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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for supporting the development of Gabon "Integrated Drivers program" proposal:  
Objectives, expected outcomes, activities, planning, implementing roadmap and budget

WWF GCPO

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### BACKGROUND

Since 2002, Gabon has enjoyed strong recognition by the international community for its environmental policy. Often cited as an example in Central Africa, this policy has become more entrenched in the country's general policies since 2009, integrating environmental issues into planning (Gabon Vert in the Strategic Development Plan for Gabon, National Climate Plan, National Land-use Plan, France-Gabon Debt Conversion, framework law on sustainable development, etc.). Gabon has made a political commitment to conservation and sustainable natural resource management by securing 15% of its territory as protected areas. This is one of its three strategic pillars of the "Green Gabon" with "green economy" approach including national land-use planning, developing a system for environmental accounting, and considering greenhouse-gas emissions in development projects. This demonstrates a vision of sustainable development based on the protection and enhancement of its exceptional natural heritage.

Although Gabon's low human population density has left the biodiversity and natural resources relatively intact until now, new economic diversification policies increase pressure, despite the country's commitments to environmental protection. The private sector has had a significant influence on policies for diversification through the development of forestry, mining, infrastructure and associated services and agro-industrial activities, including historical European partners as well as new, predominantly Asiatic, partners. As non-forestry development has intensified, new land-use conflicts have arisen due to weakness of current spatial planning and spatial planning frameworks, endangering both the natural capital associated with forests, and the well-being of rural populations who are heavily dependent on these forests for their survival.

Ultimately, the challenge for Gabon is to successfully take environmental commitments and issues into account in its policies and implementation for economic diversification. Many conditions are met and opportunities exist to make the country succeed in this effort. Major challenges remain, notably the human and institutional capacities at central and provincial level and the development of governance structures that can ensure continuity of the application of environmental policy, durability of positive results for biodiversity, population well-being and poverty alleviation, irrespective of the institutional, political and economic context of the country.

Based on his background work in the Congo Basin, its relevant expertise and presence at local place, WWF-Gabon proposes to develop and implement an "Integrated Drivers program" to accompany the



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Government in its diversification objective; this programme aims at ensuring that the country transforms its economy towards increased resilience and sustainability, by addressing interlinked issues of key drivers: Governance, Markets and Finances, working at national and local scale. This will also contribute to WWF Global priorities and will build bridges between global drivers as focus of WWF Global Practices, and local solution through Gabon Country Program Office (GCPO) new Strategic Plan.

The main objective of the “Gabon integrated drivers program” is to support the creation of enabling political, legislative and social environment to effectively apply Gabon’s sustainable development ambitions and develop further a greener economy in the country.

More specifically, the program will aim at:

- Providing relevant information on real values of Gabon’s natural capital, analyzing different economic scenarios, documenting the potential and cumulative impacts of conflicts between conservation and other land-uses at national level, and influencing decisions to integrate all costs in decision-making processes.
- Identifying and influencing investments, ensuring large investments do effectively take into account the full value of natural resources when exploited or threatened by economic plans; the program will also seek and facilitate the flow of “green funds”. (Energy and Climate, Forest, Finance practices).
- Engaging with the Private Sector (with a special focus on Palm Oil development and logging) to ensure the highest Corporate Social and Environmental standards in their investments and operations, promoting FSC, RSPO and other standards (Market, Forest, Food Practices).

WWF-Gabon therefore needs support from a consultant to develop a full proposal for this “integrated drivers program”.

#### PURPOSE OF CONSULTANT WORK

The work must be considered as a development of a full project proposal with clear objectives, expected outcomes, activities, planning, implementing road map and budget in order to contribute in implementing the strategy 2 of the WWF GCPO Conservation Strategy 2017-2021

The following drivers have been identified as key for Congo Basin/Gabon:

- Consumption/markets: Government and private sector in agriculture (eg industrial palm oil plantations and projet GRAINE for small holders), mining, infrastructure and forestry developments (which do not apply ecologically based Land Use Planning and respect Best Management Practices).
- Governance: Development strategies, policies and investment decisions related to the National Strategic Plan (PSGE) and his central pillar Gabon Vert (Green Gabon Vert), which do not



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integrate the real value of natural capital through environmental accounting and ecologically based Land Use Planning.

- Finance: The private sector who finances investments in Gabon, and does not use sustainability criteria nor finance tools like "Green funds" or "Environmental Bonds" to finance the economic diversification mentioned above oriented towards forest cover maintenance and sustainable production.

#### PRESSURES AND RELEVANCE OF THE "GABON INTEGRATED DRIVERS PROGRAM"

- Industrial agriculture (identified as priority by Africa's Ecological future, WWF-Gabon SP, Forest-, Food- and Wildlife Practices): to be addressed through ecologically based Land Use Planning, best management practices incl. RSPO.
- Infrastructure (identified as priority by Africa's Ecological future, WWF-Gabon SP, Forest-, and Wildlife Practices): to be addressed through ecologically based Land Use Planning.
- Mining (identified as priority by Africa's Ecological future, WWF-Gabon SP, Forest- and Wildlife Practices): to be addressed through ecologically based Land Use Planning, best management practices.
- Logging (identified as priority by WWF-Gabon SP, Forest Practice): to be addressed through best management practices according to FSC and halting illegal logging.

This integrated Drivers program will diminish these threats by a holistic approach based on conducive legal and institutional frameworks, supportive private sector and enabled civil society. The overall budget of the program is initially 900 000 € for a period of 3 years, possibly the budget will be increased with 450 000 € to be focused on palm oil sector.

This program will take stock of the Integrated Drivers program in Chili which has similar goals and approaches. The program will focus on Gabon as jurisdictional landscape to approach all drivers in a coherent and coordinated approach. The regional palm Oil coordinator will provide support on the palm oil issues in Gabon while also representing the Gabon program in the Food practice to ensure global backing of relevant WWF offices when engaging with national actors that are relevant to the Gabon program. The Gabon coordinator for this program is also responsible for implementing the Forest program thus assuring harmonization between the forest and agriculture programs and other drivers in Gabon.

#### KEY ACTIVITIES and INDICATIVE TIMING

##### Preparatory work from home: 5 days

1. Reading key documents including WWF GCPO Strategic Plan, Africa's Ecological future, Forest-, Food- and Wildlife Practices strategies, Strategic Development Plan for Gabon, National Climate Plan of Gabon, National Sustainable development law, "Gabon Vert" Operational Plan, Gaborone



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Government engagement, National Land-use Plan selected technical reports, planned activities, regional and national economic situation, commitment/visions from Gabon for its development, Regional palm oil strategy, regional institutional environment including the role of regional and continental bodies (ECCAS, AfDB, etc.), ECCAS Regional strategy for sustainable palm oil in Central Africa), Gabon readiness and preparatory support proposal, etc. Integrated Drivers program in Chili. Evaluation of WWF-Gabon Green Economy program FY15-17. Recent regional WWF initiatives like Transformational project on Forest, Food.

2. Collect relevant information on policies regarding Natural Capital in Gabon including the Natural Capital national Team composed by four members of the ANPN, Ministry of the foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Economy and the representative of the board for the Gabon Emergent National plan.
3. Summarize available relevant information on "Green funds" or "Environmental Bonds" and identify possible role WWF towards the Gabon Green Climate Fund team composed by "Conseil National Climat" and "Caisse de Depot et de Consignation" (CDC).
4. Summarize available information on the palm oil sector relevant to Gabon under the Marakech declaration, Regional palm oil strategy, Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 and other international agreements, RSPO jurisdictional approaches, Gabon RSPO standards, small holder working group, policies of private companies (eg OIAM), project Graine and identify possible role WWF
5. Summarize available information relevant to Gabon in the regional Forest program and WWF Forest transformational project and identify possible role WWF.
6. Familiarize with proposal requirements from the main donors (WWF-Netherlands, Agence Francaise de Developpement).

#### Time in Gabon:

7. Briefing meeting with the Country Office Director, SMT, Regional Palm Oil Program Coordinator, and other national technical staffs based in Libreville to finalize the framing of the mission. (1 day)
8. Meetings with thematic groups of selected partners : Natural Capital, Green Climate Fund, Forest (Government, private sector), Palm Oil (Government, private sector including small holders) and CSOs (2,5 days)
9. Consolidation of the group meeting results (0,5)
10. Develop the goal, objectives, outcomes, budget and workplan with the WWF team using the WWF PPMS standards (4 days)
11. Develop the first draft of the proposal based on previous consultation (6 days)
12. Share with WWF GCPO, WWF NL and WWF FR the draft proposal for comments and feedback and finalize the full proposal. (4 days)

#### Travel

13. International travel (2 days)



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## OUTPUTS

The consultant will produce:

- Minute of consultation and the group meetings
- A draft project proposal in Network Standard format related to the implementation and monitoring of the "Integrated drivers program", highlighting:
  - key partners WWF would need to engage
  - goal, objectives, outcomes, activities, budget and workplan
- The final project proposal submitted to WWF GCPO

## QUALIFICATION PROFILE

- Expertise in Africa socioeconomic and ecological contexts with focus on Gabon;
- Expertise in development of project proposals implemented by international conservation organizations, preferably PPMS;
- Expertise in Natural Capital valuation, Green funds,
- Familiarity with the issues surrounding environmental best practice policies and implementation in palm oil, forest and related infrastructure development;
- Relevant technical experiences in multi expertise areas (natural resources, forestry, agriculture, economy, ...)
- Excellent English writing skills, good French reading and speaking skills

## MISSION SCHEDULE

Major Task/Output	Days
Preparatory work	5
Travel to Gabon and return	2
Briefing meeting	1
Consultation and group meetings	2,5
Consolidation of the group meeting results	0,5
Definition of Goal, Objectives, Activities, workplan and budget	4
Draft proposal	6
Revision and final project proposal	4
Total	25

Planning:

The final report needs to be delivered by 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.