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WWF GABON COUNTRY PROGRAMME OFFICE

Evaluation of the Achieving integrated conservation of Congo basin' most important costal landscape, FY 2019-2021

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project/Programme Name(s)	Achieving integrated conservation of Congo basin' most important costal landscape
Project/Programme Location(s)	Gamba Complex of Protected Areas (GCPA)
Project/Programme Reference Number(s)	GA40001404
Names of Project/Programme Executants (WWF Office, name of project/programme manager)	MAGANGA Pierre Brice
Project/Programme Duration (from start year)	From July 2019 to June 2021
Period to Be Evaluated	From July 2019 to June 2021
Potential Sites to Visit	Libreville, Mandji, Tchibanga and Gamba
Project/Programme Budget Sources and Amounts (for period to be evaluated)	1 350 000 € Funded by WWF NL
Names of Implementing Partners (if relevant)	

I. PROJECT/PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

1.1 Geographic scope of the project/programme

The Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati Landscape is transnational and centred on the Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou and Mayumba national parks in Gabon and the Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of Congo. The Gamba Conkouati Landscape is known for its diversity in habitats, varying from sea and coastal vegetation, to lagoons, wetlands up to the lowland forest-savannah mosaic. This variety of mainly intact habitats harbours a large variety of species, of which 380 bird species, 89 mammal species, 86 reptiles, 66 amphibians and over 67 fish species.

WWF Gabon focuses its activities on the Gabonese segment of the Gamba-Conkouati Landscape covering 75% of the Landscape. WWF has been active in the area for over two decades, starting by putting into place the first conservation infrastructures followed by wildlife and socio-economic inventories. WWF has

become the major conservation driver in the area, supporting protected area management, tourism development, land use planning, implication of the local population in natural resource management, and building partnerships with the private sector for wildlife management.

The Landscape has been supported through what used to be the Gamba Field Programme, today called the Southern Gabon Programme and which borders have been extended. One of the main strengths of the Southern Gabon Conservation Programme is its holistic (landscape) approach therefore targeting maintenance of large ecosystems, rather than restoring or rehabilitating patches of habitats or protecting specific species.

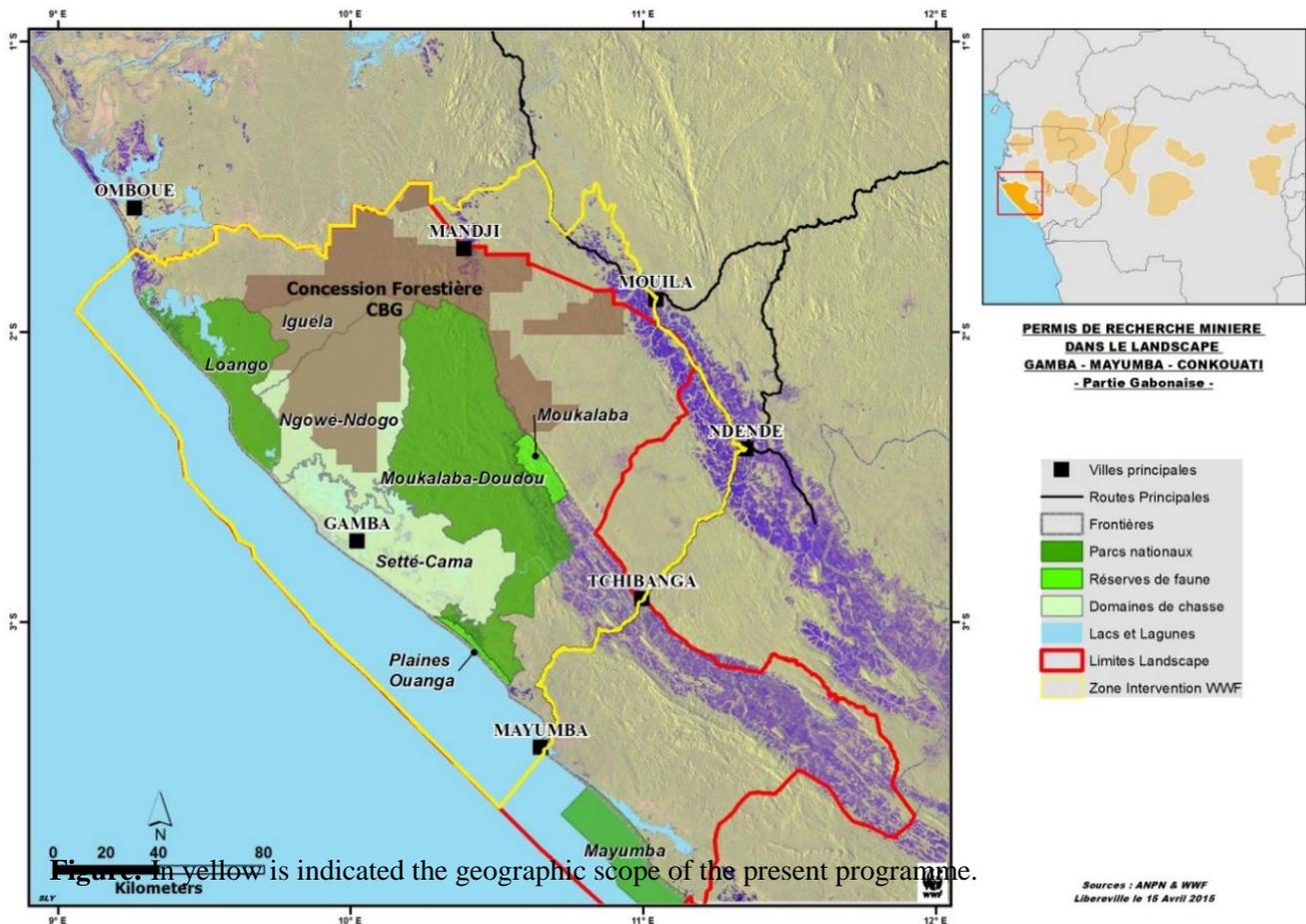


Figure. In yellow is indicated the geographic scope of the present programme.

1.2 Programme Overview

The main biodiversity targets for the Southern Conservation Programme are the:

- Forest ecosystem;
- African forest elephant;
- Great apes;
- Sea turtles.

The main threats to biodiversity throughout the landscape are caused by existing and upcoming extractive industries, the related infrastructure development and the overall weak law enforcement driven by lack of national funding and poor governance. These indirect threats lead to direct threats to biodiversity through: 1) poaching for ivory; 2) unsustainable and illegal artisanal fishing; 3) habitat loss/fragmentation and

degradation; 4) human elephant conflict; 5) antropozoonoses (diseases); 6) pollution; 7) poaching for bush meat and 8) climate change. But for the present phase, we address only:

- Poaching for ivory,
- Human elephant conflict,
- Poaching for bushmeat.

Other threats such as 1) unsustainable and illegal artisanal fishing has been handle as part of MENTOR-FISH. These threats were be addressed through three main strategies by the southern conservation programme, notably by:

Strategies	Objective
Strategy A: Saving forest elephants.	<p>1. By 2019, a multi-stakeholder platform for the monitoring and management of surveillance and anti-poaching activities in the Gamba Complex is set up</p> <p>2. By 2021, support the implementation of the anti-poaching strategy for the whole complex and makes it possible to secure NPs, PAs and their peripheral areas</p> <p>3 By 2021, ProLab unit 1 (CBG) runs with 2 teams and ProLab Unit 2 covers the 3 OLAM concessions with 2 teams within combined coverage of the Gamba complex reaching 690 935ha</p>
Strategy B: Survey in the Gamba Complex	<p>4. By 2021, at least three data collection campaigns on elephant, great apes and human activities management are supported by the private sector and conducted in their concessions.</p> <p>5. B.2. By 2021, data on elephant, great apes and human pressures and sea turtles are respectively collected in the Moukalaba-Doudou National Park and Gamba.</p>
Strategy C : Promote and support an integrated approach for Human Elephant Conflict (Approach SAFE)	<p>6. By 2021, HEC is better understanding thanks to the SAFE approach</p> <p>7. In 2021, an effective protection system against elephant raid is functional in at least 5 plantations (noisy measure using radios combined with garding</p>

Additional activities were included in the course of the programme, about one year after the launch. These include youth engagement, monitoring locations where animals access minerals and beehive fencing against elephants.

These strategies are being implemented with WWF’s long-term partners such as the National Park Agency, the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment as well as WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society), Smithsonian Institute and the local NGO’s PROGRAM, IBONGA and more over through partnerships with forestry (CBG), agro-industrial sector (Olam), oil and mining sector.

II. EVALUATION PURPOSE AND USE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

2.1 Evaluation purpose and use

The third phase of the WWF NL funded project - “*Achieving integrated conservation of Congo Basin’s most important Coastal Priority Landscape (FY19-FY21)*” will be completed in June 2021 after 36 months of implementation on the ground. We are looking for a formative evaluation of the project that serves to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the work carried out so far including possible new directions and will lead to concrete recommendations for the design of the fourth phase of the project in order to guarantee its effectiveness. We specifically want to focus the evaluation and our learning on those elements of the integrated landscape approach that pertain to local communities: community engagement in conservation, human-elephant conflict, and income and job creation.

The audience for this evaluation is as follows:

Target audience of the final report	Objectives of the evaluation regarding the target group	Relevance, added value and benefit of the evaluation report for the target audience	Actions to be considered on the level of the target audience
WWF implementing office (Southern programme team)	Help to identify the strengths and weakness of the team, Drawing key lessons learned to contribute to organizational learning	Possible new directions for the next phase and recommendations	Organize the evaluation, conduct the field mission with the evaluator, follow the redaction and finalization of the report
WWF donor office (WWF NL)	Create a space for dialogue and exchange of opinions between all the actors involved Build a similar shared programme’s vision	Assess the results of a 3 years policy, guide its implementation and increase its funding	Meetings with the evaluator Support the management response finalization Be critical during the revision of the first draft of the evaluation report

2.2 Objectives and Scope

In general the evaluation will have three objectives:

- 1- A (re)construction of the theory of change underlying the community development strategies;
- 2- A stock-taking and evaluation of what has been achieved, what has not been achieved in the project thus far, including reasons why results have (not) been achieved;
- 3- The drafting of recommendations for a fourth phase of the project that will continue to focus on protection and management of the ecosystems and exceptional terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas.

In addressing the third objective we want to give special attention to the potential for community-based tourism and how to develop this potential in the Gamba Complex.

It will be necessary to evaluate the extent to which strategies and activities conducted in Mandji, Mouila, Tchibanga and Gamba between FY19 and FY21 were able to contribute to the achievement of results. This will include field work in these districts to collect information from local communities and stakeholders.

III. EVALUATION AND GUIDING QUESTIONS

The evaluation should address the following evaluation questions:

Relevance

To what extent do project strategy and achievements demonstrate that there is a relevant approach in place to create community benefits like jobs or business opportunities, supportive of nature conservation efforts?

Efficiency

Are inputs (staff time, skills, facilities, budgets) commensurate with (expected) results, and is the project geared to adaptive management (collecting progress data and generating insights to inform programmatic changes)

Effectiveness

To what extent do project stakeholders and beneficiaries feel involved and experience benefits due to the project, and what factors determine the projects achievement of its objectives?

How are people (youth and adults) in the Gamba Complex engaged in conservation, and how would stakeholders and beneficiaries recommend that the program increases their involvement and benefits?

What is the scope for community-based tourism to develop sustainable economic activities yielding jobs and income?

Impact

What are signs of positive and/or negative impacts of the projects community development and engagement strategies on nature conservation goals?

How can impact be strengthened in the future programme?

Sustainability

How can the program ensure sustained benefits for stakeholders and communities as well as an increased or continued involvement of youth?

IV. METHODOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

We are primarily looking for a qualitative and participatory approach to this evaluation. A document review will be required, combined with interviews and/or workshops with program staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries. We are however open to any suggestions on (participatory) approaches by the evaluator that add to evaluation reliability, validity or usability.

The program team will provide the evaluator with all the documents of the project, which include those mentioned in the annex. The evaluator will additionally be required to hold a briefing meeting with the NL team in charge of the contract before carrying out a field mission in Gabon. During the field mission data collection will be done with project staff, stakeholders and communities.

At the end of the mission, a feedback meeting will be organized in Gabon, which will bring together project staff, WWF and the donor. A debriefing meeting will also be held in Gembloux when the international expert returns from the mission. These workshops can be used for sensemaking and collective identification of lessons learnt.

V. PROFILE OF EVALUATOR AND WWF SUPPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Evaluator should be bilingual (English/French) in order to be able to evaluate all of the texts and reports prepared for WWF Netherlands by WWF Gabon, as well as to communicate with WWF staff in Gabon and relevant stakeholders/partners in the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas. It is essential that the evaluator has good interview and facilitation skills, and had a proven track record of successful participatory data collection with local communities. The evaluator should also have proven experience with in the evaluation of conservation projects implemented by non-governmental organisations, as well as familiarity with all of the issues surrounding wildlife conservation and management of Protected Areas in Africa, especially the Congo basin.

For WWF support, Pierre Brice MAGANGA, the project manager of the southern program, is the resource person and will be tasked with organizing the evaluation, consolidating and providing necessary information to the evaluation. Abdel ADECHI and Régis MOUSSAVOU, will be in charge of financial aspects, Brave NZAMBA and Pauline BASS will give a support for technical aspects in Gamba respectively in Gamba and Mandji and Guy Aimé MOUSSAVOU will help for logistical arrangements.

VI. EVALUATION TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

The following *suggested* 15-day itinerary would allow the evaluator to visit key project sites as well as to conduct in-depth discussions with the project managers, field staff, partners and stakeholders. The indicative timetable for the mission is determined per day in the following table:

Location	Activities and/or Travel in Gabon	Duration of the mission in Gabon (days)														
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Libreville	Arrival in Libreville (in Evening)															
Libreville	Interviews with WWF and partners Libreville															
Mandji	Field Visit (Doussala path and saline) & Meeting with Forestry Company "CBG" representative, PROLAB team and Water and Forests local representative, farmers															
Gamba	Field visit (Plantations, bee fence pilot project, "grande Boucle" in the Loango National Park) & Meetings with local partners: Loango National Park Conservator, Chief of the Sette-Cama's Wildlife Brigade, NGO Ibonga, HomLeph NGO Smithsonian Institute, farmers, Assala representative, CCGL Président.															
Tchibanga	Interview with Moukalaba-Doudou National Park conservator															
Mouila	Interview with the Provincial Director of water and forests, visit of Olam Plantation and interview with the local representative															
Libreville	Back to Libreville															
Libreville	Interview with other stakeholders (search for additional information)															
Libreville	Debrief in the office															

The evaluation key deliverables **written in English** are the following:

- Inception report including the report of the meeting with the NL team
- A presentation (in French) of the methodology and a feedback meeting on the initial findings to the southern programme team in Gamba and to the Core team in Libreville
- A draft report (english)
- A final report (English)

A first version of the report will be submitted no later than two weeks after the end of the field mission. A suggested outline can be found in the annex. The final evaluation report should be submitted in hard copy and electronic version two weeks after receipt of comments from mission sponsors. The evaluator will include the following performance ratings in his/her analysis:

- 4: Highly Satisfactory - Results were achieved at or higher than expected level
- 3: Satisfactory - Positive achievements outweigh shortfalls
- 2: Unsatisfactory - Positive achievements are weak in relation to shortfalls or negative factors
- 1: Highly unsatisfactory- Serious deficiencies/shortfalls and few positive achievements
- N/A: Criteria not evaluated (requires explanation of why not evaluated or not applicable).

VII. BUDGET, FUNDING, AND PAYMENT TERMS

7.1 Financial conditions

The costs of the international plane ticket will be paid directly by the Program. Field trips will be provided by the Southern Program too. Accommodation, visa and airport tax costs will be reimbursed by the Program to the consultant on the basis of the original supporting documents. All amounts include any and all charges, expenses, fees and taxes. The budget available for the costs of fees and per diem of the expert amounts to 15,000 euros including tax. This amount cannot be exceeded for any reason.

7.2 Disbursement scheme

Schedule of Payments to Team Leader	Due Date	Payment %	Total €
When signing the contract	January, 07 to 13, 2021	25%	3750
Submission of draft evaluation outputs	February, 22-26 2021	50%	7500
Final payment on approval of evaluation outputs	March, 08 to 12, 2021	25%	3750
Total Payment			15 000

VIII. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals in French can be submitted until January 07th, 2021 before 13.00h Gabon time.

Applications must include the following:

- Cover letter setting out interest in and suitability for this consultancy role against the role requirements, including a statement that there are no conflicts of interest
- Proposed methodological approach
- The daily fees and the amount of per diems
- CV(s) and evidence of expertise in conducting evaluations, including qualitative participatory approaches

Please submit applications untitled **EVALUATION PROGRAMME SUD WWF GABON** to wwfgab@wwfgab.org copied to emassavala@wwfgab.org and pbganga@wwfgab.org. We will not consider proposals that do not meet submission guidelines.

The consultancy will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Relevant experience of consultant
- Proposed evaluation methodology
- Understanding of the Congo basin and nature conservation context
- Feasibility and value for money

Annexes

Documents available for review:

- The technical proposal of the southern programme (appendix 1);
- The financial proposal of the southern programme (appendix 2);
- The monitoring plan of the project (appendix 3);
- The annual work plans (appendix 4);
- The Technical Progress Reports of years 1 and 2–TPR–(appendix 5);
- The financial reports of Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 of FY19 ; of Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 of YF20 and Q1 of FY21 (appendix 6);
- The ONGs (IBONGA and Conservation Justice) grants for FY 19, FY20 and FY21 (7)
- The grant of IRAF as part of the bee hive fencing pilot project (appendix 8)
- The report of the evaluation of the third phase FY15-FY18 (appendix 9)
- The summary report of the last five years of ProLab activities (appendix 10)
- The report on the geographic distribution of HWC in Gamba (appendix 11)
- The report on Youth activities (appendix 12)
- The protocol of data collection using camera traps for large mammal’s survey in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park (appendix 13)
- The report of the installation of camera traps in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park (appendix 14)

Stakeholders to be interviewed:

The evaluator will do semi-structured interviews both with the field staff involved in the implementation of the program activities and our partners in Libreville and in the field (Rabi, Mandji, Tchibanga and Gamba). In Libreville, the assessor will meet with representatives of the Ministry of Water and Forests, the General Directorate of Protected Areas, the National Agency for National Parks, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Tourism, Olam, Conservation Justice and the Institute for Agronomic and Forest Research (IRAF).

In the field, the assessor will meet the representatives of the ministries and agencies listed above, namely the Provincial Director of Water and Forests of Ngounié (Mouila), Olam (Mouila), the head of the cantonment of Water and Forests in Mandji, the ProLab team and the WWF team (Mandji); the curator of Moukalaba-Doudou national park (Tchibanga), the curator of Loango national park and the head of the wildlife brigade of Sette-Cama, the head of the agricultural sector, Ibonga, Homme Leph, associations of farmers and farmers, IRAF and the prefecture and departmental council (Gamba).

The list of key partners by business sector is as follow:

Sectors	Stakeholders
Administrations	Ministry of Water and Forests
	General Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP)
	National Agency of National Parks (ANPN)
	Agriculture Ministry
	Tourism Ministry
	Association of beekeepers (Libreville)
	Préfecture (Département de Ndougou)
Tourism	ProLab Team
	Conseil départemental (GIC-Tourisme)
	Setté-Cama adventure
	HomLeph (Local NGO)
	Ibonga (Local NGO)
Private sector	Town hall of Gamba
	Compagnie des Bois du Gabon (CBG-logging compagny certified FSC)
	Olam (Palm Oil Compagny)
Researches Institutes	Assala (Oil compagny)
	Smithsonian Institute
NGOs	IRAF (Gabonese research Institute)
	Conservation Justice
	IBONGA (local NGO)
Farmers associations and farmers	HomLeph (Homme Eléphant -Local NGO)
	Weligha (association)
	Ghitu Ibatu (association)
	Jean Claude Mouélé (Farmer)
	Jean Alain Pampo (Farmer)
	Evelyne Moutsinga (Farmer Cheif of Sounga village)
	Lili léontine (Framer, Mandji)
	Pierre Mangama (Farmer, Mandji)
	Ange Matsatsi (Framer, Mandji)
	Dominique Maganga (Farmer, Mandji)
	Ali Maganga, head of agriculture department (Gamba)
Youth Engagement	Estelle Fisher (Teacher, Libreville)
	Benoît Planchais (Teacher, Libreville)
	Eric Gaetan Nguenkené (Teacher, Tchibanga)
	Ngoma (school life, Tchibanga)
	"Biangué Environnement"(Green club, Hugh School Tchibanga)
	Thibaud OKOUMBA (Teacher, Mandji)
	Patrick Nkamlekeu (Teacher, Mandji)
	"Conscience+" (Green club, High School of Mandji)

Suggested outline of the evaluation report:

Box Report Table of Contents Template

The following provides a suggested outline for an evaluation report. While this should be easily applied to evaluations of simpler projects or programmes, adaptation will be needed to ensure reports of more complex programmes (e.g. Country Offices, multi-country regions, eco-regions, Network Initiatives) are well organised, easy to read and navigate, and not too lengthy.

Title Page

- ✓ Report title, project or programme title, and contract number (if appropriate), Date of report, Authors and their affiliation, Locator map (if appropriate)

Executive Summary (between 2 to 4 pages)

- ✓ Principal findings and recommendations, organized by the six core evaluation criteria
- ✓ Summary of lessons learned

Acknowledgements

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Body of the report (no more than 25 pages)

A. Introduction (max 3 pages)

- ✓ Concise presentation of the project/programme characteristics
- ✓ Purpose, objectives, and intended use of the evaluation (reference and attach the ToR as an annex)
- ✓ Evaluation methodology and rationale for approach (reference and attach as annexes the mission itinerary; names of key informants; a list of consulted documents; and any synthesis tables containing project/programme information used in the exercise)
- ✓ Composition of the evaluation team, including any specific roles of team members

B. Project/Programme Overview (max 5 pages)

- ✓ Concise summary of the project or programme's history, evolution, purpose, objectives, and strategies to achieve conservation goals (attach theory of change including conceptual model, results chain or logical framework and project monitoring system as annexes)
- ✓ Essential characteristics: context, underlying rationale, stakeholders and beneficiaries
- ✓ Summarise WWF's main interest in this project or programme

C. Evaluation Findings (3-5 pages)

- ✓ Findings organised by each of the six core evaluation criteria, including sufficient but concise rationale.
- ✓ Tables, graphics, and other figures to help convey key findings

D. Recommendations (3-5pages)

- ✓ Recommendation organised each of the six core evaluation criteria, including sufficient but concise rationale – recommendations should be specific, actionable and numbered.
- ✓ Project/programme performance rating tables to provide a quick summary of performance and to facilitate comparison with other projects/programmes (see the Summary Table Part B, below).

E. Overall Lessons Learned (max 3 pages)

- ✓ Lessons learned regarding what worked, what didn't work, and why
- ✓ Lessons learned with wider relevance, that can be generalised beyond the project

F. Conclusions

- ✓ General summation of key findings and recommendations

Annexes

- ✓ Terms of Reference
- ✓ Evaluation methodology detail
- ✓ Itinerary with key informants
- ✓ Documents consulted
- ✓ Project/programme theory of change/ logical framework/ conceptual model/ list of primary goals and objectives
- ✓ Specific project/programme and monitoring data, as appropriate
- ✓ Summary tables of progress towards outputs, objectives, and goals
- ✓ Maps
- ✓ Recommendations summary table