

## ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

**Project ID and Title:** 00088535 - Expansion and Strengthening of Angola's Protected Area System

**Award ID:** 00078044

**Period:** 2016-2021

**Total Project Budget:** 5,800,000 USD

**2020. Annual Work Plan Budget:**

**Implementation Modality:** NIM

**Implementing Partner:** National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation Areas – INBAC under Ministry of Environment

**National Priority or Goal:** Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development - Result 3.2:  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCTION OF RISKS AND DISASTERS

**UNPAF Outcome involving UNDP:** Support Area #4) Strengthened pro-poor economic growth and accountable macro-economic management and integrated rural development, natural resources and energy management to promote environmental protection and adaptation to climate change.

**Expected Country Programme Output:** Output 4.1) Legal and regulatory frameworks and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, access to and benefit-sharing of environmental resources in line with international conventions and national legislations.

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## **I. Executive summary**

Due to both external and internal factors, during the reported period the project as had a very low implementation rate.

The organization of its first steering committee in July 2020, the approval of a no-costs extension request of 18 months, and the contracting of key activities, were key milestones of the reporting period.

The project also recorded achievement of activities contracted in previous years, and resolution of activities which implementation had been blocked until then.

Project management has been particularly struggling during this period, with stronger external pressure on its resources, while institutional resources were drying out.

In the reported period, the project spent USD 711,706.97.

## **II. Background**

The project "Expansion and strengthening of protected areas in Angola" has been designed seizing the opportunity of the GEF5 funding round.

It is based on the identification of a highly diverse biodiversity whose protection is affected by 2 major barriers, being 1) the inadequate capacity and financial frameworks at the central level for protected areas expansion; 2) the lack of on-site operational capacity and resources to effectively manage and mitigate the threats to conservation.

The project thus aims at enhancing the management effectiveness - including operational effectiveness and ecosystem representation - of Angola's Protected Area System, with due consideration for its overall sustainability, including ecological, institutional and financial sustainability. Reinforcing national level management will allow the creation of additional protected areas, expanding the diversity of ecosystems and species under protection status.

At site level, the project will result in improved infrastructures and management frameworks in five existing protected areas: Quiçama National Park, Cangandala National Park, Bicular National Park and Maiombe National Park. Although not initially included at the signature of project proposal, Luando Strict Nature Reserve was further included in the group of supported protected areas and will benefit from project funding.

## **III. Progress Review**

**Outcome 1 The legal, planning, policy, institutional and financial frameworks for protected area expansion are strengthened**

On the margin of the project, but significant enough to be mentioned, regarding legal framework and capacity for biodiversity conservation in Angola:

- on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Angola National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2025, (NBSAP 2019-2025) was adopted.

- in April 2020 was approved the new law of Environmental Conservation Areas (Lei 8/20 do 16 de Abril de 2020, das Áreas de Conservação Ambiental), which brings categorization of protection closer to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s protection categories. Following the adoption of the law, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment (MCTA) asked the project to support the review of the protected areas system regarding protection categories and size of existing PAs. The Ministry decided to allow first the elaboration of the implementation decree of the law, which started during the second semester of 2020 and is ongoing.

### 1.1 The institutional capacity to plan and implement protected area expansion is established and strengthened

The GEF5 project team was finally allocated an office, that they equipped in order to carry out the meetings necessary for procurement, contracts management, project coordination. INBAC chiefs of department also took part more regularly in the project planning and implementation leading to a better harmonization with INBAC calendar and activities.

### 1.2 A protected area expansion programme is effectively implemented



Among the 3 proposals contracted with the Consortium University of Dresden and University Kampa Vita (PPA Serra de Pingano), and Holísticos (PPA Cumbira Forest and PPA Morro de Moco) in 2019, the proposal for the creation of a protected area for Cumbira Forest has been finalized and a first public consultation has been held partly in

presential and partly online.

Meanwhile, the proposals for Serra de Pingano and Morro de Moco have progressed and are likely to be finalized in 2021 first semester.

One step back has been experienced though, with the cancellation of her contract by the consultant contracted to carry out the SESP for the 3 proposed protected areas, due to impossibility of dislocation from Portugal in the ongoing pandemic context.

### 1.3 The financial sustainability of the expanded protected area network is improved

By the end of the reported period, the project signed a contract with Mundi Consulting, for the elaboration of a strategy for financial sustainability of protected areas system and implementation plan, which had initially been published in 2018 without success (not one proposal received).

## **Outcome 2 Three existing National Parks are rehabilitated, and their management improved (Cangandala, Bicular and Quiçama)**

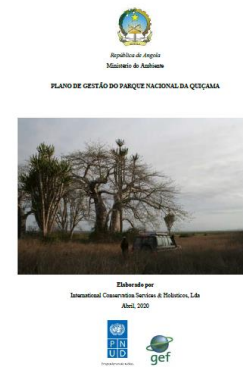
In the last quarter of 2020, the project launched a public call for training 250 ex-military to become protected areas rangers. The process of contracting is ongoing.

### **2.1 Activity Rehabilitate and improve the management of Quiçama National Park.**

In March 2020, INBAC approved Quiçama NP Management plan 2019-2029.

By October 2020, the project has signed a contract with a conservation civil society organization, Bioconserv, to study community-based tourism opportunities in Quiçama National Park. The contract is ongoing.

In December, the project signed a contract with Barima Lda, winner of the public call for installing a radio communication system to help monitoring Quiçama NP northern half.



### **2.2 Activity Rehabilitate, and improve the management of, Cangandala National Park**

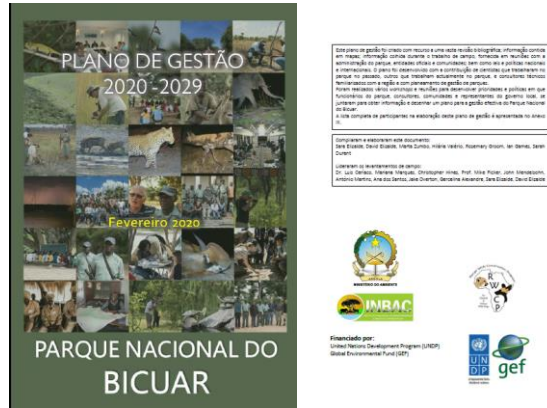
In October 2020, on behalf of GEF5 project the Provincial Directorate of the Environment and Cangandala National Park Administrator organised a public consultation in order to identify alongside communities what were the activities that could be developed for their benefit and the benefit of the park. It appeared the necessity to strengthen environmental education.



### **2.3 Activity Rehabilitate, and improve the management of, Bicular National Park**

In March 2020, INBAC approved Bicular NP Management Plan.

In September 2020, the project funded the purchase of 2 water pumps, after 2 existing ones broke down, as a result of absence of maintenance and low water levels. In addition, a maintenance contract was signed for a year covering all 5 water pumps installed in the park by the project.



In 2019 a public call had been launched for beekeeping in communities around and in the park as a mean of improving livelihoods while mitigating human elephant conflicts. A new competitive procurement process allowed to sign a contract with a new company, Rei do Mel, in December 2020.

#### IV. Project Risks and Issues

The reported period has been affected by 3 major issues, that are still ongoing:

##### 1) Pandemic COVID19

The limited activities implemented in 2020 is partly due to the impossibility to leave Luanda (sanitary cordon) from March (hiring of Project coordinator) and to October 2020 (softening of the measures to leave Luanda and enter Namibe Province). To those limitation we can add the restrictive measures in organizing workshops, although internet quality between Luanda and Namibe province isn't good enough to ensure proper information sharing and debate.

##### 2) Government reorganization and politics

In April 2020, under the announced objective to reduce the expenses weighting on the State Budget 2020, the government was reorganized from 28 to 21 Ministries. Among the fusions, the ministry of Environment entered a new Ministry, alongside Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment has been led by a first Minister with an Environment background between April to October 2020. In July, the Director of INBAC was replaced by a Director interim (up to now).

In October the ministry of Environment was demoted, in favour of a new Minister with a Culture background, Secretary of State for the Environment being the Minister demoted in April 2020. The year was thus marked by lack of clarity in activities authorization and sometimes long interruption in implementation due to administrative course to be clarified.

In GEF5 the reorganization of the government translated into various process being stuck without approval to be published for almost half a year. Without the project extension it would have been impossible to implement those activities.

## **a. Updated project risks and actions**

### Project Risk 1: Implementation

In 2021, the project must spend 1,5million USD. This would require an increased commitment from the team, a better coordination between the team, the direction of the project and the Ministry. The risk is high that the project eventually returns part of its budget due to low implementation rate.

*Actions taken: At Ministry's level, UNDP agreed on regular meeting to point out urgent issues to be addressed.*

*At INBAC level, a meeting has been asked by IP to discuss with UNDP how to go about project implementation this year.*

*At team level, a working session has been done to review all pending activities to the end of the project, and plan when they would be carried out, reaching the conclusion of an heavy workload at the beginning of 2021, following months being for monitoring of activities.*

### Project Risk 2: Economic

The progressive opening of protected areas to oil prospection (on land and sea) through Presidential authorization could significantly reduce the capacity of action/impact of conservation actors.

*Actions taken: UNDP already works alongside the Government and other international actors to foster the diversification of the economy away from oil industry.*

### Project Risk 3: Operational

The sanitary belt on Luanda (since March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020) continues to impact travel to project site (e.g. one flight per week to Lubango, so either travel by car, or telecommuting in Lubango until the next flight when activities in the park are done) and meetings arrangements (e.g. public consultation in Uíge can't be organized with the consultant currently out of the country). Moreover, the economic context can create an additional barrier to behaviour change.

*Actions taken: The project has been encouraged to organize video conferences when possible, but it has also asked support from Provincial Director for the Environment (e.g. Public consultation in Cangandala)*

## **b. Updated project issues and actions**

Project Issue 1:

*Actions taken:*

Project Issue 2:

*Actions taken:*

## **V. Lessons Learned**

Successes:

During the last quarter, the project received the approval of its extension request, which can be interpreted as a recognition of project capacity to implement the last activities and achieve its goal.

Difficulties encountered:

The project continues to have difficulties implementing community related activities.

Planned steps forward:

The project team acknowledged the necessity to speed up the pace of administrative management of the project on IP's side, and planned activities accordingly.

## **VI. Conclusions and Way Forward**

Early in the reporting period, activities contracted in 2018-2019 were finalized. Although the COVID19 pandemic and reorganization of the government paralyzed many of project's activities, the elaboration of proposals of creation of new protected areas carried on, even slowly, which allowed the reception of 1 out of 3 proposals.

The approval of project extension until November 2022 provides an additional opportunity to lead the project to its goal, and to support some positive evolutions in legal and institutional conservation framework.

By the end of the year the project succeeded in launching new processes related to financial sustainability of protected areas network, benefit from conservation for communities, mitigation of human elephant conflict, equipment for monitoring protected areas.

Gaining the necessary momentum to achieve qualitative results will be 2021 major challenge, although degrading conservation and economic context may increase pressure on project implementation.

## VII. Financial Status<sup>1</sup>

United Nations Development Programme  
Interim Financial Report to the Angola  
As of 31 December 2020



Contributions reference no:  
Country: Angola  
Project: 00078044 - Expansion & Strengthening Angola Protect Areas System  
Output: 00088535 - Expansion & Strengthening of A  
Output status: On Going  
Fund: GEF Voluntary Contribution

(in United States dollars)

	Prior years (1)	2020 (2)	Cumulative to 2020 (3)
<b>Income/Revenue</b>			
Annual Contributions Revenue <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-
Other Revenue <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-
Transfer to/from other funds	-	-	-
Refunds to donors	-	-	-
<b>Total - Income/Revenue</b>	-	-	-
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff and other personnel costs	-	-	-
Supplies, commodities, materials	164,106.66	25,405.39	189,512.05
Equipment, vehicle and furniture including depreciation	1,183,367.76	112,242.83	1,295,610.59
Contractual services	1,019,073.36	511,813.22	1,530,886.58
Travel	87,284.45	6,264.71	93,549.16
Transfers and grants to counterparts	-	-	-
General operating and other direct costs	306,707.59	55,980.82	362,688.41
Subtotal	2,760,539.82	711,706.97	3,472,246.79
Programme support costs <sup>c</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	2,760,539.82	711,706.97	3,472,246.79
<b>Balance<sup>d</sup></b>	(2,760,539.82)	(3,472,246.79)	(3,472,246.79)
<b>Future Expenses<sup>e</sup></b>			
Balance of un-depreciated assets & inventory purchased	-	-	-
Commitments	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
<b>Receivables Past due, less advance receipts<sup>f</sup></b>			
Less: Contributions receivable from donors	-	-	-
<b>Available Resources<sup>g</sup></b>	(2,760,539.82)	(3,472,246.79)	(3,472,246.79)
<b>Total Contributions Revenue<sup>h</sup></b>	-	-	-
<b>Total Contributions Revenue Received<sup>i</sup></b>	-	-	-
<b>Total Receivables<sup>j</sup></b>	-	-	-
<b>Deferred Revenue and Advance Receipts<sup>k</sup></b>	-	-	-

a. Contributions represent recognized revenue based on the payment schedule dates of signed agreements.  
b. Other Revenue represents revenue resulting from miscellaneous activities.  
c. Programme support (indirect) cost is calculated based on the expenses excluding amounts of foreign exchange gain/loss.  
d. Balance in column (2) is inclusive of balance in column (1).  
e. Amounts in column (2) are the balances outstanding as of the report date which are included in the available resources. Amounts in column (1) are shown for information purpose only.  
f. Balance after future expenses, and contributions receivable from donors (i.e. amounts past due) have been accounted for.  
g. Total value of donor contribution as per the signed date of the agreement.  
h. Total cash received to-date.  
i. Total outstanding amount due from donors, comprising both past due and future due receivables.  
j. Contributions that have been received from donors but yet to be recognized as revenue in future years when payment schedules are realized.

This is to certify that the above statement of revenue, expenses and available resources is correct and that the expenses were incurred in connection with the approved projects for which funds have been received.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.

Disclaimer: UNDP adopted IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) on 1 January 2012, cumulative totals that include data prior to that date are presented for illustration only.

## VIII. Annex

### Media coverage

22/05/2020 <https://www.ao.undp.org/content/angola/pt/home/imprensa/dia-internacional-da-biodiversidade-destaca-natureza-como-fonte-.html>

5/06/2020 <https://www.ao.undp.org/content/angola/pt/home/imprensa/pelo-ambiente--redescobrimos-os-nossos-tesouros.html>

9/06/2020 <https://www.ao.undp.org/content/angola/pt/home/imprensa/MCTAPNUD.html>

30/01/2020 <https://www.thegef.org/news/vast-angolan-national-park-rangers-wear-many-hats#:~:text=Manuel%20Sebasti%C3%A3o%20Afon%C3%A7o%20has%20a,million%20hectares%2C%20to%20be%20exact.>

2/03/ 2020 [http://m.portalangop.co.ao/angola/pt\\_pt/noticias/ambiente/2020/2/10/Angola-reforca-proteccao-biodiversidade,8449e559-df52-4f1c-927c-46d52477bfe2.html](http://m.portalangop.co.ao/angola/pt_pt/noticias/ambiente/2020/2/10/Angola-reforca-proteccao-biodiversidade,8449e559-df52-4f1c-927c-46d52477bfe2.html)

18/06/2020 <http://videos.sapo.ao/UjplZqz5sE0VbBmLmvE5>

03.10.2020 <https://www.facebook.com/1626099741005279/posts/2810080445940530/?sfnsn=mo>