



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Readiness and Preparatory Support

Direct Access Proposal Template

Country Support Window

Proposal title

Strengthening the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Readiness for REDD+ Results-Based Payments and Future Forest Finance (43110)

Country(ies)

Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)

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[!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1_img.jpg\) Guide for Countries to Access Readiness Support](#)

[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\) Guide for Countries on Strategic Planning of Readiness Support](#)

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Proposal Details

Title of the Direct Access Proposal

Strengthening the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Readiness for REDD+ Results-Based Payments and Future Forest Finance

Total Approved Amount (in USD)

\$488,269

Implementation Period (in months)

17 months

Country Information

☒ Single country

☐ Multi-country

Country

Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)

NDA / focal point name

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Participating Country Information



If the proposal involves multiple countries (regional/multi-country), please list each one below, adding as many rows as necessary. The entry listed above serves as the lead for the multi-country proposal. Please upload the letters of intent on the GCF Partner Platform.

Participating Country	NDA/Focal Point Name	Name of Contact Person	Contact Person's Position	Contact Person's Email	Budget
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Type of Access

- Framework Agreement Partner

1. Summary of the proposal

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) holds one of the world's most important tropical forest areas and has placed REDD+ at the centre of its forest-sector mitigation pathway. The DRC has already reported REDD+ results for the 2015-2018 period under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, with the country's endorsement, GIZ as Accredited Entity has formally submitted a GCF REDD+ Results-based Payment (RbP) proposal for the 2018 results year. However, during the GCF review process, technical issues were identified in relation to the underlying REDD+ reporting and the recommendations arising from the UNFCCC technical analysis of the previous REDD+ Technical Annex. **This Readiness proposal is therefore designed to address the immediate technical requirements for preparing and submitting an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, while also strengthening the forest-data systems needed for future REDD+ reporting and access to forest finance.**

The proposal will implement three mutually reinforcing activities. It will (i) support the preparation and submission of an updated **REDD+ Technical Annex for the 2015-2018 results period**, including methodological guidance, quality assurance, consolidation of the required documentation and support during the UNFCCC technical analysis process; (ii) **strengthen the technical foundations of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)** by supporting the Directorate of Forest Inventory and Planning (DIAF) to develop national Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for activity-data generation and validation and for emission-factor related data, complemented by technical training and a medium-term capacity development plan; and (iii) **support the final consolidation and quality assurance of National Forest Inventory (NFI) data**, including the review and update of NFI-related procedures and training of DIAF technical staff. Together, these activities will improve the transparency, consistency and usability of the DRC's forest-data systems for REDD+ reporting, forest carbon-stock estimation, emission-factor development and national greenhouse-gas (GHG) reporting.

The immediate expected impact is to better position the DRC to resubmit its 2018 REDD+ results for GCF results-based payment consideration, based on an updated Technical Annex and a more transparent, consistent and reproducible documentation package. More broadly, the Readiness support will improve the accuracy, credibility and institutional ownership of the DRC's NFMS, REDD+ reporting and NFI data systems. **This will strengthen the country's ability to pursue access to future RbP mechanisms, jurisdictional REDD+ approaches, VCM opportunities and other performance-based forest finance**, while supporting implementation of the DRC's revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National REDD+ Strategy.

2. Country Context

Guidance

This section provides an overview of the country context, including planned climate investments and priority areas for funding by the GCF and other sources of climate finance. It also highlights the country's key climate priorities, challenges, policies and institutional structures as well as gender considerations and stakeholder engagement.

2.1 Country(ies) Climate Challenges

The DRC is one of the world's most important forest countries. It holds the largest share of the Congo Basin rainforest, with approximately 152 million hectares of natural forest, representing around 10 per cent of the world's tropical forests. These forests are globally significant carbon sinks and biodiversity reservoirs, supporting more than 15,000 plant and animal species and providing essential ecosystem services, livelihoods and cultural values for millions of people. Their conservation is therefore not only a national development priority, but also a matter of continental and global climate importance.

At the same time, the DRC's forests are under increasing pressure. Deforestation and forest degradation are driven by a combination of direct and underlying factors. The main direct drivers include shifting cultivation and subsistence agriculture, artisanal and semi-industrial logging, fuelwood and charcoal production, mining, bushfires and expanding infrastructure. These pressures are closely linked to demographic growth, poverty, limited access to alternative livelihoods and energy sources, weak enforcement of forest regulations, insecure land tenure and limited institutional capacity for integrated land-use governance. In many areas, logging and road development do not only remove timber, but also open previously remote forest areas to further agricultural expansion, settlement and resource extraction.

Available evidence suggests that forest loss pressures have intensified over time, particularly as market activity, access to forests and domestic demand for agricultural land, timber and wood energy have increased. Forest degradation is also a significant concern, even where full conversion of forest cover has not yet occurred. Informal timber extraction, charcoal production, repeated burning, mining-related disturbance and poorly regulated forest access can reduce forest carbon stocks, fragment habitats and weaken ecosystem resilience. Climate change may further aggravate these pressures: higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, longer dry spells, more intense rainfall and increased bushfire risk can undermine forest regeneration, agricultural productivity and the stability of forest-dependent livelihoods.

The mitigation opportunity is therefore substantial. The DRC's revised NDC identifies Forestry and Other Land Use as the principal mitigation sector and places forests at the centre of the country's 2030 emissions-reduction ambition. Key opportunities include reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, strengthening forest governance, improving forest monitoring and law enforcement, promoting sustainable forest management, scaling community forestry, restoring degraded lands, protecting wetlands and peatlands, improving land-use planning, and reducing pressure from unsustainable agriculture and wood energy. These measures can generate significant emission reductions while also supporting biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, social inclusion and sustainable rural development.

2.2 Policy Framework

The DRC has established a climate policy framework in which **the NDC and the National REDD+ Strategy** are two highly relevant instruments. Both position forests, land use governance, and climate-resilient rural development at the centre of the country's climate response.

Nationally Determined Contribution:

The DRC's **revised NDC** was published in **October 2021** and covers the period **2021-2030**. It updates the country's earlier 2015 submission and sets out the DRC's mitigation and adaptation commitments under the Paris Agreement. The NDC covers mitigation and adaptation across the forestry and other land use, agriculture, energy, transport, and waste sectors, while also identifying institutional, financial, and capacity-building needs for implementation.

Its overall objective is to support a **green, climate-resilient and low-emission development pathway**, while contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development. On mitigation, the DRC commits to a **21 per cent reduction in total GHG emissions by 2030 relative to the business-as-usual scenario**, comprising **19 per cent conditional** and **2 per cent unconditional** reductions. The NDC identifies **Forestry and Other Land Use** as the principal mitigation sector and highlights REDD+ as a central vehicle for achieving these emission reductions. On adaptation, it prioritises action in highly climate-sensitive sectors including **water resources, forestry, agriculture, and coastal zones**.

This Readiness proposal supports implementation of the DRC's revised NDC by **strengthening the technical and institutional systems required to measure, report and verify forest-sector mitigation results**. By supporting an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, strengthened technical foundations of the NFMS and quality assurance of NFI data, the proposal will improve the transparency, consistency and credibility of REDD+ results reporting, including through future Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submissions. This will strengthen the DRC's capacity to track progress in the Forestry and Other Land Use sector, mobilise REDD+ results-based payments and other performance-based forest finance, and reinvest future proceeds in NDC-aligned priorities such as community forestry, restoration, improved forest governance, agroforestry and climate-resilient agriculture.

National REDD+ Strategy:

The DRC's **National REDD+ Strategy Framework** was adopted in **November 2012**. It is a long-term strategic framework rather than a short implementation plan, with its first major investment cycle operationalised through the REDD+ Investment Plan for 2015–2020. The Strategy has a national scope and provides a cross-sectoral framework for addressing deforestation and forest degradation while supporting the **country's transition towards a green economy**.

Its overall objective is to transform the structural drivers of deforestation into drivers of sustainable development through action across **seven pillars: agriculture, energy, forestry, land-use planning, land tenure, demographics, and governance**. The sectoral pillars are intended to address direct drivers of deforestation and generate measurable emission reductions, while the enabling pillars create the institutional, policy and planning conditions for durable REDD+ implementation. The Strategy aims to stabilise forest cover, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, strengthen forest governance, secure community rights, and ensure that REDD+ contributes to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods. It also embeds participation, safeguards and benefit-sharing as core principles of implementation.

This Readiness proposal is aligned with the National REDD+ Strategy by **strengthening the technical and institutional foundations required** for credible REDD+ implementation, monitoring and access to RbP finance. By supporting an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, strengthened technical foundations of the NFMS and quality assurance of NFI data, the proposal contributes directly to the Strategy's emphasis on measurable emission reductions, transparent forest monitoring, stronger governance and the progressive mobilisation of finance for REDD+ implementation.

2.3 Institutional Framework, Capacity and Coordination

In line with the overall scope of this Readiness proposal, the following key actors are central to **climate coordination and national REDD+ coordination in the DRC**:

At the national level:

- Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economy (MEDD-NEC) – Overall lead institution for REDD+, forest governance, safeguards oversight, and alignment of REDD+ with national climate and environmental policy.
- National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD) – Manages day-to-day coordination of the REDD+ process, stakeholder engagement, and implementation oversight.
- National REDD+ Steering Committee / REDD+ Committee – Provides political and inter-ministerial guidance for the REDD+ process and helps align REDD+ with broader national priorities.
- Directorate of Forest Inventory and Planning (DIAF), MEDD-NEC – Responsible for forest data management, forest monitoring (including the NFMS) and technical analyses for the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and REDD+ Technical Annexes to the BTR.
- Sustainable Development Directorate (DDD), MEDD-NEC – Responsible for the development and validation of relevant UNFCCC submissions, including the NDC and the BTR, and for aligning GHG reporting with environmental and social standards.
- National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD) – Main financing mechanism for implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy and coordination of REDD+ investments. Within FONAREDD, there is also the:
- Ministry of Finance / REDD+ National Fund Steering Committee – Provides strategic orientation, approves REDD+ programmes, and supervises the REDD+ funding architecture through a multi-stakeholder governance framework.
- Safeguards Information System (SIS) Task Force – Oversees development and management of safeguards information for REDD+ implementation.
- Congolese Environment Agency (ACE) – Reviews environmental and social impact assessments and supports compliance with environmental legislation relevant to REDD+ activities.

At the provincial level:

- Provincial Governments – Lead implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ programmes and political coordination at provincial level. At provincial level, there are also:
 - Provincial REDD+ Focal Points – Support decentralised REDD+ implementation and coordination at provincial level.
 - Provincial REDD+ Steering Committees – Validate provincial monitoring reports on emissions reductions, safeguards, and co-benefits, and help address grievances.
 - Program Management Units (PMU) – Manage operational delivery of REDD+ programmes and compile implementation reporting at provincial level.
 - Provincial Coordination of Environment (CPEDD) – Supports the decentralised application of environmental legislation, monitors compliance with environmental and social requirements at provincial level, and contributes to safeguard screening, field-level follow-up and coordination of environmental aspects relevant to REDD+ activities.

At the local / territorial level:

- Local Executing Agencies (LEA) – Implement field-level REDD+ activities and carry out safeguard screening for community interventions.
- Territorial Consultative Platforms (CART) – Multi-stakeholder local platforms that monitor collective investments and mediate natural resource conflicts.
- Local Development Committees (CLD) – Community-level bodies used for FPIC processes and management of village-level interventions.

- Conservation and Development Governance Councils (CGCD) – Local multi-stakeholder bodies used for consultation, participatory conservation governance, FPIC processes, and management of conservation-related local interventions.
- Customary authorities and land chiefs – Essential actors in land allocation, resource-use agreements, social cohesion, and recognition of customary tenure in forest areas.
- Civil society organisations and networks, including the Reorganised REDD+ Climate Working Group (GTCR-R) and Indigenous and Local Peoples Network for Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management (REPALF) – Monitor safeguards compliance, strengthen transparency and accountability, and represent civil society and Indigenous Peoples in REDD+ processes.

2.4 Gender Equality Analysis

The DRC has established a **comparatively strong formal framework for gender equality**, including constitutional guarantees of equality between women and men, legislation on women's rights and parity, and reforms strengthening women's legal capacity, economic autonomy and participation in public life. The country is also party to key international and regional gender equality instruments. However, **implementation remains uneven**. Weak enforcement, limited institutional resources and persistent patriarchal norms continue to constrain the practical effect of these commitments.

Women remain underrepresented in political, administrative and technical decision-making. This is particularly visible in sectors traditionally perceived as male domains, including forestry, natural resource management, geospatial analysis and GHG accounting. Women's access to relevant education, technical training, employment and career progression is often more limited, while unpaid care responsibilities and discriminatory workplace assumptions can restrict participation in field missions and professional development. These inequalities are reinforced by broader patterns of gender-based violence and social expectations that associate authority, productive resources and public decision-making primarily with men.

Climate change compounds these disparities. Women, especially in rural and forest-dependent households, often rely on climate-sensitive activities such as rain-fed agriculture, non-timber forest products, fuelwood collection and household water management. Changes in rainfall, drought, flooding and ecosystem degradation can increase workloads, undermine food and income security, and reduce access to forest resources. Women's knowledge of local ecosystems and resource-use patterns is also frequently insufficiently reflected in forest governance and climate-policy processes.

Within MEDD-NEC, important foundations exist for more systematic gender mainstreaming, including a gender unit, gender focal points and a dedicated guide for gender integration in policies, strategies, programmes and projects. However, women remain underrepresented in senior technical and managerial positions. Gender focal points often lack dedicated budgets, technical training, clear terms of reference and sufficient influence over planning and decision-making.

Against this backdrop, the Readiness support will seek to promote equitable access to technical training, expert assignments, working groups and validation processes. Staffing in the relevant institutions is currently predominantly male, which may limit the overall proportion of female participants. Nevertheless, wherever female staff are available and suitably positioned, their participation will be actively encouraged and supported. Participation will be monitored using sex-disaggregated data, and attention will also be given to the quality of participation, including opportunities to contribute meaningfully to discussions, decisions and capacity-building processes.

2.5 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has been an integral part of the DRC's REDD+ process since the Readiness phase began in 2009. CN-REDD coordinated consultations supporting the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, national social and environmental standards, safeguard instruments and investment programmes. More than 100 consultation events were organised during the early REDD+ process, involving over 1,000 men and 600 women. These processes brought together national and provincial government institutions, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, research institutions, REDD+ initiatives, private-sector representatives and technical and financial partners.

Civil society participation was channelled particularly through GTCR, while Indigenous Peoples and local communities participated through REPALF and related organisations. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment was prepared through consultations at national, provincial and local levels and contributed to the development of the DRC's safeguard instruments and national social and environmental standards.

Stakeholder engagement also informed the preparation of the DRC's first Summary of Information on REDD+ safeguards. The process involved MEDD-NEC, including the DDD, the DIAF, CN-REDD and the ACE, alongside GTCR-R and other civil society representatives. Methodological outputs and draft documents were reviewed through technical meetings, multi-stakeholder exchanges and national validation workshops.

Despite this broad participatory architecture, the REDD+ process in the DRC also revealed limitations. Engagement was not always equally systematic at decentralised levels, participation records were incomplete in some cases, and the practical application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and other safeguards varied between initiatives.

2.6 Complementarity with Other Initiatives (GCF and non-GCF)

Please list past and current GCF readiness grants, and relevant capacity-building initiatives funded by other agencies and funds

GCF Readiness Activities

Title & Reference Number	Start and End Dates	Amount Approved	Status	Objectives	Key Outcomes & Results	Complementarity with the readiness proposal
Supporting the Creation of "REDD+ Catalytic Fund" - AFR-RS-001	22 Apr 2021 - 23 Dec 2023	475,000	Disbursed	To build a pipeline of bankable REDD+ projects across Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) countries – which does not currently exist – in order to mobilize the private financial community to invest in a future dedicated financial vehicle (the REDD+ Catalytic Fund) or to directly finance REDD+ projects in the Congo Basin.	To build a pipeline of bankable REDD+ projects across Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) countries – which does not currently exist – in order to mobilize the private financial community to invest in a future dedicated financial vehicle (the REDD+ Catalytic Fund) or to directly finance REDD+ projects in the Congo Basin.	AFR-RS-001 is complementary to the proposed Readiness support at the downstream forest-finance level. It focused on building a regional pipeline of bankable REDD+ projects and on defining criteria and procedures for a future REDD+ Catalytic Fund or direct private investment in REDD+ projects across COMIFAC countries. The proposed Readiness measure works further upstream by strengthening the DRC's national REDD+ reporting and forest-data systems, including the updated REDD+ Technical Annex, activity-data validation procedures and quality assurance of NFI data.
National Readiness to enable strategic approaches for 30x30 investments in the Democratic Republic of the	30 Jan 2023 - 29 May 2024	100,000	Completed	This grant supported the development of a strategic framework and engagement plan for the integration of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the implementation of DRC's 30X30 plan.	This grant supported the development of a strategic framework and engagement plan for the integration of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the implementation of DRC's 30X30 plan.	COD-RS-006 is complementary to the proposed Readiness support through its focus on rights-based forest and biodiversity conservation, particularly Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the design of DRC's 30x30 strategy. While COD-RS-006 supported the development of an Indigenous Peoples engagement and mainstreaming

Congo - COD-RS-006

plan for 30x30, the proposed Readiness measure focuses on national REDD+ reporting, forest-data quality and the updated REDD+ Technical Annex. The initiatives are non-duplicative: COD-RS-006 strengthened inclusive conservation planning, while the present proposal strengthens the technical evidence base needed for credible REDD+ results reporting and future forest finance.

National Readiness to enable strategic approaches for 30X30 investments in the Democratic Republic of Congo - COD-RS-008

23 Oct
2024 -
22 Oct
2026

125,000

Disbursed

This proposal aims to develop DRC's 30x30 strategy, its investment plan and formulate a GCF concept note to support its implementation.

This proposal aims to develop DRC's 30x30 strategy, its investment plan and formulate a GCF concept note to support its implementation.

COD-RS-008 is complementary to the proposed Readiness support through its focus on developing a national 30x30 strategy and investment approach for protected and conserved areas. It supports biodiversity conservation, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities engagement, and future GCF programming around area-based conservation. The proposed Readiness measure is complementary but non-duplicative to COD-RS-008, as it operates upstream of investment design by improving REDD+ reporting, technical foundations of the NFMS and NFI quality assurance.

Other capacity-building initiatives funded or commissioned by parties other than GCF

Title	Start and End Dates	Status	Funding Agency	Main objectives	Complementarity with the readiness proposal
REDD+ Preparedness Program	1 June 2009 - 31 Dec 2013	completed	UN-REDD (UNEP, FAO & UNDP)	Supported the launch and structuring of the DRC's national REDD+ Readiness process, including the development of the National REDD+ Strategy, institutional arrangements, stakeholder engagement, pilot activities, safeguards work and early elements of the NFMS and GHG inventory capacity.	This programme provided part of the foundational architecture on which the proposed Readiness support builds. While the UN-REDD support helped establish the national REDD+ Readiness framework and early NFMS capacities, the proposed Readiness measure focuses on a more targeted next step: updating the REDD+ Technical Annex, formalising NFMS-related SOP and quality-assuring NFI data for future REDD+ reporting and forest finance.
DRC REDD+ Readiness Support	1 Mar 2011 - 30 June 2017	completed	World Bank / FCPF	Supported the national REDD+ Readiness process through operational assistance to CN-REDD and provincial focal points, multi-stakeholder consultations, development of the National REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), design work for FONAREDD, and preparation of elements of the national reference scenario.	The proposed Readiness support is complementary but more narrowly technical. The earlier support helped establish the institutional, strategic and safeguards foundations for REDD+ Readiness, while the current proposal focuses on strengthening the technical evidence base for REDD+ results reporting, including the updated Technical Annex, NFMS procedures and NFI data quality assurance.
Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)	1 Jan 1995 - 31 Dec 2025	completed	USAID	Supported biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, policy engagement and forest monitoring across the Congo Basin, including capacity building for satellite-based monitoring of forest cover change, forest-related GHG emissions, carbon sequestration and biodiversity through regional and national partners such as the Central Africa Forest Observatory (OFAC).	CARPE is complementary through its long-standing contribution to regional forest monitoring capacity, data systems and technical expertise relevant to forest cover change and GHG monitoring. The proposed Readiness support builds on this broader capacity base but is more specific to the DRC's national REDD+ reporting needs: formalising NFMS procedures, supporting the updated Technical Annex and

					consolidating NFI data for future REDD+ results reporting and forest finance.
REDD+ Investment Program	1 Apr 2016 - 31 Dec 2027	underImplementation	CAFI / FONAREDD	Supports implementation of the DRC's REDD+ Investment Plan through national sectoral programmes and integrated REDD+ programmes in priority provinces. It also includes support to the finalisation and operationalisation of the NFMS, including forest-cover change monitoring, proactive monitoring of major deforestation events and support for meeting UNFCCC requirements for results-based payments.	The REDD+ Investment Program supports REDD+ implementation and broader NFMS operationalisation, while the proposed Readiness support addresses a specific remaining technical need linked to REDD+ results reporting and RbP access. It will build on existing DIAF capacities and previous NFMS-related work by formalising SOPs, improving documentation, quality-assuring NFI data and supporting the updated Technical Annex required for renewed consideration of the 2018 REDD+ results.
Strengthening capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance transparency and tracking of the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement	1 Nov 2022 - 31 Oct 2025	completed	GEF / FAO	Strengthened institutional and technical capacities in the AFOLU sector to enhance the MRV system, improve the quality of GHG inventories and monitor progress towards the NDC in line with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.	While this initiative supported broader AFOLU MRV, GHG inventory and NDC-tracking capacities, the proposed Readiness measure focuses specifically on the REDD+ reporting chain: the updated REDD+ Technical Annex, NFMS SOPs and NFI data quality assurance. The Readiness activities will build on tools, data-management arrangements and institutional capacities within DIAF and related stakeholders developed under the FAO/GEF project, while avoiding duplication by focusing on REDD+-specific reporting requirements.
Support for the Implementation of the Emissions Reduction Purchase/Sale Agreement under the Maï-Ndombe Emissions Reduction Program	1 Aug 2022 - 31 Dec 2027	underImplementation	World Bank / FCPF	Supports the Maï-Ndombe Emissions Reduction Programme by addressing institutional, regulatory, and technical bottlenecks related to MRV, benefit-sharing arrangements, and safeguards compliance to enable the program to generate credible, verifiable emission reductions and successfully access jurisdictional REDD+	The project focuses on enabling verified emission reductions and payments under the Maï-Ndombe jurisdictional programme, whereas the proposed Readiness support applies relevant methodological lessons at national level. In particular, the Readiness proposal can capitalise on Maï-Ndombe experience with REDD+



financing under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

monitoring, MRV procedures, uncertainty treatment, documentation and institutional coordination, while focusing on the updated national Technical Annex, NFMS SOPs and NFI data quality assurance.

2.7 Project Pipeline and Priorities

The DRC's revised NDC identifies several thematic priorities for climate action, including agriculture, forestry, health, coastal areas, energy and waste. **Within this broader national climate agenda, the forest and land-use sector plays a particularly important role.** REDD+ and forest conservation are central to the country's mitigation pathway, given the scale of the DRC's forest resources, the significance of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the country's long-standing engagement in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

With regard to the country's **GCF project pipeline**: One single-country GCF project is currently under implementation in the DRC (FP096: DRC Green Mini Grid Program). Moreover, the DRC benefits from nine multi-country projects under implementation and one recently approved multi-country project.

In addition, a GCF REDD+ RbP proposal for the year 2018 is currently under preparation. The funding proposal package was submitted to GCF in 2026. During the GCF review process, including the assessment of the REDD+ RbP scorecard, technical issues were identified in relation to the underlying REDD+ reporting and the recommendations arising from the UNFCCC technical analysis of the previous REDD+ Technical Annex. In line with the GCF REDD+ RbP policy, a complete funding proposal must be supported by REDD+ results that have been submitted to the UNFCCC through a BUR/BTR Technical Annex, technically analysed, published in a corresponding technical analysis report, and made available on the Lima REDD+ Information Hub. **The renewed submission of the funding proposal package therefore depends on the timely preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, and on the availability of the corresponding UNFCCC technical analysis, as applicable.** The Readiness support is designed to address this critical technical prerequisite by supporting the preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, while also strengthening the technical foundations of the NFMS and the quality assurance of NFI data needed for future REDD+ results reporting and access to results-based and other performance-based forest finance.

2.8 Specific Readiness needs

REDD+ Technical Annex: The first and most immediate Readiness need is to support the preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex for the 2015-2018 results period that responds to the findings of the UNFCCC technical analysis. The previous Technical Annex reported REDD+ results for 2015-2018, but the UNFCCC experts identified gaps in transparency, consistency, completeness and accuracy. These included the need to clarify the activity data, emission factors, methodologies and data sources used; improve consistency with the assessed FREL; strengthen the documentation of calculation files and supporting information; clarify the monitoring period; and ensure that the reported results can be reconstructed. A specific issue is that actual monitored data for 2018 were not yet available when the previous Technical Annex was prepared, meaning that a projection was used instead. The updated Technical Annex therefore needs to be based on a clearly defined technical scope, include a consistency check of the available activity data and targeted corrections where required, consolidate the results spreadsheet and supporting documentation, and present the results in a transparent and reproducible manner. This is consistent with the GCF Secretariat's REDD+ Scorecard assessment and recommendation to update the REDD+ Technical Annex.

Technical foundations of the National Forest Monitoring System: A second Readiness need concerns the further consolidation of the technical foundations of the DRC's NFMS. DIAF has already made important methodological advances, including through experience gained under the Maï-Ndombe Emission Reductions Programme and through improved approaches for forest activity-data interpretation, validation, Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) and uncertainty treatment. However, these advances still need to be formalised and institutionalised at national level so that they can be applied consistently across future REDD+ reporting processes. In particular, there is a need to develop and consolidate SOP, methodological guidance, interpretation manuals and training materials covering both activity-data generation and validation, and emission-factor related data. These tools are needed to clarify methodological steps, QA/QC requirements, documentation standards, institutional roles, archiving arrangements and links to future FREL / Forest Reference Level (FRL), REDD+ Technical Annex, NIR and BTR processes. Strengthening these NFMS procedures is important not only for future UNFCCC reporting, but also for increasing confidence in the forest-data systems that may underpin access to results-based payments, jurisdictional approaches, carbon markets and other forest-finance mechanisms.

National Forest Inventory: A third Readiness need relates to the final consolidation and quality assurance of NFI data. The NFI provides an important basis for improving future emission factors, forest carbon-stock estimates and, where data allow, broader carbon-pool coverage. It can therefore help strengthen the accuracy and credibility of future REDD+ estimates and support future FREL/FRL updates, REDD+ Technical Annex submissions and national

GHG reporting. DIAF has already undertaken important work on NFI data cleaning, management and documentation, but the database still needs to be fully consolidated, quality-assured and documented before it can be used reliably for future REDD+ reporting and related forest-sector climate finance processes. There is also a need to review and update NFI-related SOP so that they reflect the final data-cleaning procedures, quality-control checks, documentation requirements and database-management arrangements. Ensuring coherence between the NFI-related procedures and the broader NFMS methodological improvements will help strengthen the institutional basis for future emission-factor development and more robust REDD+ reporting.

3. Statement of Objectives

Guidance

This section aims to clearly define the objectives and scope of the readiness support being sought. It outlines: (1) the anticipated impact of readiness support on climate programming and direct access, highlighting how the support will enhance the country's capacity to design and implement climate projects; (2) the alignment of the readiness support with national climate goals, including the implementation of NDCs, NAPs, and LTS, and (3) specific areas of readiness support required, addressing capacity gaps and aligning with the objectives and outcomes of the 2024-2027 readiness strategy.

To form a statement of the objectives for the readiness support, consider the optional [Guide for Countries on Strategic Planning of Readiness Support](#).

3.1 Objectives of the Readiness Support

The overall objective of the Readiness proposal is to strengthen the DRC's technical and institutional capacity to generate, validate and report credible REDD+ results. It will address the immediate need to prepare and submit an updated REDD+ Technical Annex for the 2015-2018 results period and support the DRC during the related UNFCCC technical analysis process. In parallel, it will strengthen the technical foundations of the NFMS and finalise the quality assurance of NFI data, thereby improving the country's readiness for future REDD+ submissions and access to results-based and other performance-based forest finance.

Expected results:

- REDD+ Technical Annex: Updated REDD+ Technical Annex prepared and submitted through the relevant BTR process, with consolidated activity data, emission factors, calculation files, methodological explanations and supporting documentation, and with support provided to the DRC during the UNFCCC technical analysis process.
- Technical foundations of the NFMS: National SOP for activity-data generation and validation, and for emission-factor related data, co-developed with DIAF, supported by methodological guidance, training of technical staff and a medium-term capacity development plan.
- National Forest Inventory: NFI data fully consolidated, quality-assured and documented, with reviewed and updated NFI-related SOP and training for DIAF technical staff, to improve the usability of NFI data for future forest carbon-stock estimates, emission factors and REDD+ reporting.

Capacity-building for climate finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment

- ☒ 1.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.
- ☒ 1.2. Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.
- ☐ 1.3. Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have met and maintained the accreditation standards of the GCF and strengthened their programming capacities, as evidenced by the development of GCF-funded activities.

Objective 2. Paradigm-shifting GCF pipeline development and implementation for adaptation and mitigation, based on country needs and guided by USP-2

- ☐ 2.1. Developing countries have developed or updated their country programmes to guide GCF investment.
- ☐ 2.2. Developing countries have developed high-quality concept notes linked to approved GCF proposals for adaptation and mitigation that are aligned with the USP-2 results, including through DAEs, that build on readiness support and country programmes.
- ☐ 2.3. NDAs and DAEs have enhanced processes and systems to effectively oversee the implementation, financial management, monitoring and reporting of climate programmes and projects.

Objective 3. Knowledge-sharing and learning to enhance national and regional cooperation on climate programming and financing

- ☐ 3.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have made use of knowledge products to address policy gaps and integrated climate investment programming and implementation.
- ☐ 3.2. Enhanced collaboration among developing countries on climate change issues, evidenced by transboundary and regional cooperations/South-South cooperation.

3.2 Anticipated Impact on Climate Programming and Direct Access

The Readiness proposal is expected to strengthen the DRC's climate programming by **addressing a critical technical prerequisite for access to REDD+ results-based payments**. By supporting the preparation of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, improving the transparency and reproducibility of reported results, and strengthening the underlying forest-data systems, the support will help position the DRC to resubmit its 2018 REDD+ results for GCF consideration. More broadly, it will enhance the country's ability to prepare future REDD+ submissions that are technically robust, institutionally owned and aligned with UNFCCC reporting requirements. The proposal will also **contribute to the DRC's broader readiness to access results-based forest finance**, including Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM) and other carbon-market opportunities. Stronger NFMS procedures, clearer SOP for activity-data generation and validation and emission-factor related data, improved methodological documentation and quality-assured NFI data will increase confidence in the quality of future emission-reduction and removal estimates. This is expected to support more credible forest-sector climate programming, reduce transaction barriers for future finance mobilisation, and provide a stronger technical basis for REDD+ investments, jurisdictional approaches, VCM projects and other forest-related mitigation initiatives.

3.3 Alignment with NDC/NAP/LTS Implementation

The Readiness proposal is **directly aligned with the DRC's revised NDC**, published in October 2021 and covering the period 2021-2030. The NDC identifies Forestry and Other Land Use as the principal mitigation sector and recognises **REDD+ as a central vehicle for achieving the country's 2030 emission-reduction target**. By supporting the preparation of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, strengthening the technical foundations of the NFMS, including SOP for activity-data generation and validation and emission-factor related data, and improving the quality assurance of NFI data, the proposal will reinforce the technical and institutional systems required to measure, report and verify forest-sector mitigation results under the NDC.

The proposal will also **strengthen the DRC's capacity to mobilise REDD+ results-based payments and other performance-based forest finance**, thereby helping to translate reported mitigation results into future investment for NDC implementation. More robust forest-data systems, clearer methodological documentation and improved emission-factor data will enhance the transparency, consistency and credibility of future REDD+ submissions, including through BTR reporting. This will provide a stronger basis for tracking progress in the forest sector and for channelling future finance towards NDC-aligned priorities such as reduced deforestation and forest degradation, forest restoration, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, community forestry and improved forest governance.

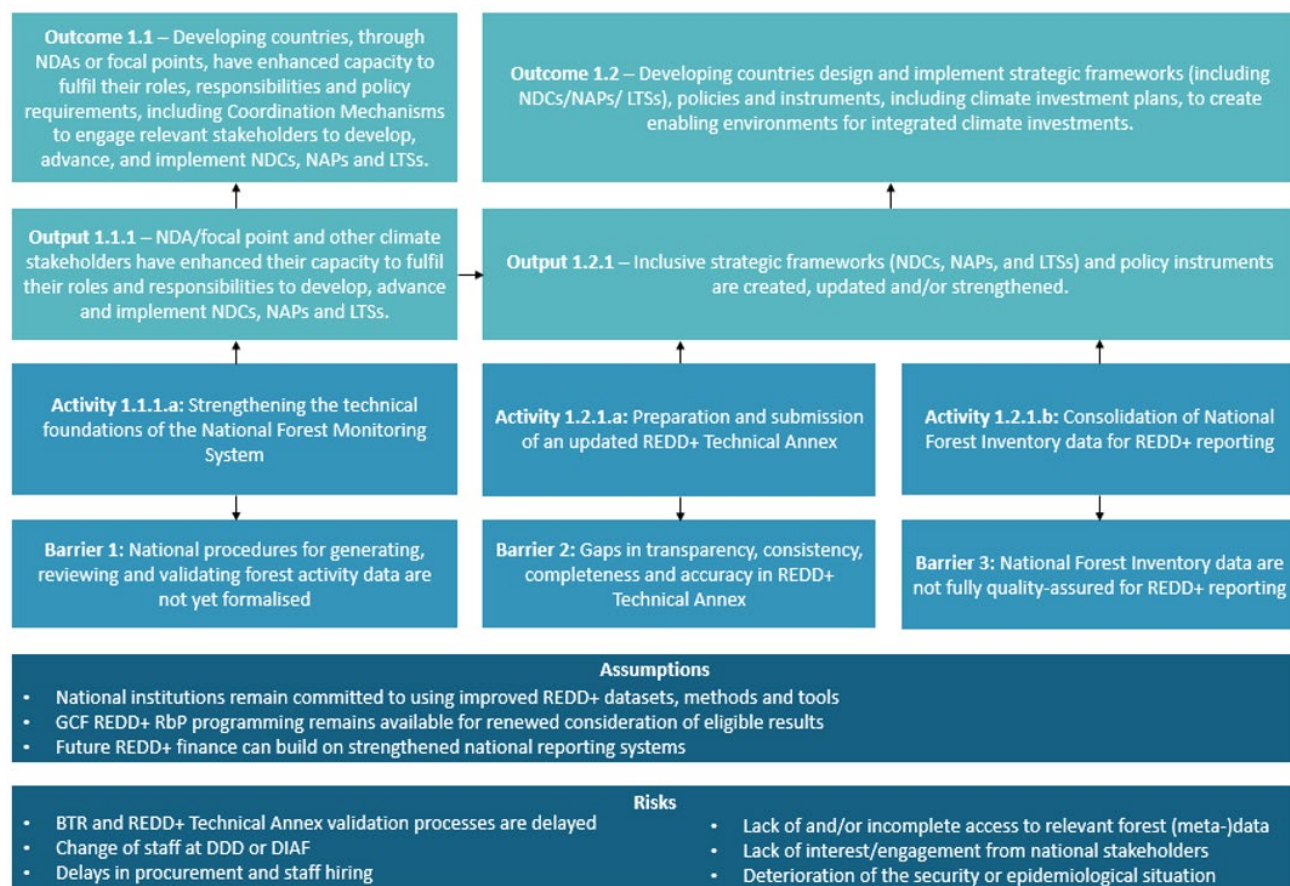
4. Approach, Methodology, and Implementation Activities

Guidance

Please describe technical approach, methodology, and implementation plan to address the country needs and gaps, through the Direct Access modality.

4.1 Theory of Change

The first step in articulating the programme's objectives as well as the logic behind the delivery of its intended results is the formulation of a TOC. Please provide a TOC which highlights key challenges being addressed, as well as the step-by-step pathways to achieving the expected results. Key steps to designing a TOC are outlined in the [RRMF Handbook](#).



Goal statement

IF the DRC prepares an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, strengthens the technical foundations of the NFMS, and quality-assures NFI data, **THEN** the country will be better positioned to report credible REDD+ results and access results-based payments and other performance-based forest finance, **BECAUSE** future submissions will be supported by more transparent, consistent and reproducible forest data, methodologies and institutional processes.

Barriers

The barriers being addressed by this Readiness project include:

- Barrier 1:** National procedures for generating, reviewing and validating forest activity data are not yet formalised – While methodological advances have been made, including through the Maï-Ndombe Emission Reductions Programme, procedures for producing, checking, validating, documenting and archiving forest activity data still need to be formalised and consistently applied at national level.

- **Barrier 2:** Gaps in transparency, consistency, completeness and accuracy in the REDD+ Technical Annex – The previous REDD+ Technical Annex reported emission reductions for the 2015-2018 period, but the UNFCCC’s TATR identified gaps in documentation, methodological consistency, completeness of information and reconstructability of results. These gaps prevent the DRC from resubmitting its request for REDD+ results-based payments for the year 2018 to the GCF.
- **Barrier 3:** National Forest Inventory data are not fully quality-assured for REDD+ reporting – The NFI provides an important basis for improving emission factors, forest carbon-stock estimates and future REDD+ submissions. However, the data require final quality assurance, documentation and preparation for analysis before they can be used reliably in national REDD+ reporting.

Activities

To address the above-mentioned barriers, the Readiness project will implement the following activities:

Under **Output 1.1.1**, the proposal will strengthen the technical foundations of the NFMS through **Activity 1.1.1.a**. This will include the co-development of national SOP for activity-data generation and validation, and for emission-factor related data. The activity will also provide methodological guidance, training for technical staff and a medium-term capacity development plan to support the consistent application of the new procedures.

Under **Output 1.2.1**, the proposal will support the preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex for the 2015-2018 results period through **Activity 1.2.1.a**. DIAF will lead the technical analysis, supported by specialised consultants providing methodological guidance and quality assurance. The activity will include a consistency check of activity data, consolidation of calculation files and supporting documentation, preparation of the results spreadsheet, finalisation of the updated Technical Annex, support during the UNFCCC technical analysis process, and a stakeholder information event.

In addition, **Activity 1.2.1.b** will finalise the consolidation and quality assurance of NFI data. It will build on previous work undertaken by DIAF and support the final cleaning, validation and documentation of the NFI database. The activity will also review and update NFI-related SOP and train DIAF technical staff on their application, ensuring coherence with the broader NFMS procedures developed under Activity 1.1.1.a.

Assumptions

The **Theory of Change assumes that** (i) national institutions will remain committed to using the improved REDD+ datasets, methods and tools generated through the Readiness support; that (ii) GCF REDD+ RbP programming will remain available for renewed consideration of eligible results; and that (iii) future REDD+ finance opportunities can build on strengthened national reporting systems.

Risks

The main risks to the Theory of Change relate to (i) possible delays in the validation and submission of the BTR and updated REDD+ Technical Annex, (ii) changes in technical staff within DIAF or DDD, (iii) delays in procurement or consultant mobilisation, (iv) incomplete or delayed access to relevant forest data, (v) reduced engagement from national stakeholders, and (vi) potential travel restrictions linked to security or epidemiological conditions. These risks are considered manageable, as the Readiness proposal identifies effective mitigation measures for each risk. Further details on the probability, potential impact and mitigation measures are provided in Section 4.5.

4.2 Beneficiaries

The **main direct beneficiaries** of the Readiness proposal are the **national government institutions** responsible for REDD+ reporting, forest monitoring and climate transparency in the DRC. **MEDD-NEC** will benefit primarily through its technical directorates, in particular DIAF and DDD. **DIAF** staff will receive targeted support and capacity building related to forest activity-data generation and validation, methodological documentation, quality assurance procedures and the possibility to use harmonised NFI data in future. **DDD** staff will benefit from support related to the preparation, submission and technical analysis of the updated REDD+ Technical Annex, including its integration into the relevant BTR reporting process and alignment with national climate reporting requirements.

The National Designated Authority (NDA) and CN-REDD will also be direct institutional beneficiaries. The **NDA** will benefit from stronger technical foundations for overseeing and advancing the DRC’s REDD+-related GCF pipeline, while **CN-REDD** will benefit from improved data, methodologies and reporting processes that strengthen the credibility and coherence of the national REDD+ architecture. This will enhance CN-REDD’s ability to coordinate REDD+ programming, support institutional dialogue and contribute to future access to results-based and other performance-based forest finance.

Indirect beneficiaries include other government institutions involved in forest and climate governance, provincial forest and environment administrations in future REDD+ investment areas, civil society organisations, Indigenous

Peoples' and local community organisations, women-led and environmental organisations, research and academic institutions, and technical actors involved in future REDD+ or forest-finance programming. These groups may benefit from stronger national REDD+ reporting systems, improved forest-data quality and greater transparency in the information used to design, assess and implement future REDD+ initiatives.

Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent populations in areas of future REDD+ programming may also benefit indirectly. This includes potential future REDD+ investment areas such as Tshopo and Maniema, where more credible national reporting and stronger forest-data systems can support the mobilisation of results-based finance and future reinvestment in forest protection, sustainable land use, community forestry, restoration and livelihood-oriented activities. **These benefits will be indirect and dependent on subsequent REDD+ financing and implementation processes beyond the Readiness grant.**

4.3 Implementation Activities

Please list all proposed activities under their corresponding outputs. For each activity:

- Assign a unique identifier using the format aligned with the output (e.g., activities under Output 1.2.1 should be labelled as 1.2.1a, 1.2.1b, 1.2.1c, etc.).
- Ensure these activity labels match those referenced in the Financial Proposal to maintain consistency and traceability.
- Provide a clear and detailed description of each activity, specifying the exact actions that will be undertaken.

Objective 1. Capacity-building for climate finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment

☒ Outcome 1.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSS.

☒ Output 1.1.1. NDA/focal point and other climate stakeholders have enhanced their capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSS.

Activities

1-1-1.a. Strengthening the technical foundations of the National Forest Monitoring System This activity will strengthen the technical foundations of the DRC's NFMS by formalising procedures for the generation, review, validation, documentation and use of forest-related data for REDD+ reporting. Building on existing methodological materials and relevant experience from the Maï-Ndombe Emission Reductions Programme, the activity will support DIAF in reviewing current practices and agreeing on harmonised approaches for activity data and emission-factor related data at national level. The activity will be implemented through three sub-activities covering the (i) development of NFMS-related SOP, (ii) practical training for DIAF staff, and (iii) a medium-term capacity development plan. 1.1.1.a.1: Development of NFMS-related SOP This sub-activity will support DIAF in developing two NFMS-related SOP: one for activity-data generation and validation and one for emission-factor related data. GIZ staff and specialised consultants will work directly with DIAF staff to review existing methodological materials, document current practices and agree on harmonised procedures for future REDD+ reporting. The SOP will clarify methodological steps, QA/QC requirements, documentation standards, institutional roles, archiving arrangements and links to future REDD+ reporting processes, including FREL/FRL updates, REDD+ Technical Annex submissions, NIR and BTR processes. 1.1.1.a.2: Training on the application of the NFMS-related SOP This sub-activity will provide practical training to key DIAF technical staff on the application of the NFMS-related SOP. The training will follow an embedded, learning-by-doing approach, including one deep-dive training session, which is expected to involve approximately 15 technical staff. It will focus on applying the new procedures in routine NFMS and REDD+ reporting tasks, including activity-data review and validation, use and documentation of emission-factor related data, QA/QC checks, data archiving and preparation of information for future reporting processes. 1.1.1.a.3: Development of a medium-term capacity development plan for DIAF This sub-activity will prepare a medium-term capacity development plan for DIAF to support the continued application and institutionalisation of the NFMS-related SOP. The plan will identify priority skills, training needs, institutional learning arrangements and follow-up measures required to ensure that the SOP are applied consistently over time. It will also provide a practical basis for future capacity-building support by government institutions and external partners. Milestones: D1.1: SOP on activity data generation & validation D1.2: SOP on emission-factor related data D1.3: Training report documenting the training of DIAF technical staff on the application of the SOP D1.4: Capacity development plan for continued learning and institutionalisation

☐ Output 1.1.2. An inclusive Coordination Mechanism has enhanced capacity to fulfill its mandate to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSS.

☒ Outcome 1.2. Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.

☒ Output 1.2.1. Inclusive strategic frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, and LTSS) and policy instruments are created, updated and/or strengthened.

Activities

1-2-1.a. Preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex This activity will support the preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex for the 2015-2018 results period, addressing the key findings of the UNFCCC technical analysis. The activity will focus on improving the transparency, consistency, completeness and accuracy of the information used to estimate and report REDD+ results, including the underlying activity data, emission factors, calculation files, methodological explanations and supporting documentation. The technical work will be led by DIAF and DDD, with methodological guidance and quality assurance provided by GIZ and specialised consultants. The activity will be implemented through three sub-activities covering (i) preparation of the updated REDD+ Technical Annex and supporting documentation package, (ii) post-submission support during the UNFCCC technical analysis process, and (iii) a stakeholder information event on the updated REDD+ Technical Annex.

1.2.1.a.1: Preparation of the updated REDD+ Technical Annex and supporting documentation package This sub-activity will initially support DIAF and DDD in defining the technical scope and parameters of the updated analysis, taking into account the recommendations of the TATR. This will include the need to improve consistency with the assessed FREL, clarify the monitoring period, strengthen the documentation of data sources and methods, and ensure that the reported results can be reconstructed. The sub-activity will include a consistency check of available activity data and, where necessary, targeted corrections to address identified inconsistencies before finalising the results. A one-week technical retreat will be organised to support the statistical analysis and preparation of the results spreadsheet. The retreat is expected to involve approximately 10 participants, primarily DIAF technical experts, supported by specialised consultants and GIZ. Its objective will be to complete the core analytical work, review methodological choices, consolidate calculation files and agree on the structure of the updated Technical Annex. Following the retreat, GIZ and the consultants will review DIAF's analytical work and provide technical comments. DDD and DIAF will then finalise the updated Technical Annex, including the results spreadsheet and supporting documentation package, for submission to the UNFCCC through the relevant BTR process.

1.2.1.a.2: Post-submission support during the UNFCCC technical analysis process This sub-activity will provide targeted post-submission support to DIAF and DDD during the UNFCCC technical analysis process. Specialised consultants and GIZ will support the review of questions and comments from the UNFCCC technical team of experts and assist DIAF and DDD in preparing clarifications, technical explanations and responses. This support will help ensure that the updated Technical Annex and supporting documentation can be explained in a transparent, consistent and timely manner during the assessment process.

1.2.1.a.3: Stakeholder information event on the updated REDD+ Technical Annex This sub-activity will support MEDD-NEC in organising a stakeholder information event with approximately 30-40 participants from relevant government institutions, CN-REDD, the NDA, civil society, Indigenous Peoples' and local community representatives, technical partners and other REDD+ stakeholders. The event will inform stakeholders about the rationale for resubmitting the Technical Annex, the main methodological updates and reported results, as well as the implications for REDD+ results-based payments and future REDD+ implementation in the DRC.

Milestones: D4.1: Results spreadsheet for the 2015-2018 REDD+ results period
D4.2: Updated REDD+ Technical Annex and supporting documentation package ready for UNFCCC submission
D4.3: Post-submission response package addressing comments and questions from the UNFCCC technical assessment team
D4.4: Stakeholder information event report

1-2-1.b. Consolidation of National Forest Inventory data for REDD+ reporting This activity will support the final consolidation and quality assurance of NFI data so that they can be used more reliably for future REDD+ reporting, emission-factor development and forest carbon-stock estimation. It will build on previous work undertaken by DIAF on NFI data cleaning, management and documentation, and will provide the remaining technical support needed to consolidate the database, document the procedures applied and ensure consistency with the methodological improvements supported under Activity 1.1.1.a. At the start of the activity, DIAF, GIZ and specialised consultants will conduct a targeted stocktake of the current status of the NFI database, existing data-cleaning work, available documentation and remaining gaps. Based on this review, they will agree on a focused workplan for the final data-cleaning, validation and consolidation steps. The consultants will provide methodological guidance, supervision and quality assurance through an embedded, learning-by-doing approach. The activity will also review and update existing NFI-related SOP to ensure that they reflect the final data-cleaning procedures, quality-control checks, documentation requirements, database management arrangements and links to future REDD+ reporting. Particular attention will be given to ensuring coherence between the NFI SOP and the broader NFMS-related SOP developed under Activity 1.1.1.a. Once the SOP have been updated, the consultants will provide practical training for relevant DIAF technical staff (approximately 15 participants) on their application in future NFI data management, quality assurance and REDD+ reporting tasks. By the end of the activity, DIAF will have a consolidated and documented NFI database, as well as updated procedures that can guide the future management, quality assurance and use of NFI data for REDD+ reporting and related forest-sector climate finance processes. Milestones: D4.5: Fully consolidated and quality-assured NFI database D4.6: Updated SOP for the NFI D4.7: Training report documenting the training of relevant DIAF technical staff on the application of the updated NFI-related SOP

☐ Outcome 1.3. Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have met and maintained the accreditation standards of the GCF and strengthened their programming capacities, as evidenced by the development of GCF-funded activities.

☐ Output 1.3.1. Institutional gaps of direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) are addressed to obtain and/or maintain accreditation.

4.4 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

During the preparation of the RbP funding proposal package between February and May 2026, **several consultations relevant to this Readiness support were held with DIAF, DDD, CN-REDD and selected technical partners** involved in REDD+ reporting, forest monitoring and forest-data systems. The discussions covered the preparation and submission of an updated REDD+ Technical Annex, institutional roles in UNFCCC reporting, the technical foundations of the NFMS, methodological documentation, quality assurance procedures, and the management and use of NFI data. These consultations provided the basis for defining the general scope of the Readiness support and ensuring that the proposed activities are aligned with institutional responsibilities and ongoing REDD+ processes. **Additional targeted consultations with DIAF and DDD took place in June and July 2026 to further determine the technical scope of the specific Readiness interventions.**

The NDA has been closely involved in the preparation of both the RbP project and the Readiness proposal, accompanying the Delivery Partner's team to many of the technical consultations and providing guidance on the country's overall GCF pipeline and priorities. In addition, **several consultations with the GCF Secretariat** took place between May and July 2026 to clarify the technical barriers preventing a positive REDD+ scorecard assessment and to agree on the necessary scope and timeline of the Readiness activities.

Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout implementation of the Readiness proposal. Given the targeted and technical nature of the activities, engagement will focus primarily on DIAF and DDD, reflecting their respective roles in forest-data analysis, NFMS procedures, NFI data management, national climate reporting, and the submission of the BTR and REDD+ Technical Annex to the UNFCCC. CN-REDD and the NDA will play important coordinating roles in line with their respective mandates. The Readiness support will also maintain close coordination with international partners that have previously supported DIAF in related activities, including the World Bank and FAO, to promote a harmonised and coherent approach, build on existing work and avoid duplication. In addition to the targeted technical engagement with DIAF and DDD, **MEDD-NEC will host a stakeholder information event for approximately 30-40 participants** from relevant government institutions, CN-REDD, the NDA, civil society, Indigenous Peoples' and local community representatives, technical partners and other REDD+ stakeholders. The event will inform wider REDD+ stakeholders about the rationale for resubmitting the Technical Annex, the main methodological updates, and the implications for REDD+ results-based payments and future REDD+ implementation in the DRC. Further details on roles and coordination arrangements are provided in Section 6.

4.5 Risk Assessment and Mitigation measures

Please describe potential risks and risk monitoring plan, as follows:

- Please list the key identified and potential risks as well as the mitigation measures proposed. The potential risks could include, for example, delays, disruptions, cost and market risks, inadequate coordination/participation, lack of political support, money-laundering/terrorist financing, and prohibited practices.
- Please indicate the probability of occurrence (low/medium/high) and impact level (low/medium/high) for each potential risk.
- If managed remotely, please describe the measures (mechanisms and controls) to be taken to identify, assess, monitor and mitigate any risk of money-laundering, terrorist financing or prohibited practices.
- Please describe the measures (mechanisms and controls) to be taken for activities within the proposal to identify, assess, monitor and mitigate any risk of money-laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and other integrity matters.

Risk Category	Specific risk(s) / Risk(s) description	Probability of occurrence	Impact level	Mitigation action(s)	Entity(ies) responsible to manage the risk(s)
Political	BTR and REDD+ Technical Annex validation processes are delayed due to a change of government / political instability	Medium	High	(i) Develop a harmonized roadmap towards BTR & REDD+ Technical Annex submission between DIAF and DDD (ii) Foresee sufficient time for political validation of the BTR and REDD+ Technical Annex	DDD, DIAF
Political	Change of staff at DDD or DIAF	Medium	Low	(i) Formalize institutional roles and responsibilities for the process, which are validated by the MEDD-NEC (ii) Ensure swift on-boarding and support of new staff	DDD, DIAF, GIZ
Operational	Delays in procurement and staff hiring	Medium	Medium	(i) Assignment of GIZ staff already based in the DRC (and in GIZ headquarters) (ii) Early preparation of procurement processes (e.g. through shortlisted tenders)	GIZ
Operational	Lack of and/or incomplete access to relevant forest (meta-)data	Low	High	(i) DIAF already confirmed the existence of all necessary forestry data for the years 2015-2018 (ii) The REDD+ Technical Annex will not cover more recent years, which would be dependent on additional datasets (iii) Non-disclosure agreements can be signed by GIZ and/or consultants, as required	DIAF, GIZ
Operational	Lack of interest / engagement from national stakeholders	Low	Medium	(i) The NDA, CN-REDD, DIAF and DDD reaffirmed their commitment in exchanges with the GCF Secretariat as well as GIZ (ii) The technical staff from DIAF was part of the consultations to develop this Readiness proposal (iii) The	NDA, CN-REDD, DIAF, DDD

RbP project dependent on the timely implementation of this Readiness measure would directly benefit the national stakeholders					
Operational	A deterioration of the security or epidemiological situation prevents travel to Kinshasa	Low	Medium	(i) Remote collaboration between DIAF and international experts	GIZ

5. Logical Framework (output)

Guidance

Please complete the logical framework in the separate document.

Objective: Capacity-building for climate-finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment.

Outcome: Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Output: NDA/focal point and other climate stakeholders have enhanced their capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Indicator: Proportion of NDA/focal point, Coordination Mechanism and other climate stakeholders reporting an enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs (Individuals: X/total).

Please provide the number of participants per strategic framework

Unit: No. of Participants

Strategic Framework	Baseline	Target
NDC	0	20

Expected Deliverables

- ☒ Status report on capacity building of NDA and climate stakeholders in [Country] to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTS.
- ☐ Status report on country coordination mechanism, country (or regional) platform for enhanced climate finance access to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTS in the Country.

Outcome: Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.

Output: Inclusive strategic frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, and LTSs) and policy instruments are created, updated and/or strengthened.

Indicator: Number of inclusive policy instruments developed or enhanced to implement NDCs, NAPs, and/or LTSs.

Please provide the number of Strategic Frameworks developed or updated

Unit: No. of Policy Instruments

Lifecycle Status	Baseline	Target
Update/Revise	0	2

Expected Deliverables

- ☐ Status report on the national adaptation plan (NAP).
- ☒ Status report on the nationally determined contribution (NDC).

- ☐ Status report on the long term climate strategies (LTS).
- ☐ Status report on policies, regulations and mechanisms developed or enhanced to incentivize private sector engagement in the Country.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1.1 Partnering under the Direct Access

This proposal will be implemented through a **Readiness Framework Agreement** holder (see Section 6.1.2). **The NDA** (the DRC's National Coordination of the Green Climate Fund, hosted within the MEDD-NEC) will provide strategic oversight of the Readiness project to ensure that the activities remain aligned to national priorities. Moreover, the NDA will receive quarterly briefings (as part of the REDD+ Readiness Coordination Group), validate reporting generated from the project and provide overarching support for the implementation of activities, as appropriate.

6.1.2 Framework Agreements

Delivery Partner

As the Delivery Partner, the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**, retains ultimate responsibility for implementation of the Readiness support and will carry out all fiduciary and financial management, procurement of goods and services, monitoring and reporting activities under this proposal in compliance with GIZ's policies and procedures and with the Amended and Restated Framework Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant Agreement entered into between GCF and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on 14 September 2020 as amended by the Side Letter dated 12 April 2021 and the Side Letter countersigned on 2 May 2024 (the "Framework Agreement"), as supplemented by an exchange of letters to be agreed between GIZ and GCF in accordance with Section 1.02(g) of the Framework Agreement for this Readiness support, to be executed prior to second disbursement of the Grant. Disbursements will be made in accordance with Clause 4 "Disbursement of Grants" and Clause 5 "Use of Grant Proceeds by the Delivery Partner" of the Framework Agreement as so supplemented.

GIZ will establish a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to support the fiduciary and financial management, procurement of goods and services, monitoring and reporting activities under this proposal in compliance with GIZ's policies and procedures and with the Framework Agreement. GIZ as the Delivery Partner will retain direct responsibility for procurement, management, oversight and control of consultants. There are no implementing entities alongside GIZ as Delivery Partner of this Readiness project. Moreover, GCF proceeds will not be used to pay for existing staff or consultants of the government or any beneficiaries.

Project Implementation Unit

The Readiness project will be managed by a PIU consisting of (i) one project implementation manager and one technical advisor based in Kinshasa who will together ensure close partner communication and local management and oversight of project activities; (ii) a technical REDD+ specialist based in Germany who will ensure technical backstopping of the tender processes and emerging deliverables under the three activities; and (iii) financial and administrative support staff for seamless implementation and reporting of the project.

The PIU will be responsible for the delivery of activities including contractual reporting, financial management and the selection, supervision and contracting of work to be undertaken under this Readiness proposal. In particular, this will include:

- Recruit and procure personnel and expertise to undertake activities.
- Financial management and reporting, including (a) budgeting and reporting; and (b) financial disbursements.
- Progress reporting to the GCF.
- Tracking and monitoring of activities against the implementation plan.
- Production of deliverables.
- Stakeholder engagement and consultations.
- Support to in-country missions of international experts.
- Provide logistical support to the technical trainings, retreat and stakeholder information event.
- Preparation of project closing documents including reporting and deliverables.

The PIU will be located in existing GIZ offices in Kinshasa, with the technical REDD+ specialist being connected remotely from Germany.

REDD+ Readiness Coordination Group

All activities under this Readiness project will be coordinated through a REDD+ Readiness Coordination Group, which consists of representatives of the NDA, CN-REDD, DIAF and DDD. The mandate of this group includes the overall coordination of the formal REDD+ Technical Annex process, coherence between the three Readiness activities, validation of the operational planning and representation of the Readiness project vis-à-vis other national stakeholders. Meetings will be held at least on a quarterly basis, facilitated by the PIU. During these meetings, the PIU will report on progress against the operational planning and budget.

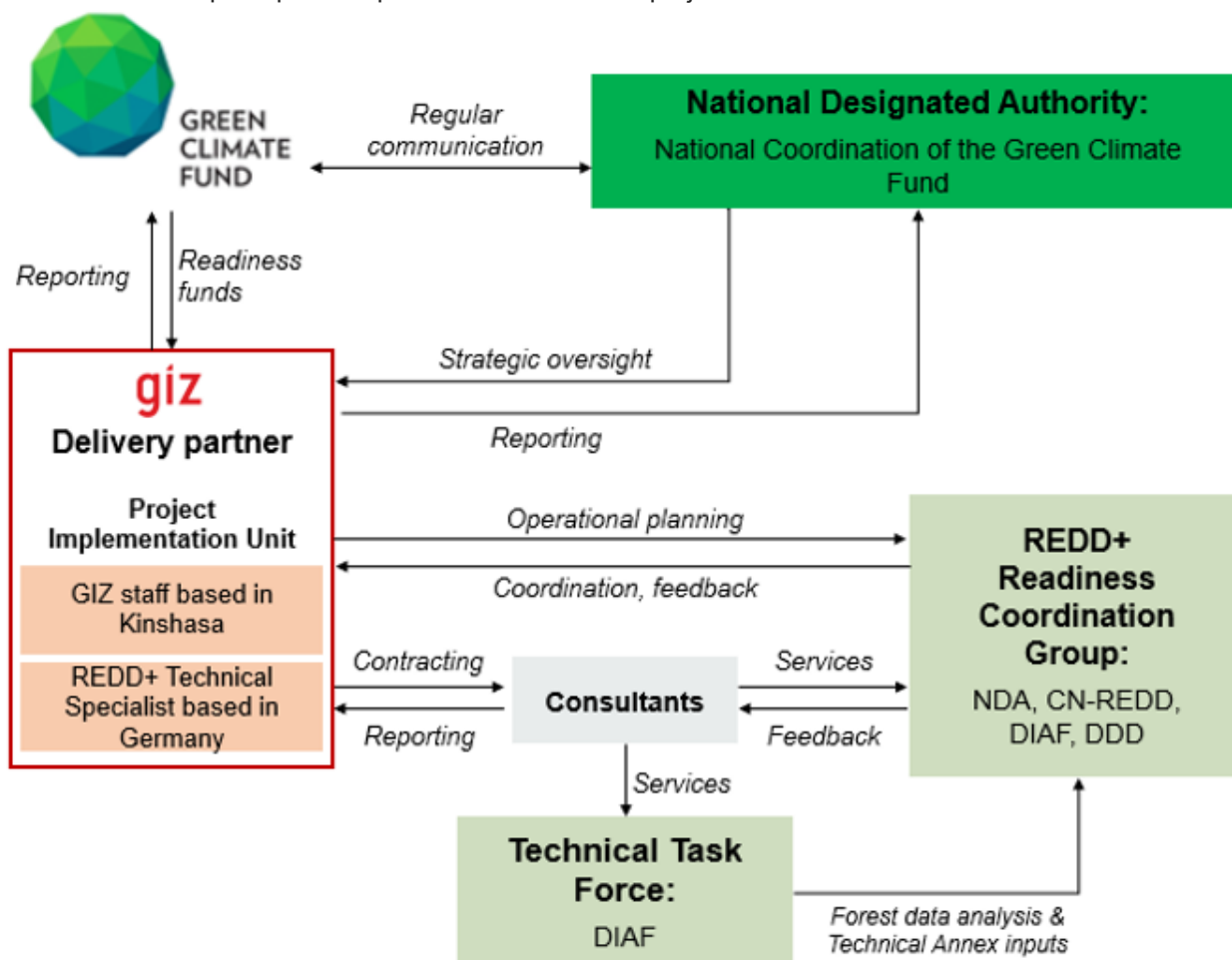
Technical Task Force

The DIAF will assign several technical staff members to a Task Force with the objective of carrying out the necessary forest data analyses underpinning the drafting of the updated REDD+ Technical Annex. The most important responsibilities of this Task Force include: (i) Determining the exact specifications of the data analyses to be carried out in line with the methodology of the existing FREL and the previous TATR recommendations; (ii) carrying out the data analyses including quality assurance and consideration of uncertainty; (iii) drafting the relevant

sections of the REDD+ Technical Annex (in concertation with DDD); and (iv) responding to questions and comments from the UNFCCC evaluators.

Professional Services / Consultants

As presented in the budget plan, the implementation of the Readiness project will involve the procurement of expertise provided by specialized consultancies or individual consultants. An overview list of the consultancy services foreseen is provided in Section 6.2. The exact Terms of Reference and tender modalities for these services will be developed upon inception of the Readiness project.



[Image: Missing source]

6.2 Organisation and Staffing

In this chapter, propose the structure and composition of your team. Consider including a visual depiction of the programme team through an organisational chart, depicting reporting responsibilities. List the main disciplines, key experts responsible, and technical and support staff, including their relevant past experience, using the form below.

Please also include any details on any other relevant group of stakeholders, such as steering committees, technical teams, tasks force, coordination mechanisms, PMC structure, etc.

For these groups, describe their composition, decision-making processes, operational procedures, terms of reference (if any) and how the NDA/focal point or the designated agency will manage or oversee these units to ensure fulfillment of its obligations.

Name of staff	Organization	Area of Expertise	Position Assigned	Task Assigned	Base Country During Assignment
Project Implementation Manager	GIZ	Climate policy, Stakeholder liaison, Project management	Project Implementation Manager (50 %)	Stakeholder outreach and coordination, overall project management, reporting, operational planning, budget management, M&E	Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)
Technical Advisor	GIZ	Forestry, REDD+	Technical Advisor (50 %)	Activities 1.1.1.a, 1.2.1.a, 1.2.1.b	Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)
REDD+ Technical Specialist	GIZ	REDD+, results-based payments, Forest data	REDD+ Technical Specialist (international) (20 %)	Activities 1.1.1.a, 1.2.1.a, 1.2.1.b	Germany
Financial, Administrative and Logistics Expert	GIZ	Finance & administration	Financial, Administrative and Logistics Expert (30 %)	Procurement, management of consultancy contracts, accounting, financial reporting, audit, logistical support	Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)

Project oversight and steering will be provided through the NDA and the REDD+ Readiness Coordination Group described in Section 6.1.2, while day-to-day project management will rest with the PIU. Project assurance will be provided through GIZ's internal technical, financial, procurement and reporting oversight functions, supported by the REDD+ Technical Specialist and the financial, administrative and logistics expert listed below.

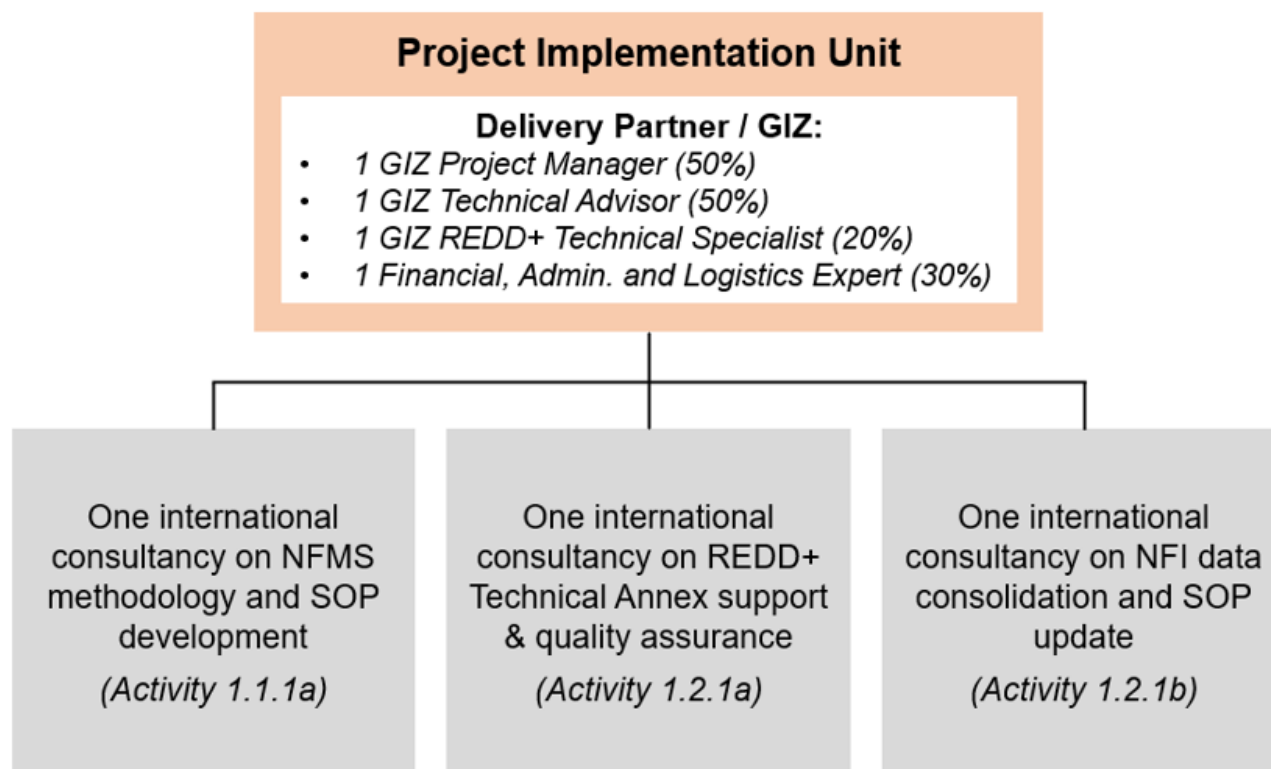
The table above depicts the composition of the project team assigned by GIZ as Delivery Partner.

In addition to the staff members listed above, it is foreseen to procure the services of specialized consultancies or individual consultants for the following tasks:

- **NFMS methodology and SOP development (Activity 1.1.1.a):** Technical support to DIAF for strengthening the technical foundations of the NFMS, including the co-development of SOP for activity-data generation and validation and emission-factor related data, methodological guidance, training of technical staff, and preparation of a medium-term capacity development plan.
- **REDD+ Technical Annex support & quality assurance (Activity 1.2.1.a):** Methodological guidance and quality assurance support to DIAF and DDD for the preparation and submission of the updated REDD+ Technical Annex, including support to the technical retreat, review of DIAF's analytical work,

consolidation of calculation files and supporting documentation, support during the UNFCCC technical analysis process, and technical inputs to the stakeholder information event.

- NFI data consolidation and SOP update (Activity 1.2.1.b): Technical support to DIAF for the final consolidation and quality assurance of NFI data, including a stocktake of remaining data-cleaning needs, methodological supervision, review and update of NFI-related SOP and training of technical staff.



6.3 Fund flow arrangements

GIZ, as a framework agreement holder with the GCF, will be the Delivery Partner for the GCF Readiness project. The grant agreement for this GCF Readiness project will be concluded between the GCF and GIZ only. A side letter for this arrangement will be signed with the GCF.

GIZ will receive and manage the GCF Readiness funds in accordance with the framework agreement and its internal financial management procedures. Funds will not be transferred to government institutions or other implementing entities. Payments will be made directly by GIZ to contracted service providers, consultants and suppliers following the applicable procurement, contract management, deliverable verification and financial control procedures.

The grant agreement between GIZ and GCF will be issued in Euro. Exchange risks will be reduced by dual currency project monitoring (in Euro and US Dollar) to allow instant adjustment in case of severe currency devaluation/valuation.

Notwithstanding Section 4.03 (Disbursement of Grants) of the Framework Agreement between the Green Climate Fund and GIZ, and as further specified herein, any Request for Disbursement submitted in respect of the Readiness Support, other than the first Request for Disbursement, shall be subject to the following additional conditions of disbursement:

- a. validation by GCF of the achievement of the applicable Milestone(s) specified in the approved Readiness Support Proposal; and
- b. submission by GIZ of the reports and other evidence of completion of the applicable Deliverable(s) required under the approved Readiness Support Proposal, in a form and substance satisfactory to GCF.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Guidance

The RRMF has been revised to align with the objectives and outcomes outlined in the 2024-2027 readiness strategy, with the view to (1) simplify and streamline monitoring and reporting procedures; (ii) appropriately capture and reflect the systemic approach and strategic, programme-based methodology for planning and implementing readiness support; and (iii) establish a clear connection between readiness support and the enhanced programming capacities of developing countries and DAEs to effectively access and utilise climate finance.

Please note that there are as per the Revised RRMF, there are two levels of monitoring and reporting. The first is at the programme/project level, and the second is at the Country level. Outlined below are the monitoring and reporting requirements and responsible parties.

7.1 Programme Monitoring and Reporting (Output-Level)

Responsibility & Tasks:

- In the case of direct access, the NDA/focal point, an agency designated for direct access, or a Framework Agreement (FWA) holder is responsible for monitoring the programme/project's implementation and preparing relevant reports that detail the progress of output-level results and deliverables as articulated in the programme/project logframe.

Financial Reporting:

- Regular financial reporting is the principal reporting mechanism under Readiness. Reports should provide an overview of funds received and expended and a comparison of planned versus actual expenditure with rationale for any variances. All financial reports must be presented in USD, in line with the approved programme budget. The detailed reporting requirements, including content and format, will be specified in the implementation-related templates.

Reporting Frequency:

- Annual progress reports, including financial reporting, are to be submitted to the GCF Secretariat by 31 March of each year, unless otherwise agreed to in the respective legal agreements. Upon project closure, a completion report must be submitted within six [6] months of the completion of the activities

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.2 Financial Audits

Responsibility:

- Independent, third-party auditor commissioned by [choose appropriate] the NDA/focal point or designated agency or FWA holder in case of direct access.

Task:

- Regular financial audits to ensure responsible and transparent fund management, preventing misuse or mismanagement and ensuring compliance with GCF and national requirements.

Reporting Frequency:

- Annual financial audit reports must be submitted to the GCF Secretariat by 31 March of each calendar year, unless an alternative frequency and deadline is agreed upon at the conclusion of the legal agreement. The completion financial audit report to be submitted to the GCF Secretariat within three months of completing the activities.

Please confirm which type of auditor will be selected and provide any details

☒ Private Auditor

☐ Public Auditor (such as Country Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or other)

N/A

N/A

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of financial audit responsibilities, including frequency

7.3 Mid-Term Review (if the programme is four years)

This will align with the Year 2 annual progress report; a separate mid-term report is not required. Instead, a specific section in the Year 2 annual progress report will focus on the assessment of the adequacy of the initial design of the four-year programmes, the evaluation of the progress made towards achieving project objectives, and the review of the effectiveness of the delivery partner (if selected from the GCF pre-qualified pool). It will also identify any challenges encountered. The findings from this review will be used to make necessary adjustments to the project implementation plan in Years 3-4.

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.4 Final Evaluation

Responsibility:

- An independent evaluator will be commissioned by the NDA/focal point, a designated agency or a FWA holder.

Task:

- Upon completion of the project implementation period, an independent evaluation will be conducted to assess the overall impact of the readiness activities. This evaluation will measure the contribution of these activities to the country's objectives and GCF outcomes, guided by the GCF Evaluation Policy and Standards. It will include an impact assessment and document lessons learned to inform future project planning and readiness support. If the country selects two programmes, the GCF Secretariat and the country may consult to explore the rationale and feasibility of conducting a single evaluation for both programmes.

Reporting Frequency:

- The final evaluation report will be submitted to the GCF Secretariat within three months of completing the Readiness activities.

If the country is considering two programmes, please confirm under which programme the final evaluation cost will be included in the budget:

☒ The final evaluation cost is included in this programme.

☐ The final evaluation cost is included in the other programme.

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.5 Sanctions and Restrictive Measures

The United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the DRC (hereafter “the Committee”) oversees the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council. These measures are summarized below:

Measure	Summary description
Arms embargo	- Prohibits supplying arms, military equipment, assistance or financing to non-governmental armed actors operating in the DRC. - Does not apply to the Government of the DRC.
Notifications for government arms supplies	Member States are no longer required to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of arms deliveries or military assistance provided to the DRC Government.
Arms-related reporting	Requested the DRC Government to report on weapons and ammunition stockpile management and measures against arms trafficking and diversion.
Travel ban	- Prevents designated individuals from entering or transiting through UN Member States. - Targets actors linked to armed groups, child recruitment, serious human-rights violations, obstruction of humanitarian aid or illicit natural-resource trade.
Asset freeze	- Freezes funds and economic resources belonging to designated persons and entities. - Prohibits making funds or assets available to them.
Transport measures	- Requires aircraft operating in the region to comply with international aviation rules. - Prohibits aircraft using invalid, falsified or outdated documentation.
Customs measures	- Requires stronger customs controls along borders adjoining Ituri and the Kivus. - Seeks to prevent transport systems from being used to circumvent the sanctions.

The Delivery Partner confirms that, based on the currently applicable 1533 Sanctions List, no exemptions are needed from the Committee to implement this Readiness proposal.

7.6 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

GIZ has a **central whistleblower system** that is aimed at reporting violations of the law and regulations in connection with GIZ's work. The online whistleblower portal has been in existence since 2019, allowing anonymous reports. Any person who is aware of (possible) violations of laws and regulations by employees or third parties in connection with GIZ's work can submit reports. This system meets GCF's requirements for a grievance mechanism. GIZ carries out a preliminary review in order to comply with all legal provisions and international standards for the protection of whistleblowers and disadvantaged persons, and to ensure the protection of the privacy of all people as far as possible in order to ensure the safety of the complainants and the confidentiality of the processing not to be jeopardized.

GIZ ensures that the applicable legal framework and standards are adhered to. GIZ informs the responsible Readiness Focal Point within the GCF secretariat within 72 hours about complaints or compliance violations that reach GIZ via its whistleblower system and that reveal a connection to the project. This includes, in particular, corruption and bribery, fraud and embezzlement, conflicts of interest, sexual misconduct and sexual exploitation as well as the violation of human and environmental rights and/or reprisals against whistleblowers and/or complainants by GIZ employees funded by GCF. Information on GIZ's independent complaint mechanism, including a brief description of the mechanism and the provision of a direct access link, is available on GIZ's website (Whistleblowing | GIZ).

Project stakeholders and target groups are made aware of the mechanism at regular intervals through stakeholder meetings, workshops, etc. If stakeholders have complaints related to the Readiness project, they can use the mechanism to submit their complaint directly to GCF.

8. Budget

8.1 Budget

Refer to the Excel file.

Notwithstanding Section 4.03 (Disbursement of Grants) of the Framework Agreement between the Green Climate Fund and GIZ, and as further specified herein, any Request for Disbursement submitted in respect of the Readiness Support, other than the first Request for Disbursement, shall be subject to the following additional conditions of disbursement:

- a. validation by GCF of the achievement of the applicable Milestone(s) specified in the approved Readiness Support Proposal; and
- b. submission by GIZ of the reports and other evidence of completion of the applicable Deliverable(s) required under the approved Readiness Support Proposal, in a form and substance satisfactory to GCF.

[Download template](#)

Budget source

Of the total amount requested under this proposal, please outline how much is requested from the country window and how much from NAP origination or implementation, if applicable

☒ Country window: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$488,269

☐ NAP Origination: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

N/A

☐ NAP Implementation: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

N/A

Budget plan (please complete in the separate document)

While developing the budget, please consider the ineligible costs as per page 13 of the [Initial Guide for Countries to Access Readiness Support](#)

9. Other relevant information

9.1 Exit and Sustainability Strategy

The exit and sustainability strategy is based on ensuring that the **Readiness support leaves behind institutional capacity, operational tools and improved datasets that can be used beyond the grant period**. The measure is catalytic in nature: it is designed to remove a key technical barrier to the renewed submission of the DRC's 2018 REDD+ results for GCF results-based payments, while also strengthening the NFMS, NFI and reporting systems required for future REDD+ submissions and other performance-based forest finance. Its sustainability therefore depends not on continuing project support, but on embedding improved methodologies, SOP, quality-assurance procedures and data-management practices within the mandates and routine work of DIAF, DDD, CN-REDD and the NDA.

Capacity building will be integrated into all three Readiness activities. Under the REDD+ Technical Annex activity (1.2.1.a), DIAF, DDD and other relevant staff will be supported through practical, learning-by-doing engagement in the review of activity data, emission factors, calculation files, methodological explanations, supporting documentation and responses to the UNFCCC technical analysis process. Under the NFMS activity (1.1.1.a), capacity building will be linked directly to the co-development of SOP for activity-data generation and validation and for emission-factor related data, supported by methodological guidance, training of DIAF technical staff and a medium-term capacity development plan. Under the NFI activity (1.2.1.b), DIAF staff will be supported in the final consolidation, quality assurance and documentation of NFI data, as well as in the review, update and application of NFI-related SOP.

The main sustainability mechanism will be the institutionalisation of the tools and processes produced under the proposal. The updated Technical Annex, results spreadsheet, calculation files, supporting documentation, NFMS-related SOP, NFI-related SOP, methodological guidance, QA/QC procedures, training materials, capacity development plan and consolidated NFI database will be co-developed with the responsible national institutions and integrated into their regular reporting and data-management functions. These outputs will support future REDD+ Technical Annex submissions, FREL/FRL updates, National Inventory Report processes and future forest-finance programming more broadly. Where appropriate, training materials and methodological tools will be designed so that trained DIAF and DDD staff can reuse them internally and support knowledge transfer to additional staff.

Sustainability will also be supported through coordination and ownership arrangements. DIAF and DDD will remain the primary technical counterparts, while CN-REDD and the NDA will support coordination and alignment with the broader REDD+ and GCF programming architecture. Coordination with partners that have previously supported forest monitoring and REDD+ reporting, including FAO and the World Bank, will help ensure that the Readiness outputs build on existing work, avoid duplication and remain coherent with national systems. By the end of the Readiness period, the DRC is expected to have stronger institutional capacity, clearer operational procedures, quality-assured datasets and improved methodological documentation, providing a more credible and durable basis for future REDD+ reporting, results-based payments, jurisdictional approaches and other forest-related performance-based finance.

9.2 Readiness Programme Closure

Upon completion of the project, the Delivery Partner (GIZ) will transfer all tangible and intangible assets, including ownership where applicable, to the beneficiaries of the GCF Readiness Project, specifically the NDA and other relevant beneficiaries designated by the NDA. This will include:

1. Transfer of Tangible Assets

Any office equipment purchased during project implementation, including but not limited to laptops, desks, office chairs and screens, will be transferred in accordance with applicable GIZ and NDA procedures.

2. Transfer of Intangible Assets

Intellectual property and knowledge products created under the project, such as databases, digital tools, research outputs, training materials and other knowledge resources, will be transferred to the NDA and other relevant beneficiaries or focal points designated by the NDA.

3. Documentation

All relevant parties will sign transfer documentation prepared by the Delivery Partner. The transfer process will comply with the applicable legal and regulatory requirements of both the Delivery Partner and the NDA. The Delivery Partner will provide the NDA with a list of all transferred assets and their respective recipients.