>Risk 16 – Negative impact of artisanal gold mining Artisanal gold mining in the project landscape, , lead to the degradation of large areas of forest and possibly to river pollutants with downstream negative impacts. This could also jeopardize the project objectives.</p> <p>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security Standard 8: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 5</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Artisanal gold mining is practiced along the Ikobey river and already contributes to various environmental and social impacts.</p>	<p>The project will assess the overall extent of this form of gold mining along the Ikobey river and will monitor impacts on local forest cover and water quality. In this activity, focus is on assessing the extent of forest cover damage and other local environmental damage.</p>

<p>Risk 17 – Involvement of third-party organization in land rehabilitation</p> <p>The Project will conduct trial of rehabilitation of lands damaged by gold mining operations. This activity will be led by local communities with support from a recognized, capable institutions and/or NGOs. These institutions may not have all the capacity and tools needed to meet their obligations in the project, especially those related to their roles and responsibilities in the project cycle, as well as the social and environmental safeguarding.</p> <p>Principle 1: Leave No One Behind</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project will involve personnel from several partners for the implementation of the rehabilitation program. At the time of project implementation, all these partners will not necessarily be aware of UNDP technical and safeguarding requirements.</p>	<p>The rehabilitation effort will use native trees species; including native fruit trees such as bush mango to advance the potential and awareness of agroforestry benefits. This will include building a nursery within/near local community, training local partners on the various relevant technique in tree planting, and development of the nursery for the production of seedlings for site rehabilitation.</p> <p>Since this activity will involve several third-party partners, the Project will organize trainings and/or workshops to build the capacity of these partners and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. The training will focus on UNDP technical and safeguarding requirements.</p>
<p>Risk 18 – Non-compliance with labour standards</p> <p>Project-sponsored activities (e.g. agriculture / agroforestry supply chain, land restoration, erosion control, construction of ecotourism infrastructure, artisanal gold mining) could involve practices that fail to comply with national and/or international labour standards or safety standards.</p> <p>Principle 1: No One Left behind</p> <p>Principle 2: Human Rights</p> <p>Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 4</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Child labour continues to be prevalent in the country, in many economic sectors,. Unsafe work practices are also prevalent in the country.</p>	<p>Risks associated with labour, working conditions, and occupational health and safety, will be further assessed during the ESIA and addressed as appropriate through implementation of an ESMP and subsequent measures as required.</p>
<p>[add additional rows as needed]</p>				

QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
	<i>Low Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Moderate Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Substantial Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>High Risk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential significant impact (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples. - Multiple Substantial Risk.
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
	<i>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<i>Status? (completed, planned)</i>
	<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Targeted assessment(s)	Completed: gender analysis, stakeholder analysis
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned (for implementation)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned (project activity 1.3.2)

	Are management plans required? (check if “yes”)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others) Completed: Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans) Planned (for implementation; to include an IPP)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework) Completed (including an IPPF)
Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)	
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Date	Description
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
<p>INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.</p>		
Overarching Principles: Leave No One Behind / Human Rights		Answer (Yes/No)
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2	Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Yes
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.4	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	Yes
P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? ¹⁶⁰	Yes
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	Yes
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	Yes
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment		
P.8	Have women’s groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	Yes
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	Yes
P.11	limitations on women’s ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	Yes

¹⁶⁰ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to “women and men” or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

	<i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	Yes
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
Accountability		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.13	exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Yes
P.14	grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	Yes
P.15	risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	Yes
Project-Level Standards		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
1.1	adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	Yes
1.2	activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Yes
1.3	changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	Yes
1.4	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	Yes
1.5	exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6	introduction of invasive alien species?	Yes
1.7	adverse impacts on soils?	Yes
1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.9	significant agricultural production?	No
1.10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	Yes
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?	No

	<i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ¹⁶¹	No
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ¹⁶²	No
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	Yes
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	Yes
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	Yes
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	Yes
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	Yes
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	Yes
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	Yes

¹⁶¹ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

¹⁶² See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	Yes
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	Yes
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	Yes
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	Yes
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	Yes
5.3	risk of forced evictions? ¹⁶³	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Yes
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	Yes
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Yes
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	Yes

¹⁶³ Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	Yes
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Yes
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	Yes
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	Yes
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	Yes
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	Yes
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	Yes
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	Yes
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	Yes
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Yes
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	Yes
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	Yes
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 6. UNDP Atlas Risk Register

Project risk assessment and mitigation measures

	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
1	Limited local expertise may hinder project's implementation and/or limit follow-up of key interventions	<i>Operational</i>	P=4 I=4 High	A combination of national and international expertise will be sought to support implementation, bringing the requisite development of technical competencies alongside the particular project needs. Although such external expertise is not sustainable on its own, with a plan for training, mentorship and transfer of knowledge, the agencies and partners engaged in the project will be strengthened for long-term sustained contributions in forest conservation.	<i>PSC</i>	Local expertise in integrated landscape-level management of important biodiversity areas and rights-based "IPLC" approaches in conservation likely to remain limited if not actively supported with awareness raising and the development of professional capacities
2	The government's budget allocation may change or be re-oriented for other purposes, hindering project progress	<i>Financial</i>	P=1 I=3 Low	Co-financing from the Government of Gabon relevant to the project derives mainly from new carbon payments dedicated to the conservation of forest landscapes, with biodiversity and climate goals well aligned with the project as well as with national "Gabon Emergent."	<i>PSC</i>	To be monitored closely
3	Delays in policy reforms related to integrated landscape planning approaches due to limited political will (or slow bureaucratic processes) could limit the extent of support for project, especially at sub-national level, hindering its progress	<i>Political</i>	P=3 I=3 Moderate	PMU will engage senior leadership of relevant ministries, advocating and facilitating for a broader ownership and support of the project's purposes. Project coordination and key communications will assist in fostering change, along with several means of promoting intersectoral dialogues that will be advanced by the project.	<i>PSC</i>	To be monitored closely
4	Changes in leadership of government agencies, administrative regions and/or protected areas could negatively affect project's practical implementation	<i>Operational</i>	P=2 I=3 Moderate	To mitigate this risk, awareness raising and institutional capacity development are core features of the project across sectors and administrative levels, in order to ensure broader appreciation and commitment to relevant approaches beyond particular leaders.	<i>PSC</i>	To be monitored closely

	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
5	Limited/lack of effective cooperation between the government and other non-government partners could limit project success	<i>Operational</i>	P=3 I=4 High	The project is designed according to current/emerging best practices in area-based forest conservation, which emphasize in particular the central role of IPLCs as well as the value of broad partnerships more generally for strengthening conservation, including by means of nature-based value chains in support of people's livelihoods, sustainability, and conservation.	<i>PSC</i>	To be monitored closely
6	Poor engagement with local stakeholders by the project team and all other implementing bodies (not only IP, but all service providers) may limit the delivery of environmental and social benefits, including for women and IPs	<i>Operational</i>	P=4 I=3 High	The interests, needs, and rights of IPLCs – including women and other marginalized groups – have been developed as core elements of the project's strategy, based on both the moral and practical values of participatory and rights-based approaches.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely
7	Covid-19 pandemic could limit ability to implement planned activities due to travel restrictions and/or safety protocols, or to illness of key people	<i>Environmental</i>	P=4 I=4 High	The challenges associated with Covid are reduced in large part by depending as far as possible on national consultants (vs. international) alongside decentralized approaches that devolve much of implementation to local government units and local service providers in Gabon's emerging civil society.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely
8	Covid-19 pandemic risks may lead to renewed containment efforts over the course of project implementation, making access to field sites more difficult. Government may also become too occupied with urgent Covid-19 issues to deal with other business effectively and may choose to divert financial resources	<i>Operational</i>	P=3 I=4 High	In addition to depending more on local/national service providers as well as decentralized government staff, the project aims to capture trainings and other forms of outreach with materials in formats that can be re-used, so that they can be (re)delivered to a wider audience without need to bring external consultants in future. Online communications will also be prioritized, to serve as backup mechanism and to maximize communication.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely
9	Vulnerable groups such as forest dwelling people in Gabon could feel that they are not sufficiently involved and therefore they may not support activities – and may even hinder them	<i>Operational</i>	P=3 I=4 High	FPIC processes have been followed including community consultations undertaken in culturally appropriate ways during the project design phase, and these will continue during implementation, ensuring communication with local stakeholders is sufficient to alleviate concerns.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely

	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
10	Project collaborations with PA authorities may be deemed by IPLCs and other stakeholders as endorsing restrictive policing functions , thus leading to challenges in communication and effective partnerships	<i>Social</i>	P=2 I=2 Moderate	Potential misunderstandings with communities about project purposes will be reduced as much as possible by establishing or using existing dialogue and information exchange platforms early in the project, to clarify from outset the many potential benefits that can be derived from partnerships/collaboration with protected areas.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely
11	Lack of direct project response to significant human-wildlife conflict (HWC) issues may lead to lessened interest from local stakeholders, hence less engagement with project activities	<i>Social</i>	P=3 I=2 Moderate	A communication strategy including both mechanisms and content will be established by the project, so that the various connections between project actions and perceived and expressed local needs may be clarified.	<i>PMU</i>	To be monitored closely
12	HACT related risk: The IP's capacity to manage the project does not increase as quickly as anticipated, leading to low delivery level	<i>Organizational</i>	P=3 I=4 High	In addition to the wide range of capacity development opportunities across the project's outputs, expertise is specifically planned to address identified management and administrative knowledge/capacity gaps within IP.	<i>PSC</i>	To be monitored closely