Promoting a climate-resilient agriculture sector to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and to reduce deforestation in Sud-Ubangi province

Democratic Republic of the Congo | OSS

4 December 2019
Simplified Approval Process Concept Note

Project/Programme title: Promoting a climate-resilient agriculture sector to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and to reduce deforestation in Sud-Ubangi province

Country(ies): Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)

National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA): National Coordination of the Green Climate Fund

Executing Entities: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Humana People to People Congo (HPP-Congo), World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): Sahara and Sahel Observatory

Date of first submission/ version number: 12/4/2019  V.1

Date of current submission/ version number: 12/4/2019  V.1

Eligibility for SAP is determined by the review of the concept note and the ESS screening.
## A. Project / Programme Information (max. 1 page)

### A.1. Project or programme

- **☒ Project**
- **☐ Programme**

### A.2. Public or private sector

- **☒ Public sector**
- **☐ Private sector**

### A.3 RFP

- **Not applicable**

### A.4. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme

**Mitigation:** Reduced emissions from:
- **☒ Energy access and power generation:** 20%
- **☐ Low emission transport:** 0%
- **☐ Buildings, cities and industries and appliances:** 0%
- **☒ Forestry and land use:** 20%

**Adaptation:** Increased resilience of:
- **☒ Most vulnerable people and communities:** 20%
- **☒ Health and well-being, and food and water security:** 20%
- **☐ Infrastructure and built environment:** 0%
- **☒ Ecosystem and ecosystem services:** 20%

### A.5. Impact potential

- **A.5.1. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO2eq over project lifespan)**
  - 2,850 tCO2eq

- **A.5.2. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries)**
  - 70,000 direct beneficiaries

- **A.5.3. Estimated adaptation impact (number of indirect beneficiaries)**
  - 930,000 indirect beneficiaries

- **A.5.4. Estimated adaptation impact (% of total population)**
  - 1.28% of the country’s total population

### A.6. Financing information

- **A.6.1. Indicative GCF funding requested (max 10M)**
  - Amount: 9,423,970  Currency: USD  Financial Instrument: Grants

- **A.6.2. Indicative co-financing**

- **A.6.3. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)**
  - Amount: 9,423,970  Currency: USD

- **A.6. Estimated duration of project/programme:**
  - Disbursement period: 60
  - Repayment period, if applicable: 60
  - **A.7.2. Estimated project/Programme lifespan**
  - 240

- **A.8. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility needed?**
  - **☒ Yes**
  - **☐ No**

- **A.9. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?**
  - **☒ Yes**
  - **☐ No**

- **A.10. Provide rationale for the ESS categorization (100 words)**
  - The project is categorized as C. It will implement activities with smallholder farmers, which are context-specific and based on socio-economic conditions and the landscape at the zone of intervention. No major infrastructure investments are involved. The project will include activities on small-scale farming plots, restoration of community forests and
woodlots, adopting agroforestry systems, livelihood diversification and capacity building activities. The project is participatory and gender-sensitive, and takes into account natural ecosystems in its design.

Environmental and social screening considered health and safety, adverse impacts on beneficiaries and environment, protected sites and other potential negative impacts and no specific risks and impacts were identified that would require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

A.11. Has the CN been shared with the NDA? ☒ Yes ☐ No

A.12. Confidentiality ☐ Confidential ☒ Not confidential

A.13. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)

The project addresses GHG emissions resulting from high rates of deforestation, that are the consequence of poor natural resource management, damaging agriculture practices and the vulnerability of the population and resulting coping mechanisms. It addresses also the adaptation needs of vulnerable population groups. It will do so by building capacities at local level for climate change management and by developing zero-deforestation agriculture and forest-friendly alternative livelihood options, thereby increasing the resilience of the population as well as of the ecosystems.

The project will be executed by a partnership between government bodies, HPP-Congo and ICRAF. The MEDD will be responsible for the management of environmental and social risks.

B. Project / Programme details

B.1. Context and Baseline (500 words)

Context: The project will be implemented in the province of Sud-Ubangi. The project site is located in the north and south-west of peat land areas in the territories of Gemena and Kungu. Sud-Ubangi has a tropical climate with rainforests, wetlands, valuable peatlands and some minor grasslands. However, closed evergreen rainforests, on still-visible hydro-morphic soils at Kungu (Makengo) and Gemena have almost entirely disappeared as a result of deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture, and is being replaced by an anthropogenic savannah. The majority of the Sud-Ubangi population relies on agriculture for subsistence and cash crops. People also hunt, fish and gather medicinal and edible plants from the forest, as well as wood for charcoal production. In and around urban centres, people are involved in trade and commerce. The population is markedly young, with 42% of people being under the age of 15. Basic infrastructure is missing: less than 1% of the population has access to electricity, and equally, less than 1% of households have access to safe drinking water. Access to public services is limited. Food crop production chains are for the most part inexistent or abandoned. Only the Palm Oil and Coffee value chain show some form of development.

Various initiatives have addressed the agriculture sector in Sud-Ubangi, of which the World Bank project “Projet d’Appui à la Rehabilitation et la Rélance du secteur Agricole” (PARRSA) being the most recent key intervention. The current project builds upon structures set up and results achieved by PARRSA, including the results achieved with the introduction of improved varieties of manioc and maize that benefited 17,000 farmers. It will also continue training seed-multipliers using the same methodology developed under the PARRSA program[1].

Climate baseline and projections: Sud-Ubangi does not benefit from reliable data from weather stations, hence the climate profile in the area is based on data from the central government. The average temperature over one year in Sud-Ubangi ranges from 24°C to 26°C. The dry season lasts 3
to 4 months and the rainy season lasts 8 to 9 months and sees 100-to-250 mm of rainfall per month. During the rainy season the rain often comes down in storms or strong rains. Over the course of one year, on average some 1,500 to 1,800 mm of rain fall over 114 days (GoDRC, 2016). Climate change in the DRC is evident from records, as temperature has been increasing by 0.25°C per decade. Optimistic projections estimate an increase by 1.5 to 3°C by 2100 as compared to the 1990 baseline (combination SRES B1, RCP4.5 and RCP2.6), while pessimistic projections estimate a temperature increase between 3.6 and 6°C (combination SRES A2 and RCP 8.5). Temperature rise forecasts are slightly below average in the north, nevertheless a significant increase in temperature is expected, with potentially devastating impacts on already vulnerable populations and ecosystems. Although the scenarios do not foresee dramatic changes in overall rainfall, changes in variability and intensity of extreme events are projected, as well as increased evapotranspiration. During the dry season in 2017, water levels in the Congo River were at their lowest point in more than a century, indicating another significant threat for future subsistence.

**GHG Profile:** The GoDRC is committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 17% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario (estimated at 430 Mt CO2eq), avoiding over 70 Mt CO2eq per year of emissions (NDC, 2015). The geographical area of intervention is identified as a priority area by the National Fund for REDD+ (FONAREDD), as deforestation rates of 2.68% per year are higher than the national rate of 2.34%. Deforestation rates are driven by agriculture, firewood extraction and charcoal production.

**Alignment with National Policies:** The current project is anchored in the mitigation and adaptation priorities identified in the NDC. Adaptation efforts in the project are aligned with the framework of the NAPA[1] and contributes to the first two priority areas: securing livelihoods and livelihoods; lifestyles of rural communities and the sound management of forest resources. The NAPA identifies strengthened agriculture production capacity as one of the three key adaptation strategies to cope with climate change, and the scope of the project aims to contribute to that. The project furthermore aligns to programs identified by the NDC: PANA-ASA (2010-2013) on the adoption of the agricultural sector to improve resilience, followed by PANA-ASA 2, which targets resilient economic growth and adaptation to climate change and finally PANA-FE (2015-2020), which aims to strengthen the resilience of women and children to climate change. The proposed project works in the same thematic areas of agriculture and strengthening resilience of rural populations. The participation of MEDD will secure that lessons learned from positive results achieved by the PANA programs, in the provinces of Lomami, Upper Katanga, Kongo Central and Kwilu, will be applied in the current project. Specifically, the project will build on lessons learned from the revitalization and strengthening of value chains, as in PANA-ASA (1 and 2). The project is furthermore aligned with PANA programs' objectives, including farmers' adoption of improved soil management and agricultural practices and climate resilient income-generating activities. Just as the PANA-FE, the project will promote the understanding of climate risks and their management, will support alternative and diversified livelihood options, and will build the capacities of rural and vulnerable households.

The project is in line with the national strategy for REDD+, as well as other national programs including the NAMA, the National Plan of Agricultural Investment (PNIA), the Strategic Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction (DSCRP), the Forest Code, the Sustainable Biodiversity Management Policy and the National Export Strategies and the Development of Commercialization. In addition, the project contributes to the implementation of DRC’s and Law N ° 11/009 of 09 July 2011 relating to the Environmental, Social and Climate Impact Assessments.
Root causes and vulnerabilities: The root causes that the project addresses are the high dependency on unsustainable agriculture practices, limited access to essential services, limited assets, extreme poverty and resulting negative coping mechanisms. Agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering are the main livelihood activity for 92% of rural households in the DRC, while it contributes about 64% of household food consumption. High poverty rates and food insecurity, combined with limited extension capacity to support for a transition to more sustainable and more productive agriculture practices are resulting in slash-and-burn farming and over-extraction of forest resources, with high deforestation rates as a result. Additionally, the lack of access to energy - only 15% of rural households has access - results in the overuse of biomass for charcoal production and cooking, further contributing to deforestation. The lack of development and lack of capacity in these sectors result furthermore in negative coping strategies such as unsustainable extraction of forest products. This is further exacerbated by an omnipresent gender inequality, and women are excluded from decision making bodies and from playing an active role in contributing to economic activities. Sud-Ubangi province specifically is characterized by a lack of economic activities except subsistence farming, unlike the old days when cocoa and coffee plantations had contributed to the development of the region. Today coffee production is local and artisanal, but industrial production is resettling. The proposed project will support the further development of coffee production as a cash crop for smallholder farmers, in alignment with the most recent National Strategy for the relaunch of the Coffee Value Chain (2011-2015) and in straight collaboration with the Office National des Produits Agricoles du Congo (ONAPAC).

Barriers: Poverty and weak technical, institutional and legal capacities are barriers for supporting the development of horizontal integration of the climate mitigation dimension in the forestry sector, and for supporting the adaptation of vulnerable communities to climate change. The limited capacity of project developers in Sud-Ubangi for the production of bankable projects does not allow them to attract international funding. Finally, the lack of reliable climate data for realistic analysis and interpretation of the evolution will be a factor to consider in the project impact assessment.


B.2. Project / Programme description (1000 words)

The general objective of the project is to contribute to the adaptation of vulnerable populations in DRC to climate risks and variability, and to contribute to climate change mitigation in the country, by developing zero-deforestation alternative economic activities and to reduce extreme poverty.

The specific objectives of the project are: (i) To increase the climate resilience of beneficiary communities through an improved agricultural sector and the re-introduction of the coffee value chain; (ii) To reduce GHG emissions through reforestation, avoided deforestation and forest management in Sud-Ubangi; (iii) To strengthen the capacity of local authorities and communities to implement sustainable management of ecosystem resources.

The key indicators are the enhancement of adaptation capacity and resilience of 10,000 farmers (40% women) and their families (70,000 people), and the mitigation impact being the sequestration and avoided emissions of 0.142542 million equivalent tons of CO2 per year. The project area is Sud-Ubangi province, and selected districts are Gemena and Kungu.
The objectives will be achieved through the implementation of activities under 3 interconnected key components:

A. Component 1: Increasing the Livelihood Resilience of Vulnerable Populations: In this component, food security, productivity levels and income of vulnerable farming communities will be increased through the establishment and strengthening of agricultural value chains. It will be done through a holistic approach that aims to: (a) establish and strengthen local structures and farmer-based organizations (FBOs), (b) improve and diversify production through the adoption of climate-resilient and zero-deforestation agriculture, including agroforestry systems (AFS) and a focus on the production of more resistant crops (beans, peanuts) and animals (chicken, sheep), (c) support to product processing, conservation, value-addition and marketing, (d) rehabilitate 2,700 hectares of smallholders' lands to promote the revitalization of smallholders' coffee production in the districts, (e) strengthening of FBOs for their inclusion in the coffee value chain.

B. Component 2: Enhancing and protecting the resilience of forest ecosystems by reforestation and reduced anthropogenic pressure: The climate resilience of ecosystems will be strengthened in communities that depend on agriculture and are prone to deforestation. This includes: (a) tree planting and natural regeneration at model plots, around schools and on available community land donated by churches, customary chiefs and farmers, totalling 6,200 ha (b) Agroforestry will be applied in zones adjacent to natural forests, (c) community and farmer woodlots with fast-growing trees for firewood, (d) training in improved charcoal production, and (e) the use of improved cooking stoves for all beneficiary families.

C. Component 3: Institutional Capacity Building for Central and Decentralized Entities in the Agricultural, Forest and Natural Resource Management Sectors: The capacities of the public sector and civil society will be strengthened, including local authorities, community mechanisms and the capacity of the MoA and the MEDD, specifically their implementation power in rural areas that are difficult to access. This will be done through (a) capacity building of extension staff, (b) the empowerment of local authorities, (c) capacity building of decentralized entities and civil society, and (d) the development of local adaptation and forest management plans, which will feed into national plans such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process (UNDP).

The project activities will be implemented together with the 10,000 farmers and the addressed communities. Local structures will be installed and strengthened by the project through the "Farmers' Clubs Model" (FCM), which is based on a strict organization of smallholder farmers, on awareness and training and access to economic means. The project will set up 200 clubs (producer organizations) with 50 farmers per club during the project period. Each club elects a committee of 5 people who will work with the project staff for the execution of the activities. The FCM has been implemented by HPP-Congo in the province of Sud-Ubangi since 2010 and more than 23,000 smallholders participated in the program with funding from the European Union, the Government of Spain and the World Bank in the PARRSA program. The FCM delivers on a set of cross-cutting issues, including nutrition, general education, alphabetization, climate change and environmental awareness, waste management and gender. At least 40% of the 10,000 farmers in the project will be women, who will also be represented in the committees and other local governing bodies addressed by the project.

This project is ready to be scaled up and has the potential for transformation. The Action will build upon structures and results from the above-mentioned PARRSA project, during which preliminary technical, financial and economic studies have been conducted, indicating the potential for developing local agriculture and commodity chains. It also builds upon the applicants' experiences and permanent...
presence in the intervention area. The structures that will be established and reinforced by the project, will be easily scalable after project completion: producer organizations strengthened will be able to include more farmers and the knowledge and capacities gained will stay in the targeted area. Farmers' incomes will increase, which will result in a multiplier effect in the area, and will support the further adoption of climate-resilient practices and behavior. Best practices resulting from the project can be replicated and scaled, as more extension workers are trained in the methodology.

Additionally, studies indicate that coffee production, expected to thrive in changing climatic conditions, will be a stimulus initiative with dual benefits of adaptation and mitigation, and is identified as a key economic opportunity for DRC by the donor community (Downie et al., 2018).

The role of the OSS as the accredited entity of the project is to bear full responsibility for the overall management of the projects financed by the GCF, including the financial, monitoring, and reporting responsibility. Based on its experiences as implementing entity for the Adaptation Fund, OSS will also provide administrative and management support to the executing entities. Through its project support unit, OSS will guide the execution of all activities of the project, which will be carried out by the implementing entities MEDD, MoA, HPP-Congo and ICRAF. OSS will furthermore act as an observer to the project steering committee (PSC). The PSC, led by HPP, will also include the national MEDD (NDA), the Provincial departments of the MEDD and the MoA, and will include ICRAF.

HPP-Congo will lead the local implementation and execution of the project on the ground in Sud-Ubangi, where it has been operating similar projects since 2010, in close cooperation with the partners. It will lead the activities under Component 1 and 2, directly working with smallholder farmers, with technical support from ICRAF for Agroforestry and Coffee production related activities. The MEDD will secure the capacity building of the Provincial level authorities (Component 3), while Provincial departments of the MoA and the MEDD will provide extension workers and monitor the project's implementation as well as post-project monitoring. Additionally, at Provincial level, the Conseil Consultatif National des Fôrets will be involved, while civil society networks on the environment both at national and provincial level will serve to engage other actors in the same field and intervention area, such as Caritas, the Rainforest Foundation and other NGOs.

Financial risks are characterized by depreciation and foreign exchange rates and expected price differentials and those applied during the marketing of agricultural products and in the long-term potentially those of the carbon market. Operational risks include: social conflicts, abrupt changes in climatic and ecological parameters and socio-climatic consequences from extreme weather, such as diseases, bush fires, floods and droughts. Management and mitigation measures that would consist in making useful arrangements on pricing strategies, and having solid contingency plans in place to deal with potential extreme weather events and social conflicts. Additionally, political instability poses a risk for project implementation, which will be mitigated by the close cooperation with provincial and local structures and a key role for the beneficiaries in project implementation.

**B.3. Expected project results aligned with the GCF investment criteria (500 words)**

**Impact Potential**: In terms of mitigation, 0.142542 Millions tons of CO2 equivalent will be sequestered annually through reforestation, agroforestry and avoided deforestation. In the 20-year lifespan of the project this equals 2850.84 KTC ([IPCC, 2006](1)). This results from 6.200 hectares of reforestation (80% indigenous trees), of which (i) 2.700 ha or approximately 3 million coffee plants (improved robusta), (ii) 1.500 ha or approximately 1.65 million trees for reforestation and afforestation, (iii) 2.000 ha with applied agroforestry systems as carbon sinks, and (iv) 8.000 improved cooking stoves resulting in avoided emissions. In terms of adaptation, 70.000 direct beneficiaries will build their
resilience and adaptive capacities towards climate risks and variability, through the climate-resilient
development of the agriculture sector in the area. An estimated 65% of the 1.43 million population of
Gemena and Kungu Districts will benefit indirectly from the strengthening and re-establishment of
agriculture value chains. This accounts for approximately 930,000 indirect beneficiaries during the
lifespan of the project (20 years), of which approximately 200,000 will already benefit during the
implementation period of the project (5 years).

**Paradigm shift**: The paradigm shift generated by the proposed project lies in the systemic change
of farmers' and communities' behavior towards natural resources and towards agriculture systems that
are integrated in the natural forests in the province, resulting in a genuine transformation from coping
to adaptation. Increased capacities for natural resource governance, combined with local plans will
lead to a systemic change at authority level, while the improved resilience and adaptive capacities
achieved through the ecologically sustainable agriculture techniques will generate a necessary shift
towards a more protective behavior towards forest ecosystems. Improved capacities at grassroots
level as well as political level will encourage a systemic change throughout the province of Sud-
Ubangi. The revitalization of the coffee value chain will support the transformation of the local
economy towards being tree-based, having long-term adaptation and mitigation benefits.

**Country-ownership**: The project is anchored in national climate strategies and programmes such
as the NDC, NAPA and NAMA, and the REDD+ strategy. It contributes to national development
policies and programmes. Synergies with other climate initiatives will be secured through the central
role in the project of the MEDD. Building government capacity and involvement of the relevant
ministries in the project execution secure long-term ownership of the project. Additionally, the project
contributes to creating an enabling environment, by the establishment of systems to promote the
continuation of the project activities and results. This will be done through necessary capacity building
at all levels, from national and local authorities, to value chain actors, smallholder farmers, local
communities and civil society. This will furthermore be strengthened through increased awareness
about laws, rules and regulations, national and international conventions and other juridical
instruments that contribute to low-emission development.

**Sustainable Development**: the project will contribute to economic development in the form of
increased employment opportunities, improved family economy and in the long-term a reduction of the
national budget deficits. Social benefits include the creation and strengthening of local structures,
including local development committees and farmer-based organizations, improved food and nutrition
security especially for children and women, improved hygiene and reduction of transmittable, water-
borne and hunger-related diseases. Environmental advantages of the project include the improvement
of soil fertility, enhanced ecosystem services, regeneration and protection of biodiversity, and reduced
erosion on arable lands through the applied agriculture practices. Hence, the project will contribute to
DRC's achievement of the SDGs, directly contributing to 8 of the Goals (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15).

**Gender**: The project utilizes an inclusive, human rights based approach, applying affirmative action
in favour of women, youth and vulnerable groups in any area where local practices tend to exclude
them from decision-making bodies and socio-economic opportunities. As such, the project prioritizes
activities undertaken by women and youth for which they have recognized expertise (processing,
vegetable farming, forestry) and from which they can derive an income. Moreover, the action ensures
women's access to factors of production (land, inputs, equipment and materials), to their participation
in the management of new and existing organizational structures as well as access to training and
capacity building throughout the project cycle.

**Needs of the recipients**: DRC is ranked at 170th out of 181 countries on the 2016 ND-GAIN Index
for vulnerability to climate change, identifying low levels of resilience and adaptive capacity. This is
characterized by the minimum level of caloric input, food insecurity that affects 76% of the population
of the DRC, low rates of access to energy with 15% in rural areas and 30% in the city (PANA, 2006). DRC has substantial extraordinary agricultural and mineral resources, the second largest contiguous tropical rainforest in the world, fertile land, and huge hydroelectric potential. However, 63.42 percent of its population, estimated at about 45 million people, lives under conditions of extreme poverty (less than US$1 a day). Food insecurity plagues 71 percent of the population, with 57 percent lacking access to basic health services. Political instability brought the last decade this poverty the country to be at the head of the list of poor countries. The barriers and challenges are the lack of capacity in the ground of fiduciaries and implementation procedures that are not yet mastered. The project is implemented in one of the most vulnerable and poverty-struck areas of the country, with highly vulnerable population groups that are not reached by essential government services.

**Efficiency and effectiveness:** The project builds on existing capacities, resources and experiences present in Sud-Ubungi, both at governmental and civil society level, making the project considerably cost-effective. Synergies with existing initiatives contribute further to that, as does the approach, community-based and local organization-based, generating high climate adaptation and mitigation impacts with relatively limited resources. Furthermore the stakeholder consultations resulted in a methodology based on best practices in the country. The economic benefits gained by the beneficiaries will loop back into DRC's economic development, ideally generating continuous and sustainable growth.


### C. Indicative financing / Cost information (max. 2 pages)

#### C.1. Financing by components

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Indicative cost (USD)</th>
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<th>Co-financing</th>
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3: Institutional Capacity Building for Central and Decentralized Entities in the Agricultural, Forest and Natural Resource Management Sectors

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For private sector proposal, provide an overview (diagram) of the proposed financing structure.

C.2. Justification of GCF Funding Request (300 words)

The 6 years of armed conflict (1998-2003), preceded by conflicts stemming from 36 years of autocratic rule, have aggravated the country’s situation and have given way to a chaotic national system and a significant deterioration living conditions of the population, creating a situation that is described by the United Nations as one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the world. DRC’s population is currently among the poorest people in the world, and ranks 176th in the Human Development Index out of 188 countries (UNDP, 2017), has more than 80 million people, with a life expectancy of 57.7 years (CIA Factbook 2017). Despite relatively high rates of economic growth, poverty and malnutrition remain widespread in DRC. The national poverty rate is 64 percent, with poverty rates only slightly higher in rural areas (65 percent) relative to urban areas (62 percent). Almost one quarter of children are underweight (WB, 2017).

The DRC remains on the list of highly fragile states since the 1990’s, despite a slight recovery of its economy since the start of the 21st century. The vulnerability of the country has resulted in the inability to recover its public finance system. The DRC’s budget is low. Currently this gigantic country's budget for 2018 is approximately 6 billion USD, of which an important part will be used to cover the coming election’s expenses. The financial system of the country suffers from the uncertainty coming from the instable perspective of its economy. The last two years two banks filed their bankruptcies. Getting loans or other funding for sustainable activities is difficult in such environment. Grant of short-term loan is a very selective process. Most of the projects in the field of green investment, adaptation, and mitigation are tributaries of funding from multi- and bilateral institutions. The low level of the national and provincial budgets, and the political turmoil are barriers that impede the public sector to disburse the amounts needed for development as well as for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, even when the targeted activities are priorities for both national and provincial governments. The private sector is not yet ready and familiarized enough to invest in climate related activities in DRC. Furthermore, the uncertainty of the enabling environment is not attracting the private sectors to have long-term thinking, such as promoted by a green economy.

This overview of the country shows the limit and lack of opportunity for climate related activities to count on the DRC’s public and private sectors. Additionally, the DRC is within the GCF priority countries, being located in Africa and on the list of LDCs, while the project activities directly respond to...
the GCFs mandate and its key result areas.

### C.3. Exit Strategy and Sustainability (300 words)

The experience and best results of the sustainable methods of the project will be shared with the provincial authorities and other stakeholders in a systematic manner throughout the duration of the project to support the continuation and replication of activities in other provinces of the DRC with similar issues. The results in terms of economic and social development in the project area will serve as a direct inspiration to the entire population of the province and convince other farmers to use the same methods and therefore contribute to the protection of the environment.

Increased agricultural production will be the basis for local product processing, opening up for potential new income streams for families and communities. The introduction of robusta coffee presents a new source of income for the farmers, and the value chain established during the project's duration in collaboration with other actors in the coffee production, will facilitate the adhesion of beneficiary and other farmers. The activities implemented will reduce deforestation, and the adoption of new technologies and improved livelihoods and local economic development will open up a potential provincial-level market for local entrepreneurs. CO2 sequestration brings potential access to the carbon credit market.

Capacity building at all levels and the establishment of local structures will secure long-term implementation and continuation of activities. At the end of the project, the producer organizations will be transformed and formalized into local legal structures, which will support the government's vision of organizing the rural population. The combination of activities implemented by smallholder farmers and community-based structures present a cost-effective model which can be replicated across the country. The processing equipment installed and managed by and for the population will continue to serve the beneficiaries, thanks to members of management committees who will be trained on the management of community assets.

Specifically, key activities included in the project design, which are contributing to sustainability include:

- Capacity building of relevant public sector structures - including agriculture extension, environmental and forestry services - at national, provincial and local level, as well as of community-based and farmer-based structures;
- Strengthening the cooperation and relation between the addressed sectors and their respective departments, among stakeholders of both public and private institutions and organizations;
- Establishing and strengthening of community-based organizations, including those for agriculture, forestry and natural resource management, with a particular focus on strengthening their capacity to manage and maintain structures, mainstream adopted technologies and practices, and manage and implement community plans;
- Putting in place and strengthening producer organizations, including building their capacities to be able, competitive and respected players in the agriculture markets;
- Knowledge management and dissemination, in particular within and across the targeted sectors, but also at an overarching level in terms of the management and implementation of adaptation and mitigation projects, and on accessing and managing climate finance;

At the long-term, the inclusion of government stakeholders as key stakeholders and partners in the project, as well as the strengthening of their capacities, will secure that the results of the project will be monitored by the MEDD and MoA after project completion.

### C.4 Stakeholders engagement in the project or programme (300 words)

The project design was informed by consultations with local communities, provincial and local
authorities, existing producer organizations and civil society. Additionally, the concept design was built upon results achieved and experiences gained during the implementation of the PARRSA project. Long-term presence of the implementing entities HPP-Congo and the ministries secure that the project is rooted in best practices in Sud-Ubangi Province, while technical inputs to forest restoration and agriculture practices was and will be secured through the involvement of ICRAF.

During funding proposal development HPP-Congo will cooperate closely with the MEDD (NDA) and OSS (AE). The MEDD plays an important role in guiding private, public structures in the design and qualification of GCF projects. The project will consult the ministries, MEDD and the MoA in the first place. On the ground in the province of Sud-Ubangi provincial and local actors will be consulted and involved, including coffee entrepreneurs, farmers and community development committees among others, as well as local, national and international NGOs. Between the main stakeholders are the beneficiary farmers who will be involved in the planning and execution of all activities at community level. Planning sessions and evaluation with the participation of all farmers will be organized during proposal design, as well as throughout the whole lifespan of the project.

Engagement with non-state actors, non-government and commercial, will be organized in the form of project design workshops. During implementation outcome workshops will be organized at least once a year, and reports of the consultations will be shared with provincial authorities and the MEDD. In particular, the project will consult the agriculture, environment and trade ministries in the province.

An initial identification of private sector stakeholders will take place during full proposal development, and they will be engaged in designing a system for selling and transporting products and around the maintenance of investments made in equipment and small-scale infrastructure.

D. Annexes

☒ ESS screening check list (Annex 1)
☒ Map indicating the location of the project/programme (as applicable)
☐ Evaluation Report of previous project (as applicable)
Annex 1: Environmental and Social Screening Checklist

Part A: Risk Factors

Please indicate your answers to the questions below and provide an explanation on the response selected. In cases when the TBD response has been selected please explain briefly why you are not able to determine now and when in the project cycle the question will be addressed.

If the criteria is not applicable to the project you may write N/A in the justification box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exclusion criteria</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, according to the plan, no associated facilities are involved that will require further economic, social and environmental due diligence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities involve trans-boundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, the project will not produce trans-boundary impact, as polluting project activities will be avoided or minimized. The staff will use and promote technologies with a minimum emission of green-house gasses. The processing units will be small local entities. Before starting the activities, the project will organize consultations with the riparian communities based on their voluntary and informed consent to participate in an environmental, social and climatic evaluation in a basic form.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, the project will provide good conditions for potentially vulnerable employees and provide them with the appropriate means to avoid work related accidents, infectious diseases such as TB and diarrheal diseases. The project will raise awareness about HIV and Ebola prevention and treatment. The project will follow a Human-Rights Based Approach and comply strictly to the national legislation related to employment of women and children.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants including pesticides and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The project will not produce hazardous waste and chemical pollutants. The project will develop organic and sustainable agriculture including tree planting to improve greenery and support basic food crops production. This also includes the coffee production where no local industrial processing will take place. The project will also promote crop rotation and in particular rotation of resilient crops. Sustainable management of biodegradable waste for recycling will strengthen the agriculture soil's fertility. The project will strictly avoid the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides that pollute and degrade agriculture land and aquifers. No further studies will be needed to comply with the environmental safeguards.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities involve the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and river bank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The project will not build dams or rehabilitate critical infrastructure. The project will include smaller infrastructure investments such as small processing and storage depots, which will have little</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
environmental impact. The project will avoid the construction of those in critical places that would be vulnerable to erosion, mud slides or the like.

| Will the activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities? | ☐ | ☒ |

The project will not involve any kind of resettlements of persons or communities. Activities will build on what exists and is present at community-level. There will be no major infrastructure investments, and agriculture activities will take place at the land of individuals and at communal lands, with consent and participation of the respective land owners.

| Will the activities be located in or in the vicinity of protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites? | ☐ | ☒ |

No, it will be secured that the project sites at the local communities do not include any recognized protected areas, community reserves and/or habitats of biological key species. The project will be carried out in ecologically impoverished areas with a view to restore the ecosystems function flows, to eliminate deforestation and to avoid human activities that are environmentally detrimental. A key principle adhered to is that all biodiversity is crucial, and a loss of biodiversity at the genetic level for species or ecosystems is synonymous with the loss of opportunities to face future challenges in relations to climate change, energy or food security).

| Will the activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans? | ☐ | ☒ |

No, the activities will not involve indigenous peoples. In addition, the project will be carried out in cooperation with the local population based on voluntary and informed participation and will be based on the expectations from the local development plans.

| Will the activities be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage? | ☐ | ☒ |

The project zone does not contain any archeological, historical, paleontological, cultural, artistic and religious values considered critical cultural heritage.

### Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has the E&amp;S risk category of the project been provided in the concept note?</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the rationale for the categorization of the project been provided in the relevant sections of the concept note?</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any additional environmental, health and safety requirements under the national laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and agreements?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No, there are no additional requirements. Applicable Congolese legislation concerning projects requires an environmental and social impact study before initiating the planned project activities. (Loi N° 11/009 du 09 Juillet 2011), and this is already included in the plan for the project development.
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?  ☒  ☐  ☐

The identification of risks and impacts is based on recent information from HPP-Congo (DRC) through the assessments conducted in November 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labour and Working Conditions</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities potentially have impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The proposed activities will not negatively impact the workers' health and security. The project will take care that all activities comply with Congolese legislation in terms of labour, in particular respecting the national policy for child labour and women's employment and will provide equal employment opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project will not generate emissions to air or discharges to water. The project will promote sustainable management practices and conservation agriculture, which have a positive emissions impact. Biodegradable waste will be recycled. Activity-related GHGs will be insignificant (e.g. from cars, motorbikes, small infrastructure) and best practices will be applied to avoid emissions as much as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Health, Safety, and Security</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities potentially generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The activities will not generate risks and impact to the health and safety of the affected communities, as the project does not foresee the use of technologies and methodologies that may potentially generate risks to the beneficiary communities.

| Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

The risk of any natural disasters in the targeted areas is very limited. However, should a disaster take place the project will follow the guidelines in the national plan for risk reduction, "Réduction des risques de catastrophes naturelles (RRC)". There is no need to develop an additional specific emergency preparedness and response plan for the project.

| Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the project site to the workers and affected community? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

Arrangements will always be based on consent to prevent potential conflicts at the project site between the staff and the communities reached by the project. The project's security arrangement will not create any risks to the community and the project staff. The project will make an effort to employ local staff who knows the area and its history, to be informed and aware of potential conflicts. This will enable the project management to develop the best mitigation strategies.

### Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement

| Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

The project will avoid activities that will cause loss of land, assets, source of revenue and means of existence. The project will focus on key stakeholder participation, in particular from vulnerable groups and poor and marginalized communities, in the conception and implementation of the project. The project will support women's empowerment and by doing so reducing the vulnerabilities to the risks and consequences of climate change for the benefit of the indigenous population.

### Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

| Will the activities potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

The project will not introduce any invasive alien species of flora and fauna which will affect the biodiversity of the area.

| Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (e.g., agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry)? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

No, the project activities will not have potential impacts on the ecosystem services and will not depend on the ecosystem services including production of living natural resources. The sustainable approach selected by the project will provide multiple advantages which will reduce risk and strengthen resilience in the face of climate change thanks to the practices applied. The farmers will reduce poverty while strengthening the ecosystem with its biodiversity, increase income and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a common practice, the project will always consider the informed consent of communities and will consider local populations’ and women's knowledge and practices in the biodiversity management and preservation.

### Indigenous Peoples

| Will the activities potentially have any indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

The activities will not have an indirect impact on indigenous people. The planned activities will not
pollute with an impact of the climatic parameters that may predict the indirect consequences that may affect communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Heritage</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities restrict access to the cultural heritage sites and properties?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project will not involve any activities near cultural heritage sites and properties, hence access to cultural heritage sites and properties for the local populations will no be hindered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder engagement and grievance redress</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will the activities include a continuing stakeholder engagement process and a grievance redress mechanism and integrated into the management/implementation plans?</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project will install a publicly known mechanism that will make it possible to both deliver and address grievances. Stakeholder consultations to evaluate project progress towards declared goals will continue throughout the implementation period.

Part C: Sign Off

**Sign-off:** Specify the name and designation of the person responsible for the environmental and social screening and any other approvals as may be required in the accredited entity's own management system.

Mrs. Khaoula Jaoui, khaoula.jaoui@oss.org.tn Climate Finance and Environment Expert OSS' Social and Environmental Committee Officer