

Simplified Approval Process Concept Note

Project/Programme Title:	Support to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) investments in Africa
Country(ies):	Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic (the), Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the), Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger (the), Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda
National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA):	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development, Prime Ministry, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Breeding, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development(MINEPDED), National Climate Coordination, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Bureau of Climate Change (BCC), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Coordination of the Green Climate Fund, Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Conseil National Climat National Climate Council, Ministry of Finance, The National Directorate of the Environment, The National Treasury, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests, Environmental Affairs Department, The Environment and Sustainable Development Agency, Ministry of Economy and Finance - National Directorate for Monitoring and Evaluation, National Council of the Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD), Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Economy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources(HCENR), Vice President's Office, Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE):	African Development Bank
Date of first submission:	16.02.2021 V.1
Date of current submission:	16.02.2021 V.1



Simplified Approval Process **CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE V.1.4**

GREEN CLIMATE FUND | PAGE 2 OF 6

Version: 1

Eligibility for SAP is determined by the review of the concept note and the ESS screening.

A. Project / Programme Summary (max. 1 page)					
A.1. Project or programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme	A.2. Public or private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	A.3 RFP	Not applicable
A.4. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme	<p>Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the proposed project/programme targets. Indicate for each checked result area(s) the estimated percentage of GCF budget devoted to it. The summed up percentage should be equal to 100%.</p> <p>Mitigation: Reduced emissions from:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation: 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport: 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances: 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use: 50 %				
	<p>Adaptation: Increased resilience of:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities: 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security: 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment: 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services: 50 %				
A.5. Impact potential	A.5.1. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO2eq over project lifespan)		210 tCO2eq		
	A.5.2. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries)		5,000,000 direct beneficiaries		
	A.5.3. Estimated adaptation impact (number of indirect beneficiaries)		7,000,000 indirect beneficiaries		
	A.5.4. Estimated adaptation impact (% of total population)		40 % of the country's total population		
A.6. Financing information					
A.6.1. Indicative GCF funding requested (max 10M)	Amount: 8,800,000 Currency: usd Financial Instrument: Grants (If other financial instrument is opted, please specify: _) * Please expand the information if needed.				
A.6.2. Indicative co-financing	Amount: 0 Currency: usd Financial Instrument: Other (If other financial instrument is opted, please specify: Senior loans) * Please expand the information if needed.				
A.6.3. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: 8,800,000 Currency: usd				
A.7. Implementation period:	a) disbursement period: 36 b) repayment period, if applicable:	A.7.2. Total project/ programme lifespan	36		
A.8. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	A.9. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
A.10. Provide rationale for the ESS categorization (max 100 words)	<p>Deforestation and forest degradation have intensified in Africa with an increase in the average annual rate of net forest loss since 1990, from 3.28 million ha in 1990-2000 to 3.94 million ha in 2010-2020. African forest area decreased from 676 million ha in 2010 to 637 million ha in 2020 (representing 21.3% of its total land area). While REDD+ is being engaged to address the challenge, recent surveys show inadequate technical and financial capacities among African countries to develop and implement the REDD+ process. To address this, AfDB and partners including GCF organized an international workshop in 2019 on how to design REDD+ investment projects. Thirty</p>				

	<p>African countries participated in the workshop. This led to the production of the ‘Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa’, whose implementation constitutes the basis for this project. The project goal is to strengthen the technical capacity of African countries on how to generate financial resources for increased investments in REDD+ initiatives. Critical to the success of this African-wide initiative on REDD+ implementation, is to help build the technical capacities of national and regional institutions on REDD+ project design and implementation, knowledge sharing through annual expert REDD+ events and networks, and creating enabling environment (investment forums) for leveraging additional resource for national and regional REDD+ investments projects.</p>		
<p>A.11. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>A.12. Confidentiality¹</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not confidential</p>
<p>A.13. Executing Entity information</p>	<p>COMIFAC</p>		
<p>A.14. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 200 words)</p>	<p>The project development objective is to strengthen the capacity and accelerate the efforts of African countries on resource mobilization for projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to conserve and sustainably manage the continent's forest resources. This is in application of the ‘Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa’, adopted by African REDD+ experts, GCF accredited entities, civil society and private sector representatives during the international REDD+ workshop held in Abidjan in August 2019. To do so, this project is structured under three complementary components as follows:</p> <p>Component 1: Capacity development</p> <p>This component will build the capacities of REDD+ practitioners, private sector, CSOs and sub-regional commissions and related institutions. Under this component as well, REDD+ Experts network will be set up, knowledge sharing workshops will be organized and REDD+ products presented at international conferences.</p> <p>Output 1.1: REDD+ practitioners, private sector, CSO and key representatives of decentralized entities are trained on the identification of key root causes and overcoming of REDD+ barriers</p> <p>The training to be provided through this output will be related to challenges currently encountered in the development and implementation of REDD+ projects at all levels, with the goal of providing tested and working solutions as enablers. Due to the similarity of challenges within sub-regional groupings, two training groups will be envisaged; one to cover the English speakers and the other to cover French speakers. Each training lot will consist of an intensive 6 days-long seminar followed by 1 day of practical exercises on the field (in REDD+ results-based demonstration sites with results-based actions). Each training will involve no more than 70 participants representing REDD+ policy and implementing level actors, promoters (i.e., representatives of key decentralized bodies and customary leaders as well as CSOs</p>		

¹ Concept notes (or sections of) not marked as confidential may be published in accordance with the Information Disclosure Policy ([Decision B.12/35](#)) and the Review of the Initial Proposal Approval Process ([Decision B.17/18](#)).

representatives including women and the private sector). The proposed training will also be attended by an appropriate delegate of the concerned sub-regional Commission. The output will be implemented through two specialised training activities on REDD+ development and implementation organised in 7 training modules, as follows:

Activity 1.1.1: Deliver specialized trainings on REDD+ development and implementation

The training modules will include the following:

Mod 1: Training on the preparation of a national REDD+ strategy and implementation, including action plan

Mod 2: Training on Safeguards Information System (SIS)

Mod 3: Training on greenhouse gas inventory and accounting

Mod 4: Training on MRV system and National Forest Monitoring System

Mod 5: Training on the technical approaches for conducting REDD+ feasibility studies

Mod 6: Training on REDD+ investment planning/REDD+ resource mobilization, and

Mod 7: Training on the development of emissions reduction programs

Project preparatory activities for each of the two trainings (English speakers and French Speakers) include: i). development of ToRs and agenda of the training, and ii). development of ToRs and recruitment of resource persons. Activities related to the organization of each training will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights of 4 REDD+ resource persons, ii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 60-70 incoming trainees, including land travels, iii). Planning and delivery of accommodation for trainees and resource persons including livelihood provisions, iv). Planning and delivery of logistics for 6 days of in-door training sessions and a full-day REDD+ field exercises, v). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the preparation of documents. After the training, beneficiaries will be expected to implement lessons learnt based on their different REDD+ conditions and situations.

Output 1.2: The African REDD+ Experts network is supported to become operational

This output will provide the knowledge-sharing forums needed to enhance the capacity of African REDD+ experts alongside representatives of technical and financial partners, Coordinators of REDD+ pilot projects, key REDD+ research and university actors, civil society, and the private sector in an exchange/ action format. The goal will be to gain knowledge on how best to effectively promote and implement

REDD+ by adopting or adapting best experiences. Two of such forums will be programmed within the project's lifespan during which participants will update each other on challenges overcome during REDD+ development and implementation, based on their personal experiences as well as those of their networks. The forums will lead to the establishment of a network for the promotion of REDD+ initiatives on the African continent. The forums and prospective network will enhance mutual capacity building, promote exchanges for better advocacy, encourage accountability, enhance governance, and check unnecessary duplication of effort that creates frustrations and unnecessary conflicts. The component has 2 Outputs, described along with their activities as follows:

Activity 1.2.1: Organise Expert forums to share experiences on REDD+.

Two REDD+ expert forums will be organized. They will provide a platform for sharing knowledge and experience among experts; fostering dialogue between countries, State and non-State actors, and financial and technical partners on cutting edge REDD+ challenges. The forums will be held between 14 to 16 months from each other. Each forum will host approximately 250 participants; cover the whole week and include a REDD+ related field visit. Deliberations will take the form of (a) round-table exchanges, group work and plenaries, (b) oral presentations/debates through special scientific panels, and (c) presentation of posters and documents. One of the outcomes of the first forum will be the creation of an **African REDD+ network**, while the second forum, among others, will assess the impact of the first forum, including the effectiveness of the network. The expected outcome in capacity of REDD+ experts as a result of the first forum will be based on policy weaknesses, institutional, technological and other aspects identified under the root causes and barriers section of this project concept. Also guided by the referred barriers, the expected outcome in capacity of REDD+ experts as a result of the second forum will be based on capacity needs shared through the REDD+ experts' network, to be used in planning the second forum. The first forum will be organized in a moist forest country and the second in a dry forest country in different sub-regional economic commissions.

Prior activities of the project team related to each forum will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the forum, ii). Making public the forum. Activities related to the organization of each forum will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 250 forum participants including land travel, ii). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of participants, including livelihood provisions, iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for 5 days of in-door forum sessions and a full day REDD+ field visit, iv). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the preparation of documents, v). Delivery of forum report.

Activity 1.2.2: Create and make operational a network of African REDD+ experts

The network of African REDD+ experts will be created at the end of the first REDD+ experts' forum. Its creation will be based on a Declaration to be made at the end of the

REDD+ forum, in which founding members will develop and commit to an action plan. The network's purpose, scope of membership, operational modality and institutional anchor will be indicated in the founding Declaration. The network will be supported up to the end of this project, after which it must operate independently or seek alternative support for its operations and possible institutionalization.

Activities for setting up and making operational the network will include; i). implementation of a simple study on specifications and contacts of related networks in Africa and globally, ii). Internet research and communication activities, iii). Membership fees of network coordinator to no more than two paid REDD+ related professional societies, and iv). Participation of network coordinator in no more than 4 paid REDD+ related Internet webinars.

Output 1.3: Sub-regional Commissions and related institutions are strengthened

This component will strengthen the REDD+ oversight capacity of African sub-regional Commissions. Based on the Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa, the targeted Commissions include; COMIFAC^[1], ECOWAS^[2], EAC^[3], SADC^[4] and the Arab MAGREB Union. These Commissions have the institutional mandate to develop frameworks and strategies expected to facilitate their members' conception and implementation of objectives linked to regional and international environmental conventions, such as the UNFCCC's REDD+ mechanism. A regional knowledge management clearing-house for REDD+ shall be proposed at the level of each sub-regional Commission to facilitate coordination and conformity with the REDD+ regional standard, based on concerted and adopted African REDD+ positions in international climate negotiations. The component will also strengthen the bankable REDD+ project development and project evaluation capacity of Commissions and other regional organizations such as the African Forest Forum. National REDD+ agencies will have direct access to the regional knowledge data base. The component has two outputs described along with their activities as follows:

Activity 1.3.1: Establish and make functional a REDD+ knowledge management system.

This activity will document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the three phases of REDD+ in Africa, in; English, French, Portuguese and Spanish or as necessary. Products will include a set of technological and non-technological tools, processes and methods that will help African REDD+ countries to efficiently create, capture, share, adapt and use knowledge to achieve their REDD+ goals. The data, reference material and tools including a catalog of REDD+ projects in Africa, will be placed as open source for easy access to REDD+ project developers seeking to incorporate pertinent elements into project design and implementation, similar to clearing house functions. Considering the clearing-house mandate of Africa's sub-regional intergovernmental Commissions; this output will be anchored in the forestry divisions of the referred Commissions, with direct internet links to the relevant

national REDD+ institutions. The output will be supported up to the end of this project. Contractual obligations will require the host institutions to internalize operations of the output among their statutory functions.

Activities to be conducted by the project will include: i). Development and operation of a web-page, ii). Review and analysis of REDD+ project monitoring and evaluation reports, iii). Internet research and development of good practice documents, iv). Communication activities, and v). Provisions for the translation of documents.

Activity 1.3.2: Strengthen REDD+ project development capacity of African sub-regional Commissions and the AFF.

African sub-regional Commissions have the mandate to develop REDD+ frameworks and strategic guidelines for adoption or adaptation by their member States. They also have the mandate to coordinate and ensure sub-regional harmony of agreed political and legislative processes related to the implementation of regional and international conventions, topics of a trans-boundary nature, and themes of common interest to member States. The African Forest Forum (AFF) meanwhile, has been strengthening the forest management capacity of African institutions and agencies at all levels for more than 15 years. Considering the high stakes, which require that REDD+ should be correctly implemented on the African continent, these regional institutions (sub-regional Commissions and AFF) need special capacity in the design and evaluation of REDD+ projects at all levels. This output will be implemented in the form of a special seminar involving key GCF personnel in a week-long working session with forest division representatives of the sub-regional Commissions and the AFF. Although the special seminar will dwell on the development of bankable REDD+ projects and evaluation, it will also cover a broad range of pertinent REDD+ subjects such as: the 3 phases, 3 approaches, 3 levels and 3 stages of REDD +; developing and monitoring performance indicators for the implementation of REDD+; how to obtain REDD+ benefits while avoiding the negative effects etc. While delegates will not be required to carry out REDD+ project development, evaluation or additional technological procedures, they should be versed with the techniques and be able to provide training, guidance and control when necessary.

Sub-activities will include: i). Development of ToRs and agenda for the special seminar, and ii). Development of a training needs package for assessment and selection of resource persons by GCF. Sub-activities related to the organization of the special seminar will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 4 GCF delegates, ii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 10 sub-regional Commission delegates at 2 representatives per Commission, iii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 3 AFF delegates, iv). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of delegates including perdiems, v). Planning and organization of Logistics for 5 days of capacity-building sessions vi). Delivery of secretariat services and the production of documents/reports.

Output 1.4: REDD+ products/results are presented in international climate conferences and events

This activity will promote the visibility of progress so far registered in REDD+ within Africa. It constitutes part of a communication strategy which provides prospects for REDD+ successes and lessons in the continent to be explained to the national and international media through press conferences, documentaries including radio and TV programs, and newspaper articles. This is expected to foster transparency and encourage accountability in the management of forest resources as well as demonstrate equity in the distribution of forest benefits, constituting a fundamental REDD+'s objective. In more specific terms, this component will support 'REDD+ display stands' by REDD+ countries (through their sub-regional Commissions) during the side events of specific international climate and forest conferences, during which press conferences may also be programmed. Products for display may be packaged in the form of videos, posters, newsletters, bulletin articles, books or smart portable alternative REDD+ project gadgets. Such products will also be available on the REDD+ webpage. These events have the added value of encouraging the international community to invest in REDD+ in Africa through amongst others; establishing contacts for new REDD+ projects, international REDD+ related research, North/South university collaborations on REDD+, establishment of market channels for alternative REDD+ products.

Activity 1.4.1: Produce knowledge products and publicity gadgets

REDD+ results targeted in this output will include knowledge products in print, pen-drives or CD formats. They may also include REDD+ publicity gadgets. Appropriate innovation will be required for the choice and development of items for presentation in international conferences. Such conferences will include; UNFCCC side events, Conference of Parties and subsidiary body meetings. For effective preparation, this 3-years project will fund countries' presentations in one international conference.

Activity 1.4.2: Organise and/or participate at events

Sub-activities for organising/participating at the events will involve: i). Organization of an experts meeting to prepare technical REDD+ products for presentation in international climate events. Other related activities will include: i). Provisions for the transportation of items to the conference, ii). Provisions for stands and /or space at the conference, iii). Provisions for related technical materials and equipment during the conference.

Component 2: Support resource mobilization for REDD+ investments in Africa

This component involves supports to the identification, preparation and appraisal of bankable projects as well as the organisation of a round-table forum for REDD+

investments in Africa. Countries will present project concept notes for the selection towards development to full projects ready for possible investments.

Output 2.1. The feasibility studies of 10 national projects are supported

This output has three main activities to develop 10 national bankable projects. It is expected that the 30 countries involved in this project will submit project concept notes from which 10 countries will be selected for the submission of national projects. Further development of the projects will go through the standard phases of project development at the African Development Bank, which will be considered as the activities under this output.

Activity 2.1.1. Identification of national bankable project

After a country is shortlisted to submit a project, a project identification process will be engaged with the government to situate the relevance of the project within the national context and priorities. This will require a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to agree on the project idea and possible scope, which will be followed by the project preparation.

Activity 2.1.2. Conducting feasibilities of 10 national bankable projects

This activity requires a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to define project components, outputs and activities, and produce a concept note, which will be followed by the project appraisal. Prior activities of will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the project preparation mission, ii). Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for about 14 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and Concept note (CN).

Output 2.2. The feasibility studies of one regional project in the Congo Basin is supported

This output will involve the identification, preparation and appraisal of one regional project in the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin is purposefully selected because it remains the largest contiguous tropical forest block in Africa that needs to be sustainably management for its myriad of social, economic and environmental benefits at the local, national and global levels.

Activity 2.2.1. Identification of regional bankable project

A project identification process in the Congo Basin will be engaged with the governments of the concerned countries to situate the relevance of the project within the national, regional and international contexts and priorities. This will require a joint mission of national actors, COMIFAC and the Bank to agree on the project idea and its possible scope, which will be followed by the project preparation.

Activity 2.2.2. Feasibility studies of regional bankable project

This activity requires a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to define project components, outputs and activities to produce a concept note. Prior activities of will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the mission, ii). Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national and regional project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for 14-20 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and Concept note. This will be followed by the project appraisal mission.

Activity 2.2.3. Appraisal of regional bankable project

This activity requires a joint mission of national and regional actors and the Bank to fully develop project activities and produce a project appraisal report that will be submitted to potential donors to leverage additional financing. Prior activities of the project preparation team will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the project appraisal mission. Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for about 21 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and project proposal.

Output 2.3. One REDD+ investment Forum is organized

This output will involve the organisation of one REDD+ investment forum. This will provide a platform for presenting the REDD+ projects developed under outputs 2.1 and 2.2 to potential donors and investors. The forum will be held in the third year of the project following adequate capacity development for national and regional stakeholders. The investment forum is expected to host over 500 participants for a period of 5 days. The Forum will also serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and raising awareness on REDD+ investment projects worldwide and in Africa in particular. Panel discussions, debates and scientific presentations will be used to animate the forum. Major outcomes of the forum will be to get investors to finance developed REDD+ project proposals as well as project ideas in a good number of African countries as well as the regional project in the Congo Basin. It is expected that the forum will possibly generate at least US\$1.0 billion investment for REDD+ implementation in Africa for the rehabilitation and maintenance of 1 million hectares of forest.

Activity 2.3.1: Organize a REDD+ investment Forum

Prior activities of the project team related to the investment forum will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the forum, ii). Making public the forum. Activities related to the organization of the forum will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 500 forum participants including land travel, ii). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of participants, including livelihood provisions, iii). Hiring a consultant specialized in organising investment fora, iv). Planning and delivery of logistics for 5 days of in-door forum sessions, v). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the presentation of REDD+ projects and project ideas, vi). Delivery of forum report.

Component 3: Project management and coordination

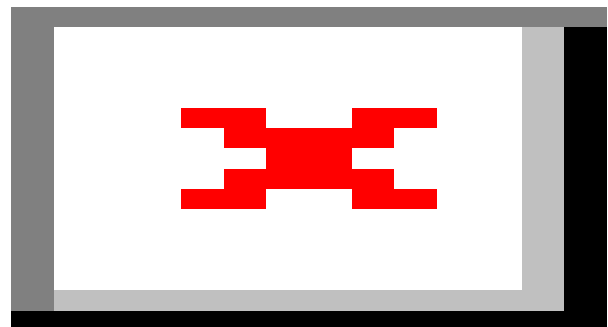
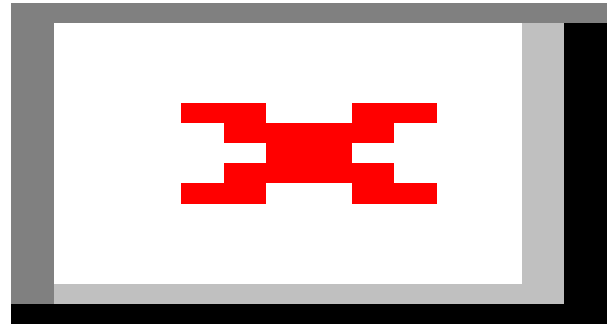
Accredited Entity - AfDB: AfDB The African Development Bank Group (the Bank) is the premier pan-African development institution promoting economic growth and social progress across the continent. With the support of GCF and JICA, the Bank organized the first international workshop on how to design REDD+ investment projects in Africa in 2019. The workshop produced the 'Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa', whose implementation constitutes the basis of this project. The Bank has longstanding experience of working in the climate change and forestry sectors in Africa through regional projects such as PACEBCo (Support Program for the Conservation of Ecosystems and Resilience to Climate Change in Central Africa), covering all Congo Basin countries; or others such as, PIDACC/BN (Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin) covering 9 countries spread across West and Central Africa. The Bank will oversee execution of the project in line with Bank procedures and standards, and specific requirements in the AMA agreed with GCF.

Implementing Partner - COMIFAC: COMIFAC will be implementing partner of the project and will ensure the setting up of the coordinating unit. COMIFAC is already a delivery partner of the GCF readiness program and therefore has some experience in implementing GCF project activities. From a training and capacity building perspective, COMIFAC has led the organizations of several Central African regional trainings and capacity on the GCF process and access to GCF finance. In some cases, the trainings have been organized in partnership with the GCF and CTCN experts. From a technical perspective, COMIFAC remains the most active regional organization on REDD+ in Africa. COMIFAC played a key role in the drafting and adoption of the Warsaw framework on REDD+ and provided technical leadership on REDD+ within the African group of negotiators (AGN) during the adoption of the Paris Agreement. At the Central African regional level, COMIFAC coordinates all regional REDD+ processes across the ten member states and helps countries to strengthen their capacities on REDD+.

How the demonstration activities are scalable/replicable and contribute to the expected outcomes of the project.

African countries are not progressing well in REDD+ design and implementation as far as the three major phases of REDD+ are concerned. Currently, the absence of enabling requirements will limit the access to RBPs for African countries, thus keeping the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation on course, a situation that requires an urgent intervention to manage forests sustainably for the provision of their services towards green growth and sustainable development. The theory of change of the project to reverse this trend, is based on the assumption that action must be taken to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through the following interventions; (i) UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ RBPs, (ii) the implementation of innovative REDD+ demonstration activities across the scope of the five REDD+ in different forest types and (iii) the strengthening of research and technical capacities to measure and monitor carbon stocks in different forests types. These interventions are in line with the Warsaw framework and constitute a response to the emission reduction objectives of countries. Based on country circumstances, the project hopes to see that countries progress successfully from one REDD+ phase to another. Countries in the readiness phase (phase 1) should aim at advancing to the investment and implementation phase (phase 2) while countries in the investment and implementation phase should implement activities to advance to the RBP phase (phase 3) as illustrated in the figure below.





Before the project

Ø

Ø After the project

The key financial and operational risks and any mitigation measures are described as follows:

Ø Relatively moderate financial risk related to recurrent budgetary shortfalls that constrains many African countries to allocate resources from their public investment budget in order to help finance the pilot and preliminary activities of the REDD+

process in accordance with the Warsaw framework. To mitigate this risk, the choice of funding method should be made with a grant from (to) governments and, if possible, from their partners:

Ø Economic risk related to the economic growth of countries dependent on sectors which have an impact on the forestry sector. To mitigate this risk, it is important to ensure that the negative impacts of other sectors on the development of the forestry sector are considered;

Ø Relatively low political risk associated with the weak linkage between political discourse, national development priorities and strategies such as poverty alleviation and the alleged impacts of the REDD + process. To mitigate this risk, which raises the issue of the feasibility of REDD+ and RBP in the context of a country's development vision, it will be necessary to support the process of institutionalizing the participation of sector actors in the process of identifying mitigation options and their implementation;

Ø Relatively average climate risk, which could accelerate if urgent measures are not taken to implement safeguarding policies and to anticipate the forest transition; this risk should be mitigated through country-level promotion of national land use plans;

Ø Lack of enabling business environment for the implementation of REDD+ RBP. This risk will be mitigated through the creation of an enabling business environment for the effective implementation of REDD+ RBP;

Ø Relatively weak institutional risk, which is manifested by the low ownership of the REDD+ and RBP process by the member countries. This risk should be mitigated through strategic monitoring of information and country training efforts;

Ø Technical risk is moderate and linked to the heavy dependence on contractual expertise from outside the country for the conduct of technical operations required to set up the REDD+ process and who often disappear with the institutional memory. To mitigate this risk, it will be necessary to develop national technical capacities of the REDD+ process and support each country to reduce dependence on non-regional consultants who disappear at the end of their missions;and,

Ø Relative high costs for the development of forest management plans and high costs for forest certification, with relative low returns to investments for certified logging companies. The risk should be mitigated by incentivizing the process of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

[\[1\]](#) Central African Commission on Forests

[\[2\]](#) Economic Community of Central African States

[\[3\]](#) East African Community

[\[4\]](#) Southern African Development Community

B. Project / Programme information

B.1. Context and Baseline (700 words)

Africa has an estimated naturally regenerating forest cover of 625 million ha, of which 123 million ha are primary forests, 131 million ha are forest in protected areas, 118 million ha are forest areas with management plans and 3.24 million ha are mangroves. Planted forests increased from 10.6 million ha in 2010 to 11.4 million in 2020. Similarly, protected areas increased from 129 million ha in 2010 to 131 million ha in 2020^[1]. These forests and protected areas constitute huge carbon stocks. In 2020 for example, total forest carbon stock in Africa was estimated at 80,886 million tonnes, down from 85,913 million tonnes in 2010. This included carbon in above-ground biomass, carbon in below-ground biomass, carbon in deadwood, carbon in litter and carbon in soil organic matter^[2]. The largest area of forest designated for biodiversity conservation is in Africa, at 107 million ha; this is 24% of the forest area, which is also the highest proportion among all regions. Indeed, the proportion of African forests designated primarily for biodiversity conservation, multiple uses, production, soil and water protection, and social services are respectively 24%, 21%, 19%, 11% and 2% against global averages of 11%, 22%, 31%, 12% and 6%^[3].

The African forest is home to 284 million forest-dwelling people, who depend on forest ecosystem goods and services for their well-being^[4]. Forest resources dominate energy supply in African homes, with more than 80% of households depending on fuel-wood and charcoal for energy. In addition, it is estimated that the number of people in Africa dependent on charcoal is projected to increase from 583 million in 2000 to 823 million in 2030 (Gondo, 2010). African population, which stood at 1.135 billion inhabitants in 2013^[5] is growing at a much faster rate than any other region of the world, and more than two thirds of the growing population depends either directly or indirectly on forest resources (Somorin, 2010). Demographic growth will exacerbate pressure on forests through the demand for agricultural land, space for infrastructure and other land based economic activities. Despite these stresses and shortcomings, the trend of gross value-added in the forestry sector of African economies has been on the increase, while the sector's contribution to GDP has been dwindling steadily from 1.5% in 1990 to 1.3% in 2000 and to 0.9% in 2010^[6].

The different forest types in Africa have huge potentials for carbon emission reductions. However, Africa is commonly recognized due to the vast Congo Basin forests that constitute the second largest standing tropical rainforest remaining in the world. GHG inventory's assessment in the Congo Basin region indicates that land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors top the rankings in terms of GHG emissions. In this area, three main sources of emission/absorption are identified: (i) evolution of forest and other woody biomass stocks; (ii) conversion of grassland to forests; and (iii) abandonment of exploited land. These emissions profiles take into account those from the following areas: (a) CO₂ emissions / removals related to changes in forests and other woody biomass stocks; (b) CO₂ emissions related to forest and grassland conversions; (c) Non-CO₂ trace gas emissions related to on-site combustion in the forest; (d) Emissions / removals of CO₂ related to the abandonment of exploited lands; (e) Soil CO₂ emissions / removals related to land-use change and management. All gases emitted by this sector consist of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, NO_x, and CO. Moreover, the recently discovered Central Congo Basin peatland could release as much as 30.6 petagrams (30.6×10^{15} grams) of carbon locked below ground (Dargie et al. 2017). Taking as a reference for the location of deforestation in Cameroon, Congo and DRC in total, it is estimated that the average annual deforestation linked to the expansion of agricultural land for crops and livestock would increase by 640 thousand hectares per year on average between 2000 and 2010, to just over one million per year between 2010 and 2020 and to 1.5 million per year between 2020 and 2030. This estimate suggests at the level of the Congo Basin; a total loss of 26 million hectares of forest between 2010 and 2030, which represents about 10% of the total forest cover. The corresponding emissions could be between 8.8 and 13 billion tCO₂ over the period 2010 and 2020, taking into account only the carbon content of live biomass above ground in forest areas that have

been completely cleared. Also, a meta-study on GHG emissions in sub-Saharan Africa by Kim et al. (2015)^[7] over an area of 740.6 million ha, revealed that the continent's forest/plantation/woodlands release 34.0 ± 5.7 Mg CO₂e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ or a total CO₂e emissions of 25.2 ± 5.2 Pg CO₂e yr⁻¹ as well as CH₄ emissions of -1.5 ± 0.6 kg CH₄ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and N₂O emissions of 4.2 ± 1.5 kg N₂O ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹. Generally, the agriculture, land use and forestry (AFOLU) sector is relevant for African countries to respond to their post 2020 climate change mitigation commitments through their nationally determined contributions (Fobissie et al. 2019). However, most African countries are confronted with limited capacity, technology and financial resources to fully implement and meet their mitigation commitments under the Paris Agreement especially through efforts to reduce deforestation. Even within the global climate finance landscape for example, there is a broad consensus that multilateral finance for activities such as REDD+ account for a small percent of total climate finance. Though efforts made to reduce deforestation offer greater mitigation potential at a lower cost than afforestation and other forest management interventions^[8].

Mitigation needs: The focus here are on countries' needs in relation to the three phases of REDD+ (**readiness, investment and implementation and result-based payments**) and the Warsaw framework on REDD+. This entails countries building their own capacities to prepare, submit and manage the Warsaw REDD+ Framework and related methodological components, which includes among others: (i) National Strategy : Drivers / Policies and Measures / Investments; (ii) National Forest Management System (NFMS): Functional and country-led; (iii) Reference Level (RL): thoughtful development, including Biennial Update Report (BUR) and its technical annexes - Planning of BUR development and submission is critical - this requires technical skill, a budget and a step-wise approach - National ability to develop, submit, review and discuss the technical dimensions with the UNFCCC - Technically complex discussions are required for developing and submitting the Results Based Payments (RBPs) project; (iv) Safeguards: Cancun REDD+ safeguards well defined and reported - SIS in place and functional - A retroactive Environmental & Social Assessment (ESA) required for the RBPs period: need to provide high quality information on how safeguards were implemented and respected during the Emission Reduction (ER) programs - Address also the GCF social & ESA policies - Develop a social & environmental management framework for the implementation of the RBPs project; (v) non-carbon benefits resulting from the design and implementation of emission reduction activities; (vi) Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests; (vii) Institutional arrangements and coordination of support for the implementation of emission reduction activities in the forest sector; and (viii) Results-based financing of the implementation of emission reduction activities in the forest sector.

Linkages with national priorities / NDCs : Deforestation plays a major role in climate change, accounting for almost 90% of global carbon dioxide emissions from land use changes^[9]. The project is aligned with the NDCs of African countries, where the forestry, land use and agriculture (AFOLU) sector is expected to play a major role (Fobissie et al. 2019). As an example, section 3.4 of DRC's NDC states that the country is committed to reduce its emissions by 17% by 2030 compared to emissions from the status quo scenario (430 Mt CO₂e), leading to a reduction of just over 70 Mt CO₂e. In order to implement this objective, the responsible government ministerial department is expected to set up a multi-sectorial and multidisciplinary team of experts for the definition and design of methodologies, data collection, processing, as well as the constitution of databases and performance of climate change related tasks. Related documentation refers to GCF as a potential source of support for this mechanism, hence close linkages with this project. Similar commitments and operational mechanisms are mentioned in the NDCs of other African countries. African countries are politically committed and are highlighting forests in policy debates on green growth, employment, and climate change mitigation/adaptation. The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a vivid example. In the five years since the 2015 initiative was launched, 30 African countries have made pledges surpassing by 26% the regional target of restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 as part of their commitments to the Bonn Challenge. Within the framework of this project, 25 of the 30 countries have made commitments of 115 million ha of the 126 million ha to the Bonn Challenge and

AFR100 Initiative. These countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. Within the framework of the AFR100, African countries have identified 16 types of priority interventions ranging from reforestation, commercial tree plantations, natural regeneration, agroforestry development, tree buffers along water bodies, protection of biodiversity, sustainable charcoal production, ensuring cross-border restoration and training of farmers/extension services to accelerated economic diversification and industrialization^[10].

-

Linkages with the policies of regional and sub-regional African Commissions: The project is also aligned with the priorities of sub-regional intergovernmental Commissions such as; COMIFAC (Convergence Plan), ECOWAS (Forest Convergence Plan), the East African Community Forests Management and Protection Act, the SADC Protocol on Forestry and the ecosystem development priorities of North Africa's MAGHREB Arab Union. An example of such alignment related to sub-regional forest management priorities is illustrated by strategic objective 2.1 of Priority Axis n° 2 of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, on management and valorization of forest resources. The strategic objective proposes to; “ensure the preservation of forest ecosystems in a concerted manner with territorial development”. Its operational objective 2.1.3: seeks to “ensure management of forest ecosystems” based on two results, namely; (a) permanent and all other types of forests placed under management and (b) standards and regulations of sustainable management of forest ecosystems developed and implemented in a concerted manner, referring to REDD+ as a support financial mechanism from multilateral institutions such as the GCF. In terms of regional climate investment priorities, Objective 1.2 of Strategic Axis 1 of the ECOWAS Environmental Policy on Environmental Governance and Capacity Building, seeks to, “establish and support the functioning of a regional technical consultation to monitor and boost the implementation of Environmental Multilateral and Regional Conventions: by among others; ‘monitoring and evaluating commitments at sub-regional level by member countries with particular attention to the UNFCCC (REDD+), UNCCD (LDN), UNCDB) etc..”

-

Linkages with the interventions of regional climate change and forest projects, programs and networks: Such initiatives include; (a) the Conference on Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC) - a sub-regional platform which brings together representatives of governments, parliaments, the private sector, NGOs and others to promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa. CEFDHAC's network include: the Youth Network for Forests of Central Africa (REJEFAC), the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of Central Africa (REPALEAC), the Network of African Women for Sustainable Development (REFADD), the Network of Parliamentarians for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa (REPAR), the Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions of Central Africa (RIFFEAC), the Community Radio Network in Central Africa for good governance and management of natural resources (RERAC) and the Secretariat for Environmental Evaluation in Central Africa - SEEAC, (b) the Africa Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, which indulges in dry forest and degraded land restoration in 20 countries from Senegal on the west to Djibouti on the east, (c) regional programs of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), such as the Multinational Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin (PIDACC/NB) covering 9 countries, which seeks to improve resilience of populations and ecosystems of the Niger Basin through the sustainable management of natural resources, (d) regional programs of the Mano River Union (MRU) such as the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Program (WA-BiCC), which among others, seeks to reduce deforestation, degradation and biodiversity loss in key forests by improving capacity for planning and development of low emissions development strategies, REDD+, and trans-boundary conservation strategies while engaging the private sector and supporting frameworks to integrate best practices for the sustainable management of natural resources; (e) ICRAF, CIFOR and others. These initiatives have across-the-border experience related to implementation of REDD+ pilots that can be shared.

The main root causes and barriers that need to be addressed are described for different themes as follows:

1 **Technical:** Currently, African countries involved in REDD+ do not have the capacity to respond to the robust MRV standards that are required by the international community to monitor and demonstrate emission reductions. Forest inventory in Africa is characterized by a general lack of regular and frequent data collection, absence of standardized methods for data collection and lack of complete and up-to-date inventories. In addition, institutions that have forest information are poorly coordinated, and data are often scattered across agencies. Some countries received financial support to build a robust MRV system and other related Warsaw framework technical requirements but failed to do so due to insufficient technical capacity. Generally, the occurrence of a capacity gap for monitoring forest carbon in Africa, could possibly limit the contribution of REDD+ to climate change mitigation in Africa.

1 **Financial** - Inexistence of mechanisms to support results based payment of REDD+ activities in African countries; low carbon price ranging between \$ 2 and \$ 5 per t.CO₂e and lack of social and financial incentives to reduce emissions from the forests - Limited and no financial resources to support the REDD+ processes step up to the RBP, as this requires conditional investment as indicated in the NDCs of African countries;

1 **Institutional** capacity: Insufficient institutional capacity to facilitate, host and manage Warsaw reporting requirements; Lack of best practices for up-scaling: Limited experiences and lessons exist on the design and implementation of REDD+ in African countries, including all the financial and technical maneuvers that it entails. Gaps in knowledge management and success stories on demonstrated emission reductions from one or more of the REDD+ activities;

1 **Policy** weakness: the REDD+ policy process is losing energy in many countries, absence of a strong discourse that can encourage or motivate policy actors. Forest ownership in Africa is skewed towards the public with private sector owning only 6% forest area against 22% average at the global level. Only 24% of African forests have long-term management plans against 54% average at the global level.

1 **Technological:** Lack of sophisticated remote sensing technology.

1 **Safeguards:** lack of or ineffective social and environmental safeguard information systems will hamper many African REDD+ countries from accessing RBP.

The project Theory of Change (ToC) diagram is shown in Annex 2. It simply demonstrates how capacity strengthening, and knowledge management and sharing in REDD+ project development and implementation, can help to trigger the promoting of new initiatives in REDD+ in the African continent. This will result to a shift in low emissions pathways from reduced deforestation and forest degradations, and sustainable management and conservation of the continent's forest resources, which provide livelihood security to over 284 million forest-dwelling people.

B.2. Project / Programme description (1500 words)

The project development objective is to strengthen the capacity and accelerate the efforts of African countries on resource mobilization for projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to conserve and sustainably manage the continent's forest resources. This is in application of the 'Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa', adopted by African REDD+ experts, GCF accredited entities, civil society and private sector

representatives during the international REDD+ workshop held in Abidjan in August 2019. To do so, this project is structured under three complementary components as follows:

Component 1: Capacity development

This component will build the capacities of REDD+ practitioners, private sector, CSOs and sub-regional commissions and related institutions. Under this component as well, REDD+ Experts network will be set up, knowledge sharing workshops will be organized and REDD+ products presented at international conferences.

Output 1.1: REDD+ practitioners, private sector, CSO and key representatives of decentralized entities are trained on the identification of key root causes and overcoming of REDD+ barriers

The training to be provided through this output will be related to challenges currently encountered in the development and implementation of REDD+ projects at all levels, with the goal of providing tested and working solutions as enablers. Due to the similarity of challenges within sub-regional groupings, two training groups will be envisaged; one to cover the English speakers and the other to cover French speakers. Each training lot will consist of an intensive 6 days-long seminar followed by 1 day of practical exercises on the field (in REDD+ results-based demonstration sites with results-based actions). Each training will involve no more than 70 participants representing REDD+ policy and implementing level actors, promoters (i.e., representatives of key decentralized bodies and customary leaders as well as CSOs representatives including women and the private sector). The proposed training will also be attended by an appropriate delegate of the concerned sub-regional Commission. The output will be implemented through two specialised training activities on REDD+ development and implementation organised in 7 training modules, as follows:

Activity 1.1.1: Deliver specialized trainings on REDD+ development and implementation

The training modules will include the following:

Mod 1: Training on the preparation of a national REDD+ strategy and implementation, including action plan

Mod 2: Training on Safeguards Information System (SIS)

Mod 3: Training on greenhouse gas inventory and accounting

Mod 4: Training on MRV system and National Forest Monitoring System

Mod 5: Training on the technical approaches for conducting REDD+ feasibility studies

Mod 6: Training on REDD+ investment planning/REDD+ resource mobilization, and

Mod 7: Training on the development of emissions reduction programs

Project preparatory activities for each of the two trainings (English speakers and French Speakers) include: i). development of ToRs and agenda of the training, and ii). development of ToRs and recruitment of resource persons. Activities related to the organization of each training will include: i). Planning and delivery of return

flights of 4 REDD+ resource persons, ii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 60-70 in-coming trainees, including land travels, iii). Planning and delivery of accommodation for trainees and resource persons including livelihood provisions, iv). Planning and delivery of logistics for 6 days of in-door training sessions and a full-day REDD+ field exercises, v). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the preparation of documents. After the training, beneficiaries will be expected to implement lessons learnt based on their different REDD+ conditions and situations.

Output 1.2: The African REDD+ Experts network is supported to become operational

This output will provide the knowledge-sharing forums needed to enhance the capacity of African REDD+ experts alongside representatives of technical and financial partners, Coordinators of REDD+ pilot projects, key REDD+ research and university actors, civil society, and the private sector in an exchange/ action format. The goal will be to gain knowledge on how best to effectively promote and implement REDD+ by adopting or adapting best experiences. Two of such forums will be programmed within the project's lifespan during which participants will update each other on challenges overcome during REDD+ development and implementation, based on their personal experiences as well as those of their networks. The forums will lead to the establishment of a network for the promotion of REDD+ initiatives on the African continent. The forums and prospective network will enhance mutual capacity building, promote exchanges for better advocacy, encourage accountability, enhance governance, and check unnecessary duplication of effort that creates frustrations and unnecessary conflicts. The component has 2 Outputs, described along with their activities as follows:

Activity 1.2.1: Organise Expert forums to share experiences on REDD+.

Two REDD+ expert forums will be organized. They will provide a platform for sharing knowledge and experience among experts; fostering dialogue between countries, State and non-State actors, and financial and technical partners on cutting edge REDD+ challenges. The forums will be held between 14 to 16 months from each other. Each forum will host approximately 250 participants; cover the whole week and include a REDD+ related field visit. Deliberations will take the form of (a) round-table exchanges, group work and plenaries, (b) oral presentations/debates through special scientific panels, and (c) presentation of posters and documents. One of the outcomes of the first forum will be the creation of an **African REDD+ network**, while the second forum, among others, will assess the impact of the first forum, including the effectiveness of the network. The expected outcome in capacity of REDD+ experts as a result of the first forum will be based on policy weaknesses, institutional, technological and other aspects identified under the root causes and barriers section of this project concept. Also guided by the referred barriers, the expected outcome in capacity of REDD+ experts as a result of the second forum will be based on capacity needs shared through the REDD+ experts' network, to be used in planning the second forum. The first forum will be organized in a moist forest country and the second in a dry forest country in different sub-regional economic commissions.

Prior activities of the project team related to each forum will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the forum, ii). Making public the forum. Activities related to the organization of each forum will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 250 forum participants including land travel, ii). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of participants, including livelihood provisions, iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for 5 days of in-door forum sessions and a full day REDD+ field visit, iv). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the preparation of documents, v). Delivery of forum report.

Activity 1.2.2: Create and make operational a network of African REDD+ experts

The network of African REDD+ experts will be created at the end of the first REDD+ experts' forum. Its creation will be based on a Declaration to be made at the end of the REDD+ forum, in which founding members will develop and commit to an action plan. The network's purpose, scope of membership, operational modality and institutional anchor will be indicated in the founding Declaration. The network will be supported up to the end of this project, after which it must operate independently or seek alternative support for its operations and possible institutionalization.

Activities for setting up and making operational the network will include; i). implementation of a simple study on specifications and contacts of related networks in Africa and globally, ii). Internet research and communication activities, iii). Membership fees of network coordinator to no more than two paid REDD+ related professional societies, and iv). Participation of network coordinator in no more than 4 paid REDD+ related Internet webinars.

Output 1.3: Sub-regional Commissions and related institutions are strengthened

This component will strengthen the REDD+ oversight capacity of African sub-regional Commissions. Based on the Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa, the targeted Commissions include; COMIFAC^[1], ECOWAS^[2], EAC^[3], SADC^[4] and the Arab MAGREB Union. These Commissions have the institutional mandate to develop frameworks and strategies expected to facilitate their members' conception and implementation of objectives linked to regional and international environmental conventions, such as the UNFCCC's REDD+ mechanism. A regional knowledge management clearing-house for REDD+ shall be proposed at the level of each sub-regional Commission to facilitate coordination and conformity with the REDD+ regional standard, based on concerted and adopted African REDD+ positions in international climate negotiations. The component will also strengthen the bankable REDD+ project development and project evaluation capacity of Commissions and other regional organizations such as the African Forest Forum. National REDD+ agencies will have direct access to the regional knowledge data base. The component has two outputs described along with their activities as follows:

Activity 1.3.1: Establish and make functional a REDD+ knowledge management system.

This activity will document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the three phases of REDD+ in Africa, in; English, French, Portuguese and Spanish or as necessary. Products will include a set of technological and non-technological tools, processes and methods that will help African REDD+ countries to efficiently create, capture, share, adapt and use knowledge to achieve their REDD+ goals. The data, reference material and tools including a catalog of REDD+ projects in Africa, will be placed as open source for easy access to REDD+ project developers seeking to incorporate pertinent elements into project design and implementation, similar to clearing house functions. Considering the clearing-house mandate of Africa's sub-regional intergovernmental Commissions; this output will be anchored in the forestry divisions of the referred Commissions, with direct internet links to the relevant national REDD+ institutions. The output will be supported up to the end of this project. Contractual obligations will require the host institutions to internalize operations of the output among their statutory functions.

Activities to be conducted by the project will include: i). Development and operation of a web-page, ii). Review and analysis of REDD+ project monitoring and evaluation reports, iii). Internet research and development of good practice documents, iv). Communication activities, and v). Provisions for the translation of documents.

Activity 1.3.2: Strengthen REDD+ project development capacity of African sub-regional Commissions and the AFF.

African sub-regional Commissions have the mandate to develop REDD+ frameworks and strategic guidelines for adoption or adaptation by their member States. They also have the mandate to coordinate and ensure sub-regional harmony of agreed political and legislative processes related to the implementation of regional and international conventions, topics of a trans-boundary nature, and themes of common interest to member States. The African Forest Forum (AFF) meanwhile, has been strengthening the forest management capacity of African institutions and agencies at all levels for more than 15 years. Considering the high stakes, which require that REDD+ should be correctly implemented on the African continent, these regional institutions (sub-regional Commissions and AFF) need special capacity in the design and evaluation of REDD+ projects at all levels. This output will be implemented in the form of a special seminar involving key GCF personnel in a week-long working session with forest division representatives of the sub-regional Commissions and the AFF. Although the special seminar will dwell on the development of bankable REDD+ projects and evaluation, it will also cover a broad range of pertinent REDD+ subjects such as: the 3 phases, 3 approaches, 3 levels and 3 stages of REDD +; developing and monitoring performance indicators for the implementation of REDD+; how to obtain REDD+ benefits while avoiding the negative effects etc. While delegates will not be required to carry out REDD+ project development, evaluation or additional technological procedures, they should be versed with the techniques and be able to provide training, guidance and control when necessary.

Sub-activities will include: i). Development of ToRs and agenda for the special seminar, and ii). Development of a training needs package for assessment and selection of resource persons by GCF. Sub-activities related to the organization of the special seminar will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 4 GCF delegates, ii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 10 sub-regional Commission delegates at 2 representatives per Commission, iii). Planning and delivery of return flights for 3 AFF delegates, iv). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of delegates including per diems, v). Planning and organization of Logistics for 5 days of capacity-building sessions vi). Delivery of secretariat services and the production of documents/reports.

Output 1.4: REDD+ products/results are presented in international climate conferences and events

This activity will promote the visibility of progress so far registered in REDD+ within Africa. It constitutes part of a communication strategy which provides prospects for REDD+ successes and lessons in the continent to be explained to the national and international media through press conferences, documentaries including radio and TV programs, and newspaper articles. This is expected to foster transparency and encourage accountability in the management of forest resources as well as demonstrate equity in the distribution of forest benefits, constituting a fundamental REDD+'s objective. In more specific terms, this component will support 'REDD+ display stands' by REDD+ countries (through their sub-regional Commissions) during the side events of specific international climate and forest conferences, during which press conferences may also be programmed. Products for display may be packaged in the form of videos, posters, newsletters, bulletin articles, books or smart portable alternative REDD+ project gadgets. Such products will also be available on the REDD+ webpage. These events have the added value of encouraging the international community to invest in REDD+ in Africa through amongst others; establishing

contacts for new REDD+ projects, international REDD+ related research, North/South university collaborations on REDD+, establishment of market channels for alternative REDD+ products.

Activity 1.4.1: Produce knowledge products and publicity gadgets

REDD+ results targeted in this output will include knowledge products in print, pen-drives or CD formats. They may also include REDD+ publicity gadgets. Appropriate innovation will be required for the choice and development of items for presentation in international conferences. Such conferences will include; UNFCCC side events, Conference of Parties and subsidiary body meetings. For effective preparation, this 3-years project will fund countries' presentations in one international conference.

Activity 1.4.2: Organise and/or participate at events

Sub-activities for organising/participating at the events will involve: i). Organization of an experts meeting to prepare technical REDD+ products for presentation in international climate events. Other related activities will include: i). Provisions for the transportation of items to the conference, ii). Provisions for stands and /or space at the conference, iii). Provisions for related technical materials and equipment during the conference.

Component 2: Support resource mobilization for REDD+ investments in Africa

This component involves supports to the identification, preparation and appraisal of bankable projects as well as the organisation of a round-table forum for REDD+ investments in Africa. Countries will present project concept notes for the selection towards development to full projects ready for possible investments.

Output 2.1. The feasibility studies of 10 national projects are supported

This output has three main activities to develop 10 national bankable projects. It is expected that the 30 countries involved in this project will submit project concept notes from which 10 countries will be selected for the submission of national projects. Further development of the projects will go through the standard phases of project development at the African Development Bank, which will be considered as the activities under this output.

Activity 2.1.1. Identification of national bankable project

After a country is shortlisted to submit a project, a project identification process will be engaged with the government to situate the relevance of the project within the national context and priorities. This will require a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to agree on the project idea and possible scope, which will be followed by the project preparation.

Activity 2.1.2. Conducting feasibilities of 10 national bankable projects

This activity requires a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to define project components, outputs and activities, and produce a concept note, which will be followed by the project appraisal. Prior activities of will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the project preparation mission, ii). Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for about 14 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and Concept note (CN).

Output 2.2. The feasibility studies of one regional project in the Congo Basin is supported

This output will involve the identification, preparation and appraisal of one regional project in the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin is purposefully selected because it remains the largest contiguous tropical forest block in Africa that needs to be sustainably management for its myriad of social, economic and environmental benefits at the local, national and global levels.

Activity 2.2.1. Identification of regional bankable project

A project identification process in the Congo Basin will be engaged with the governments of the concerned countries to situate the relevance of the project within the national, regional and international contexts and priorities. This will require a joint mission of national actors, COMIFAC and the Bank to agree on the project idea and its possible scope, which will be followed by the project preparation.

Activity 2.2.2. Feasibility studies of regional bankable project

This activity requires a joint mission of national actors and the Bank to define project components, outputs and activities to produce a concept note. Prior activities of will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the mission, ii). Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national and regional project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for 14-20 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and Concept note. This will be followed by the project appraisal mission.

Activity 2.2.3. Appraisal of regional bankable project

This activity requires a joint mission of national and regional actors and the Bank to fully develop project activities and produce a project appraisal report that will be submitted to potential donors to leverage additional financing. Prior activities of the project preparation team will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the project appraisal mission. Activities related to the conduct of the mission will include: i). logistics arrangements for mission participants, ii). Contacting potential national project stakeholders iii). Planning and delivery of logistics for about 21 days of the mission, iv). Delivery of mission aide-memoire and project proposal.

Output 2.3. One REDD+ investment Forum is organized

This output will involve the organisation of one REDD+ investment forum. This will provide a platform for presenting the REDD+ projects developed under outputs 2.1 and 2.2 to potential donors and investors. The forum

will be held in the third year of the project following adequate capacity development for national and regional stakeholders. The investment forum is expected to host over 500 participants for a period of 5 days. The Forum will also serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and raising awareness on REDD+ investment projects worldwide and in Africa in particular. Panel discussions, debates and scientific presentations will be used to animate the forum. Major outcomes of the forum will be to get investors to finance developed REDD+ project proposals as well as project ideas in a good number of African countries as well as the regional project in the Congo Basin. It is expected that the forum will possibly generate at least US\$1.0 billion investment for REDD+ implementation in Africa for the rehabilitation and maintenance of 1 million hectares of forest.

Activity 2.3.1: Organize a REDD+ investment Forum

Prior activities of the project team related to the investment forum will include: i). Preparation of ToRs and agenda of the forum, ii). Making public the forum. Activities related to the organization of the forum will include: i). Planning and delivery of return flights for 500 forum participants including land travel, ii). Planning and delivery of the accommodation of participants, including livelihood provisions, iii). Hiring a consultant specialized in organising investment fora, iv). Planning and delivery of logistics for 5 days of in-door forum sessions, v). Planning and delivery of secretariat services and the presentation of REDD+ projects and project ideas, vi). Delivery of forum report.

Component 3: Project management and coordination

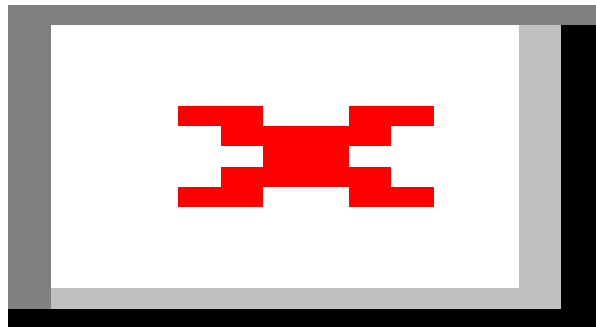
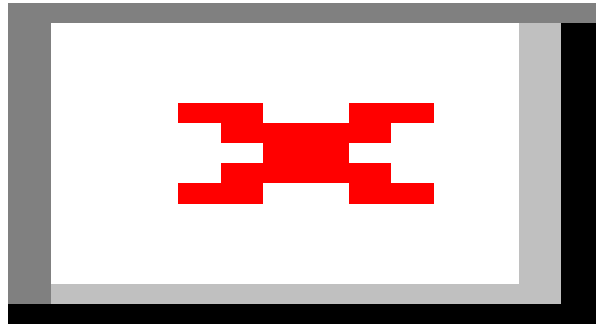
Accredited Entity - AfDB: AfDB The African Development Bank Group (the Bank) is the premier pan-African development institution promoting economic growth and social progress across the continent. With the support of GCF and JICA, the Bank organized the first international workshop on how to design REDD+ investment projects in Africa in 2019. The workshop produced the 'Abidjan Resolution on REDD+ in Africa', whose implementation constitutes the basis of this project. The Bank has longstanding experience of working in the climate change and forestry sectors in Africa through regional projects such as PACEBCo (Support Program for the Conservation of Ecosystems and Resilience to Climate Change in Central Africa), covering all Congo Basin countries; or others such as, PIDACC/BN (Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin) covering 9 countries spread across West and Central Africa. The Bank will oversee execution of the project in line with Bank procedures and standards, and specific requirements in the AMA agreed with GCF.

Implementing Partner - COMIFAC: COMIFAC will be implementing partner of the project and will ensure the setting up of the coordinating unit. COMIFAC is already a delivery partner of the GCF readiness program and therefore has some experience in implementing GCF project activities. From a training and capacity building perspective, COMIFAC has led the organizations of several Central African regional trainings and capacity on the GCF process and access to GCF finance. In some cases, the trainings have been organized in partnership with the GCF and CTCN experts. From a technical perspective, COMIFAC remains the most active regional organization on REDD+ in Africa. COMIFAC played a key role in the drafting and adoption of the Warsaw framework on REDD+ and provided technical leadership on REDD+ within the African group of negotiators (AGN) during the adoption of the Paris Agreement. At the Central African regional level, COMIFAC coordinates all regional REDD+ processes across the ten member states and helps countries to strengthen their capacities on REDD+.

How the demonstration activities are scalable/replicable and contribute to the expected outcomes of the project.

African countries are not progressing well in REDD+ design and implementation as far as the three major phases of REDD+ are concerned. Currently, the absence of enabling requirements will limit the access to RBPs for African countries, thus keeping the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation on course, a situation that requires an urgent intervention to manage forests sustainably for the provision of their services towards green growth and sustainable development. The theory of change of the project to reverse this trend, is based on the assumption that action must be taken to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through the following interventions; (i) UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ RBPs, (ii) the implementation of innovative REDD+ demonstration activities across the scope of the five REDD+ in different forest types and (iii) the strengthening of research and technical capacities to measure and monitor carbon stocks in different forests types. These interventions are in line with the Warsaw framework and constitute a response to the emission reduction objectives of countries. Based on country circumstances, the project hopes to see that countries progress successfully from one REDD+ phase to another. Countries in the readiness phase (phase 1) should aim at advancing to the investment and implementation phase (phase 2) while countries in the investment and implementation phase should implement activities to advance to the RBP phase (phase 3) as illustrated in the figure below.





Before the project

Ø

Ø After the project

The key financial and operational risks and any mitigation measures are described as follows:

Ø Relatively moderate financial risk related to recurrent budgetary shortfalls that constrains many African countries to allocate resources from their public investment budget in order to help finance the pilot and preliminary activities

of the REDD+ process in accordance with the Warsaw framework. To mitigate this risk, the choice of funding method should be made with a grant from (to) governments and, if possible, from their partners:

Ø Economic risk related to the economic growth of countries dependent on sectors which have an impact on the forestry sector. To mitigate this risk, it is important to ensure that the negative impacts of other sectors on the development of the forestry sector are considered;

Ø Relatively low political risk associated with the weak linkage between political discourse, national development priorities and strategies such as poverty alleviation and the alleged impacts of the REDD + process. To mitigate this risk, which raises the issue of the feasibility of REDD+ and RBP in the context of a country's development vision, it will be necessary to support the process of institutionalizing the participation of sector actors in the process of identifying mitigation options and their implementation;

Ø Relatively average climate risk, which could accelerate if urgent measures are not taken to implement safeguarding policies and to anticipate the forest transition; this risk should be mitigated through country-level promotion of national land use plans;

Ø Lack of enabling business environment for the implementation of REDD+ RBP. This risk will be mitigated through the creation of an enabling business environment for the effective implementation of REDD+ RBP;

Ø Relatively weak institutional risk, which is manifested by the low ownership of the REDD+ and RBP process by the member countries. This risk should be mitigated through strategic monitoring of information and country training efforts;

Ø Technical risk is moderate and linked to the heavy dependence on contractual expertise from outside the country for the conduct of technical operations required to set up the REDD+ process and who often disappear with the institutional memory. To mitigate this risk, it will be necessary to develop national technical capacities of the REDD+ process and support each country to reduce dependence on non-regional consultants who disappear at the end of their missions;and,

Ø Relative high costs for the development of forest management plans and high costs for forest certification, with relative low returns to investments for certified logging companies. The risk should be mitigated by incentivizing the process of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

B.3.Expected performance against the GCF investment criteria (1000 words)²

The project will build the technical capacity of 30 African countries on how to generate financial resources for increased investments in REDD+ initiatives.The target groups and final beneficiaries are the potential and future users of trainings, technological tools, methods and processes in the form of advisory services provided by this project for the development and implementation of REDD+ projects and related services in each African country. Direct beneficiaries include:

(a) African sub-regional Commissions (COMIFAC, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and the MAGHREB Arab Union), whose REDD+ knowledge management capacity will be strengthened to support their clearing house functions and enhance their mandate of regional integration, through harmonious REDD+ development and implementation in concert with their member States.

² For more information please refer to Annex XIV of document [GCF/B.07/11](#)

(b) At least 100 African REDD+ decision-makers and policy planners in 30 African countries, representing the following sectors (Forestry/Environment, Agriculture, Water Resources and Renewable Energy) whose technical and technological capacities in the planning and delivery of REDD+ policy, strategies, and low carbon investment projects will be enhanced.

(c) The private sector, having benefited from intensive training in REDD+ results-based demonstration activities and results-based actions, will be empowered to engage forest restoration in large tracts of highly degraded publicly managed land (usually difficult to recover using improved silviculture and natural regeneration methods) with the collaboration of governments.

(d) At least 500 African CSOs, decentralized forest management authorities, customary leaders with REDD+ project estates as well as rural producers including women across 30 African countries who would be empowered through the intensive REDD+ training provided by the project, to promote and facilitate development of low carbon investment projects. Indirect beneficiaries include the 5 million Africans who live around one million ha the forest. This forest dwelling population will benefit from more sustainable livelihood as a result of sustainable forest management due to the low carbon policies and programs implemented by governments resulting from their participation in this project.

Paradigm shift (see also Annex 1)

- **Innovation:** The project will establish and enhance knowledge base, capacities and raise awareness to support large-scale implementation of REDD+ mechanism while bringing about innovation and a change in behaviour and mind-set among actors (national Governments, civil society, and others) in the African continent. In addition, there will be a shift towards evidence-based REDD+ oriented policy, planning, and decision-making.

- **Potential for scaling-up and replication for both mitigation and adaptation:** The project will be based on the approach of training-of-trainers (ToT). The project will provide capacity building or training on REDD+ to REDD+ actors in Africa including small-holder farmers; representative of indigenous and forest-dependent communities; representatives of civil society and community cooperative groups; private sector; staff of research institutions and universities; as well as staff from relevant government institutions. Once this training is provided to these actors, it can be replicated by the preliminary beneficiaries at the local and national levels.

- **Potential for knowledge and learning:** The proposed project will establish a knowledge base to support capacity building in African countries on REDD+. As part of the project, training information on REDD+ will be collected, analysed and made publicly available through an online information platform hosted by the relevant forestry institutions in the different sub-regions and countries in Africa.

- **Contribution to the creation of an enabling environment:** The proposed project focuses explicitly on creating an enabling environment that will help build the climate-resilience of African countries and facilitate the development of a sustainable natural resource-based (green) economy through capacity building on REDD+. The cumulative effect of the project's outcomes will be to transform the present negative spiral of poverty, environmental degradation and climate change impacts into sustainable landscapes in African countries based on well-managed forests and the resources therein.

- **Contribution to the regulatory framework and policies:** The proposed project will play a vital role in strengthening the policy and regulatory framework of African countries by creating a favourable policy and business environment for the implementation of REDD+. The project will also promote investment in low-emission in the different contexts of the African countries by creating the transformational opportunities for carbon market-

oriented initiatives to achieve sustainable forest management as a strategy for emission reduction and global climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- Overall contribution to climate-resilient development pathways consistent with a country's climate change adaptation strategies and plans: The proposed project will underpin the establishment of an enabling environment through capacity building for the implementation of REDD+. In most African countries, the major risks are the limited access to resources (domestic and multilateral finances) to support the engagement of development actors on the forest carbon market and the absence of incentives for the private sector and communities-based enterprises to grow forest carbon conservation business. Therefore, there is a pressing need to remove barriers that are corporate related, in order to create an enabling environment that catalyses resilient investments in micro-small community-based enterprises.

Sustainable development

- Economic co-benefits: The long-term economic sustainability scenario lies in the anticipated REDD+ revenues that would be generated once a REDD+ mechanism is established in African countries. In addition, the project is investing in the capacity of existing institutions in the African continent, which invariably is not creating any financial burden for the existing regional and national institutions in the continent.
- Social co-benefits: The Project will devote considerable resources in the social dimensions of REDD+ with the objective of building knowledge and offering guidance on how to achieve a pro-poor and equitable REDD+ mechanism in the African continent. Additionally, the Project will promote increased stakeholder participation and more meaningful representation in REDD+ policy debates and strategy development.
- Environmental co-benefits: The fundamental element for environmental sustainability lies in the concept of REDD+ itself. By providing payments for ecosystem services (especially carbon and non-carbon benefits), REDD+ will provide an incentive mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to thus conserve, sustainably manage and restore forest ecosystems.
- Gender-sensitive development impact: The project's approach is to ensure that there is equitable representation of women in the project's activities. This will contribute towards an enabling environment for increased economic empowerment and participation of women in decision-making. In most African countries, the prevailing policies in the domain of forest management does not promote Gender Empowerment and the inclusion of women in decision-making regarding sustainable forest management. Therefore, the project's activities include multiple measures that will guarantee that women will have an opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the project's activities.

Needs of recipients

- Vulnerability of the country and beneficiary groups (adaptation only): Recurrent droughts, infrastructure development, logging, mining and agricultural expansion are driving deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing the vulnerability of social and ecological systems in African countries. As a consequence, the provision of important ecosystem services that the population depends on such as fertile soils for agricultural production, clean water, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration are threatened. Preserving and replenishing these services will therefore entail massive investment in REDD+ implementation.
- Economic and social development level of the country and affected population: Most forest countries in Africa are least developed and have limited financial resources without donor support to enhance the capacity of REDD+ actors to fully implement REDD+. At the local level, rural African communities do not have the financial

resources, knowledge base, or technical capacity to develop and implement a full-scale REDD+ project. The project has therefore been formulated to respond to urgent financial, economic, social and institutional needs identified by African countries. Most African countries that are rich in forests have macro-economic environments which are characterized by one of the world's lowest GDPs per capita and a high ratio of external debt to GDP. Therefore, such countries need significant external financial support to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

- **Absence of alternative sources of financing:** The alternative sources of financing pertain to private sector and commercial bank investment in REDD+. Access to funding to implement a project of this nature and magnitude is subject to several barriers including the high rate of interest and lack of awareness on the part of private sector actors regarding the growing business opportunities available to integrate REDD+ action into their business and corporate strategies (Afful-Koomson, 2015)[1]. Such an integration has been shown to improve private sector access to climate finance and the quality of their investment portfolios.
- **Needs for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity:** Overall, the proposed project will encourage more systematic institutional and organizational analysis in project design relating to REDD+ in African countries. It will also deepen in-house and in-country capacity-building in the domain of REDD+, as well as learning and knowledge management in this same domain to improve sustainable forest management in African countries.

Country ownership

- **Coherence and alignment with the country's national climate strategy and priorities as well as other existing policies:** The proposed project aligns with the REDD+ country's national strategy for African countries. The project is also consistent with the nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), national adaptation plans (NAPs), technology needs assessments (TNAs) etc, of African countries.
- **Support to a country's enabling policy and institutional framework, or includes policy or institutional changes:** The project will contribute in strengthening the policy and institutional framework relating to REDD+ in African countries. It will also promote policy or institutional efficiency in African countries in order to facilitate the implementation of REDD+.
- **Capacity of accredited entities or executing entities to deliver:** The African Development Bank (AfDB) is working on a series of mitigation and adaptation initiatives at the national and regional levels designed to enhance African countries' access to GCF resources. The AfDB has already shown through its climate change action plan that it is committed to helping African countries implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. AfDB's climate action plan, which runs from 2016 to 2020, is designed to ensure that inclusive, green growth across the African continent will also improve water, energy and food security, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. During the last five years before its current climate plan, AfDB mobilized about US\$ 12 billion for low-carbon and climate-resilient projects, with its internal resources accounting for more than 80 percent of these investments. Today, the AfDB is developing and implementing several GCF adaptation and mitigation projects across several African countries.

Efficiency and effectiveness

- **Estimated cost per tCO₂ eq. (total investment cost/expected lifetime emission reductions):** Gockowski and Sonwa, (2011) showed that if 21,000 km² of forests is preserved, it can contribute to a reduction in emissions of

about 1.4 billion tonnes of CO₂. Since the forest in Africa is 3.6 million km², about 5.04 billion tonnes of CO₂ will be sequestered in the forest of Africa as a result of this project.

- **Expected volume of finance to be leveraged as a result of the GCF's financing, disaggregated by public and private sources:** The expected volume of finance to be leveraged as a result of the GCF's financing should be 1:5 ratio based on with and without the investment of the private sector. Transforming the immense carbon pool of the forest into financial dividends is urgent for the sustainability of private sector investment in the forestry sector. Considering its large size, the forest in Africa has a carbon reservoir of global importance for the regulation of greenhouse gases. These forests store more than a quarter of the total carbon stored in the world's tropical forests, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. African countries that are rich in forest need to find ways to make significant dividends from this huge ecological capital, starting with the auctioning of carbon dioxide quotas in the European carbon market, despite current market difficulties.
- **Financial viability and other financial indicators:** The economies of most African countries are marked by high levels of public debt. For this reason, without the GCF's support, the project would probably not be undertaken due to the constraints of funding availability to finance operations expected to lead to the effectiveness of the project. Therefore, without the project support, underinvestment in strategies to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change is likely to occur.

Application of best practices and degree of innovation: Special attention will be given to indigenous and local knowledge in capacity building in the domain of REDD+ implementation. The implementation of best practices during capacity building and improved investments will be favored, and support will be found in the Technical Assistance Providers and in the exchange with the national technical public institutions. This will promote the generation of businesses willing to prepare themselves to adequately face climate variability, and at the same time preserving and conserving natural resources and assets in Africa. The main objective of gaining lessons learned is to identify successful cases in order to systematize information on the factors that go to promote best practices and be able to replicate them.

- **Total tons of CO₂e to be avoided or reduced per annum (mitigation)**

Minimum of 70 million tons of CO₂e per year

- **Expected total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries(adaptation)**

B.4 Stakeholders consultation and engagement (300 words)

Will be provided as annex after completion of the whole/various countries engagement process

C. Indicative financing information (max. 2 pages)

C.1. Financing by components



Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and disaggregate by source of financing.

Component	Output	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF financing		Co-financing			
			Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Type	Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1): Capacity development	1.1. REDD+ practitioners, private sector, CSO and decentralized entities are trained on the identification of key root causes and overcoming of REDD+ barriers 1.2. African REDD+ Experts network is supported to become operational 1.3. Sub-regional Commissions and related institutions in REDD+ are strengthened 1.4. REDD+ products/results are presented in international climate events	2,500,000	2,500,000	grant	public	0	loan	AfDB
Component 2): Support resource mobilization for REDD+ investments in Africa	2.1. Feasibility studies of 10 national projects are supported 2.2. Feasibility study of one regional project in the	5,500,000	5,500,000	grant	public	0	in-kind	AfDB/Countries

	Congo Basin is supported 2.3. One REDD+ investment Forum is organized							
Component 3: Project management and coordination	project Implementation Unit	800,000	800,000	grant	public	0	in-kind	Countries
Indicative total cost (USD)		8,800,000	8,800,000	0				

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

C.2. Justification of GCF Funding Request (500 words)

This proposed project is fully aligned with the GCF's focus of promoting a paradigm shift in developing countries especially those in the African continent. The proposed project will also make considerable contributions towards all six GCF Investment Criteria (described in Section B3). In terms of project beneficiaries: it is estimated that all the REDD+ actors in the African countries are concerned, including: small-holder farmers; representatives of indigenous and forest-dependent communities; representatives of civil society and community cooperative groups; staff of research institutions and universities; as well as staff from relevant government institutions. Given the diversity of the African forest in terms of the various forest types (e.g., humid dense evergreen forests, humid dense semi-deciduous forests, and gallery forests), these landscapes have enormous carbon stocks. This has provided huge opportunities for international climate initiatives such as the REDD+ mechanism to be initiated in these forests as a potential for mitigating global climate change. Most countries in Africa are low- and middle-income countries, are recovering from economic crisis and have therefore given priority to the social sector and to some extent to growth and development sectors. Additionally, several African countries are categorized either as least developed, indebted, fragile or under conflict, implying that the public and private sector do not have the financial capacity to finance a project of this nature.

There are several ongoing bilateral and multilateral funding opportunities that are available in Africa including the: (i) Forest Carbon Partnership Facility; (ii) Global Environment Fund; (iii) Special Fund for Climate Change; (iv) Central African Forest initiative (CAFI); (v) Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE); (vi) The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes; (vii) Forest Investment Program (FIP); and the (viii) UNREDD United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. However, these funding opportunities are still functioning as traditional developmental assistance and are not as comprehensive and huge (like the GCF) to fund a project of this calibre. Most tropical forest countries are in the phase of updating or elaborating their tools to comply with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, and to support demonstration and research activities related to REDD+.

Most importantly, the project will play a key role in building and fostering new political momentum on REDD+ results-based payment mechanism as envisaged by the GCF, from which, key lessons can be drawn for other developing countries to stick with the progress that has been made so far.

C.3. Exit Strategy and Sustainability (500 words)

The **sustainability** of the project will be ensured through its designed and implemented, e.g. by ensuring sub-regional and country ownerships. Sub regional bodies are entry points for the different components and outputs. These organisations have long-term vision and mission on climate change mitigation and forest management in particular. They also have many years of engagement with countries in their sub-regions where supports of various kinds have already been provided to member countries. At the countries level, the elements of the Warsaw framework will be institutionalized in the relevant government ministries as well as other UNFCCC submissions, thus, will be operationalized through long-term government institutional and financial support. Furthermore, nationals from the sub-regions will be endowed with sufficient technical capacities, especially in the technical components: NFMS, RL, BUR, and others. This will help to reduce dependence on external technical support in the long-term.

The monitoring of the project will be based on the log frame as defined by the project components, outputs and activities. Indicators will be developed in order to inform the GCF investment and results framework. During the launching of the project, the feasibility log frame will be examined and contextualized. An annual work plan of activities will be adopted for each country and the implementation of the project will adopt a Learning by doing approach on the fact that REDD+ strategies or climate action plans must lead to real, tangible, measurable and long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits.

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 Checklist³

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.

Risk Factors	YES	NO
Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
Will the activities involve trans-boundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
Will the activities adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
Will the proposed activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
Will the activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		

³ In answering this checklist, you may refer to Annex 1: Guidance on Part A ESS Screening of the [“Guidelines for the environmental and social screening of activities proposed under the SAP”](#)

--	--	--

Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	YES	NO	TBD
Has the E&S risk category of the project been provided in the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the rationale for the categorization of the project been provided in the relevant sections of the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any additional environmental, health and safety requirements under the national laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and agreements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labour and Working Conditions	YES	NO	TBD
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Will the activities pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	YES	NO	TBD
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Will the activities utilize significant amount of natural resources including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Will there be a need to develop detailed measures to reduce pollution and promote sustainable use of resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Community Health, Safety, and Security	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			

Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the project site to the workers and affected community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (eg. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Indigenous Peoples	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially have any indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Cultural Heritage	Yes	NO	TBD
Will the activities restrict access to the cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
<i>Will there be a need to prepare a chance-find procedure in case of the discovery of cultural heritage assets?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
Stakeholder engagement and grievance	Yes	NO	TBD
Will the activities include a continuing stakeholder engagement process and a grievance redress mechanism and integrated into the management/implementation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			

Part C: Sign Off

Sign-off: N/A



Simplified Approval Process **CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE V.1.4**

GREEN CLIMATE FUND | PAGE 38 OF 6