Implementation Status & Results
Gabon
Gabon: Strengthening Capacity for Managing National Parks and Biodiversity (P070232)

Operation Name: Gabon: Strengthening Capacity for Managing National Parks and Biodiversity (P070232)  
Project Stage: Implementation  
Seq.No: 9  
Status: ARCHIVED  
Last Modified Date: 14-Jan-2011

Country: Gabon  
Approval FY: 2006  
Product Line: Global Environment Project  
Region: AFRICA  
Implementing Agency(ies): Ministry of Forest  
Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan

Key Dates
Board Approval Date: 29-Mar-2006  
Original Closing Date: 30-Jun-2012  
Planned Mid Term Review Date: 12-May-2010  
Last Archived ISR Date: 08-Apr-2010

Effectiveness Date: 27-Dec-2007  
Revised Closing Date: 30-Jun-2012  
Actual Mid Term Review Date

Global Environmental Objectives
Global Environmental Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)
The Global Environmental Objective is: Biodiversity conservation in the Congo basin is enhanced.
The Project Development Objective is: Biodiversity is protected and managed in a sustainable way and contributes to the diversification of the national economy, through strengthened capacities of parks and wildlife authorities

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Component(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component Name</th>
<th>Component Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Strengthening of the National Parks Agency</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding Gabon’s protected area coverage</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct support to selected national parks</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife management in production landscapes</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Previous Rating</th>
<th>Current Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of GEO</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Moderately Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Implementation Progress (IP)</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Moderately Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Risk Rating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implementation Status Overview
The project has been effective since December 27, 2007; however its implementation has been delayed due to lack of continuity in staff in charge of this project, lack of knowledge...
of the WB procedures, complex institutional framework, as well as the national political situation (Presidential elections in 2009). During the Mid-term review mission (MTR) mission conducted last May 2010, it was acknowledged that this project was facing huge difficulties (rated Unsatisfactory over the past year before the MTR). A thorough restructuring process has been conducted over the past few months and the project activities have been adjusted at the technical level, to better reflect the current priorities in terms of Biodiversity conservation in Gabon as well as the new roles and mandates in this specific area. Meanwhile, the institutional arrangements of the project have been clarified (the Implementation Manual is under revision) and the disbursement rate has increased (it is now 35 percent in comparison to 22 percent during the MTR) and is likely to significantly increase during the 1st quarter of CY 2011 (cf. new contracts).

The restructuring is a Level 1 as there is a need to adjust the PDO: it is indeed proposed to simplify and re-align the Project Development Objective with the one indicated in the Legal Agreement. As matter of fact, the PDO originally in the GEF PAD read as follows: “Biodiversity is protected and managed in a sustainable way and contributes to the diversification of the national economy, through strengthened capacities of parks and wildlife authorities”. Since the contribution to “the diversification of the national economy” is difficult to measure during the life of the Project, the following language is proposed: “The Project Development Objective is to (i) enhance the conservation of biodiversity in selected National Parks and buffer zones and (ii) strengthen the management capacity of selected conservation-related entities in Gabon”. The indicators will also be adjusted as there were considered overly ambitious and difficult to monitor. The new indicators will be reflected in the Next ISR as soon as the Restructuring process is completed. In the ISR, the team has reported on the previous indicators.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Environmental Objective Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>End Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator Name</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>End Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 million hectares of areas suitable for biodiversity protection status identified and proposed for formal gazettment by Year 5.</td>
<td>3000000.00</td>
<td>9500000.00</td>
<td>10000000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit of Measure</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hectare(Ha)</td>
<td>Gabon has a target of 4 million ha of natural ecosystems under protection. Three million ha of national parks were created in 2002. The additional 1 million hectare remains to be identified.</td>
<td>All the (3) sites have been pre-identified and biological inventories, as well as socio-economic surveys, have been launched in townsites.</td>
<td>The additional 1 million ha of protected areas is identified and proposed for formal gazettment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Intermediate Results Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator Name</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>End Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National Park Agency is operational both at the HQ and National Park level</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>27-Dec-2007</td>
<td>22-Dec-2010</td>
<td>30-Jun-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>ANPN formally created. Staff newly appointed</td>
<td>ANPN is operational. Staff appointed, FM system in place and operational. M&amp;E system to be developed.</td>
<td>ANPN operational with appropriate staff and systems (financial, HR, M&amp;E)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data on Financial Performance (as of 30-Dec-2010)

#### Financial Agreement(s) Key Dates
Key Decisions Regarding Implementation

The restructuring process launched during the mid-term review conducted on May 2010 has already significantly improve the performance of the project with the launching of activities on the ground and an increased rate of disbursement. The ANPN is now in charge of piloting the project, in close coordination with the Ministry of Forests. Partnerships with international NGOs (WWF and WCS) have been renewed while new partnerships with local NGOs, to promote local development projects and consultation around the National Parks have been forged. The FM and Procurement functions have largely improved. An 12month extension has been requested as part of the restructuring process, which sets the new closing date on June 30, 2013.

Additionally there was a need to also adjust the Indicators (and specifically the KPI) to better reflect the new PDO and also because the original indicators were considered too ambitious and difficult to monitor.

Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Projects

P070196-Gabon Natural Resources Management Development Policy Loan