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WWF Gabon Southern Programme Evaluation

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.

I. 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.

II. 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?



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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?

III. 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.

IV. 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.



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V. DELIVARABLES

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).

VI. BUDGET, FUNDING, AND PAYMENT TERMS

6.1 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.

6.2 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

VII. 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



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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 pomaganga@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