GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural and Rural Entrepreneurship in Democratic Republic of Congo (AVENIR)	
Region	GEF Project ID
Congo DR	11883
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Congo DR	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
IFAD	2000005492
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Agriculture	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Climate Change	3/5/2025
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Climate Change Adaptation Sector	
Taxonomy	
Climate Change, Focal Areas, Climate Change Adaptation, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Private Sector, SMEs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Institutional and Social Fragility, Conflict	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
LDCF	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
8,932,420.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
848,580.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
9,781,000.00	46,700,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
200,000.00	19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

219,000.00	10,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone where rising temperatures are expected to have a dramatic impact on key economic sectors such as agriculture, which will intensify food insecurity and poverty. . Across different scenarios, temperature in the DRC is projected to increase significantly. Under RCP8.5, the temperature could rise by up to 3.05°C in hot/dry conditions, while under RCP4.5, the increase is expected to be around 1.04°C in cool/dry conditions.[1][1] It should be noted that this warming trend is consistent across various models and scenarios (see footnoted Haensler et al (2013) & Fotso-Nguemo et al. (2017)).[2][2] Rainfall patterns are expected to change, with some regions experiencing decreases and others increases. Under RCP8.5, rainfall could decrease by up to 5 mm/day in the northwestern DRC, while under RCP4.5 and RCP2.6, the decrease might be 1-2 mm/day.[3][3] The overall trend suggests a drying pattern in certain areas, particularly in the northeastern and southeastern parts of the Congo River Basin.[4][4]

Within this context, the DRC is the 21st most vulnerable country and ranks 189th among countries for climate readiness.[2] Overall, temperature rise and shifts in rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, ecosystem degradation, and agricultural productivity and food security are important impacts of climate change in the country. Addressing these impacts in the DRC is challenging due to limited institutional capacity and governance, financial constraints, dependence on natural resources, infrastructure and technological limitations, social vulnerability and health impacts, and conflict and political instability.

Building on the National Adaptation Program (PANA - Projet d'Adaptation Nationale) project, the *Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural and Rural Entrepreneurship in Democratic Republic of Congo (AVENIR*) project has been proposed in Kwango, Kwilu, Congo Central and Haut Katanga to build community resilience, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards. This will be done through three linked components which reflect the project's response to adaptation challenges mentioned above. The components are: Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security (Component 1); Enhancing **community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation** (Component 2); and **Capacity building, knowledge management and effective M&E** (Component 3). Through the implementation of the components, the project will build capacities to foster a better understanding of climate risks and sustainable responses. The project will target 180,000 households (50% of which are female-headed) through various gender-responsive alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. The project will also restore 4,000 ha of degraded production landscapes across the target

provinces and avoid -64,724 metric tons of CO_2e in emissions. Other adaptation benefits will include the development and distribution of drought-tolerant crop varieties, support towards climate-smart irrigation, and better food security measures.

[1] Bagula, E. et al. (2022). Climate Change Effect on Water Use Efficiency under Selected Soil and Water Conservation Practices in the Ruzizi Catchment, Eastern D.R. Congo. *Land*. https://doi.org/10.3390/land11091409.

[2] Haensler, A. et al (2013). Assessment of projected climate change signals over central Africa based on a multitude of global and regional climate projections. , 2013.

[3] Fotso-Nguemo, T. et al. (2017). Assessment of simulated rainfall and temperature from the regional climate model REMO and future changes over Central Africa. *Climate Dynamics*, 48, 3685-3705. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-016-3294-1.

[4] Aloysius, N., & Saiers, J. (2016). Simulated hydrologic response to projected changes in precipitation and temperature in the Congo River basin. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 21, 4115-4130. https://doi.org/10.5194/HESS-21-4115-2017.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To build community resilience, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards in priority provinces in DRC.

Project Components

1: Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,003,397.00	16,730,069.00

Outcome:

1. Climate-resilient agricultural production systems reduce vulnerability to climate-induced droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns.

Output:

1.1.1: Climate-resilient crop varieties produced and disseminated in the four priority provinces in DRC

1.1.2: Gender-responsive alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities benefiting 180,000 HHs (50% female-headed) supported (including community-based seed banks to facilitate improved localized access to drought-tolerant seeds to ensure availability during uncertain weather conditions) in four priority provinces in DRC

1.1.3: Small-scale, solar-powered irrigation systems to ensure year-round water supply for crops developed and disseminated.

1.1.4: Institutional capacity developed for climate-resilient agricultural production systems and practices (including enhancing extension services, access to climate related information), IPM, post-harvest handling, water harvesting with a focus on gender equity

2: Enhancing community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
4,146,370.00	21,677,830.00

Outcome:

2. Enhanced community-based natural resource management improve forest ecosystem and community livelihoods resilience in the priority provinces.

Output:

2.1.1: Establishment of gender-responsive community forest management groups trained in forest protection, reforestation, agroforestry practices, sustainable wood harvesting.

2.1.2 Restoration of 410,000 ha of agro-pastoral production landscapes across the four priority provinces, ensuring gender-inclusive participation in planning, implementation and benefit-sharing.

2.1.3: Non-timber forest products (NTFPs - honey, caterpillars, mushrooms, and medicinal plants) promoted and gender-responsive training provided to communities on harvesting and their marketing.

3: Capacity building, knowledge management and effective M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
1,107,300.00	6,050,533.00

Outcome:

3.1: Strengthened knowledge-sharing networks to ensure continuous learning, adaptation, and scaling of successful interventions

3.2: Improved local capacity for climate adaptation and sustainable natural resource management, enabling communities to implement and scale climate-resilient practices.

Output:

3.1.1: Development of a participatory M&E framework: Establishment of real-time data collection tools and indicators to monitor climate adaptation efforts and assess outcomes.

3.2.2: Training programs conducted for local government agencies, community leaders, and civil society organizations (benefiting 3,000 of whom 50% women) on climate adaptation strategies and sustainable resource management

3.2.3: Knowledge sharing and exchange platforms established to disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and success stories among stakeholders, including farmers and government agencies.

3.2.4: Integration of climate resilience into local development plans and support for locally-led adaptation, ensuring gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies are mainstreamed into district and community planning frameworks..

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
250,000.00	

Outcome:

Robust and comprehensive M&E system developed and implemented

Output:

Gender sensitive M&E framework established; MTR and FE conducted.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1: Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security	3,003,397.00	16,730,069.00
2: Enhancing community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation	4,146,370.00	21,677,830.00
3: Capacity building, knowledge management and effective M&E	1,107,300.00	6,050,533.00
M&E	250,000.00	
Subtotal	**8,507,067.00**	**44,458,432.00**
Project Management Cost	425,353.00	2,241,568.00

Total Project Cost ($)	**8,932,420.00**	**46,700,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

1.a General country context

Rising temperatures in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are expected to have a dramatic impact on key economic sectors such as agriculture (including fishing and livestock farming) due increasing unpredictability of rainfall, crop diseases and droughts, which will intensify food insecurity and poverty. Heavy rains are projected to intensify further across the Congo basin, leading to destruction by flooding, landslides and soil erosion. This was evident during the 2015-2016 floods, which affected around 550,000 people and resulted in a cholera epidemic. However, rainfall is expected to decrease in the south, where the dry savannah region supports 80 percent of the rural population.

The annual mean temperature has slightly increased at a rate of + 0.17°C per decade over the past 30 years. Looking ahead, however, projections from global climate models suggest a sharp average increase in temperature. Projected climate change impacts in the DRC include a temperature increase of 1-2.5°C by 2050, an increase in the frequency of intense rainfall events and prolonged dry spells, and possible decreases in rainfall during the dry seasons (June-August, and September-November) in the southern region of the country by 2050.[1][5] In addition, a sharp increase in the duration of heat waves is predicted as well as a sharp reduction in the duration of cold spells.[2][6]

The DRC suffers from the combined effect of a large population vulnerable to an increasingly unpredictable climate, a surge in the frequency of climate extremes, and low provision of services and infrastructure. Additionally, it has been reported that climate change is impacting the water cycle of the Congo Basin, affecting livelihoods and the wide variety of products and services derived from forest ecosystems.[3][7]

With an estimated population of 110.4 million[4][8] people, DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. An estimated 73.5% of Congolese people lived on less than $2.15 a day in 2024. About one out of every six people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) lives in DRC.[5][9] Home to the second-largest rainforest in the world, the country is profoundly impacted by climate change. The country's diverse ecosystems, from tropical rainforests in the central basin to savannahs in the south and mountainous regions in the east, all face unique and increasingly severe climate-related challenges. Changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events threaten the natural resources that millions of Congolese people depend on for survival.

DRC ranks 184th on the 2024 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index. It has both a great need for investment and innovations to improve climate readiness and a great urgency for action. Moreover, the DRC is considered the 21st most vulnerable country in the world and ranks 189th of 192 countries with regard to climate readiness.[6][10] Climate-related shocks, including floods, and droughts, are expected to rise in both frequency and intensity over time, with the poor bearing the brunt of these impacts. According to the World Bank 2023 diagnostics,[7][11] rainfall is becoming substantially more variable within seasons, with a likely increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events. While potentially some benefits may accrue, such as more hydropower that could be generated outside of normal high waterflow seasons, these gains would likely be compromised by increasing erosion and sedimentation from more intense rainfall in areas with increased deforestation. In addition, these climatic changes will likely result in greater rainfall received on fewer days within the rainy season and a potential for longer-lasting dry spells in the drier season, rendering the second crop production cycle in the annual rotation increasingly risky. The impacts will be most pronounced via changes in the country's intra-annual water balance and have the potential to increase the incidence of floods. Under the more optimistic climate scenario of SSP1-1.9[8][12], DRC can expect to experience an intense rainfall event of 86.28 mm (a 100-year event based on historical baseline) once every 70 years by 2085, significantly more frequently than at present. By comparison, however, under a more pessimistic scenario the DRC can expect to experience a 100-year rainfall event every 20 years by 2085, which would represent an extremely significant increase in rainfall intensity and frequency with concomitant impacts to agricultural production and livelihoods.

In addition to changes in rainfall, the DRC is expected to experience higher heat stress and increased extreme climate events with notable temporal shifts in the hottest conditions up to midcentury, with significant increases occurring toward the end of the century. The result is that an increase in extreme climate events is exacerbating DRC's already difficult development challenges, with devastating consequences.

Furthermore, nighttime temperatures are also expected to increase across the country. In the northern, western, and central areas, for instance, nearly every day of the year will have nighttime temperatures exceeding safe ranges by the latter half of the century (see figures a. and b below). Higher, more prolonged nighttime temperatures create additional heat stress with limited ability for livestock, humans, crops, etc., to recover from increasingly intense day time temperatures.

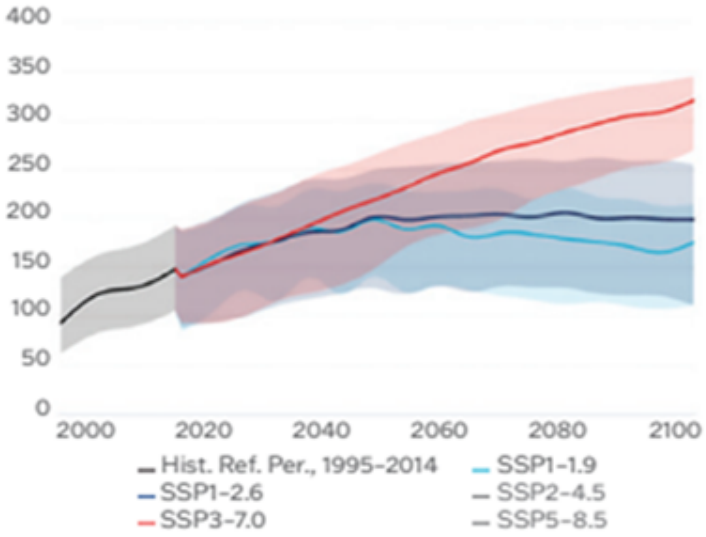

Figure a. Projected number of tropical nights with minimum temperature >20°C, 2080-

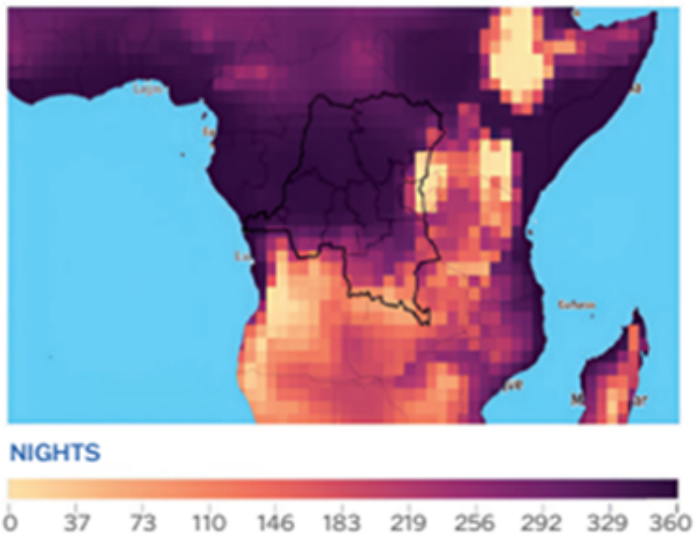

Figure b. Spatial distribution of the number of nights with minimum temperatures > 20 °C, 2080–2099, SSP3–7.0

Hot days and nights are projected to increase 13–58 percent and 33–86 percent respectively, under the range of climate scenarios in the results of IPCC assessment. For the 2040–59 period, under the more pessimistic climate scenario SSP3-7.0, the number of nights surpassing 20 °C per month is expected to nearly double from the historical reference period.[1]

Increased infrastructure damage and connectivity issues due to climate change are expected to contribute to worsening economic and social conditions, increasing conflict and violence, intensifying competition over food and jobs, thereby increasing internal migration, reducing economic opportunities and social cohesion, and straining public institutions and trust in the state.[2] The following summary points are indicative:

1. ***Temperature rise and shifts in rainfall patterns:*** As noted above, negative trends in seasonal and annual rainfall patterns in the Congo River Basin indicate increased drought risks[3], and in recent decades DRC has experienced an increase in average temperatures. Overall annual precipitation is becoming substantially more variable within seasons, with a likely increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events. Climate projections indicate continued warming across the country, which will lead to more intense heatwaves. This trend, combined with increasingly erratic rainfall outside of climate norms, is expected to disrupt agriculture, which is critical for food security in the region. Changing rainfall patterns also affect water availability, impacting both urban and rural communities and leading to water scarcity in areas

once dependent on stable rainfall. Rainfall amounts in the DRC are projected to decrease by up to 5 mm/day towards the end of the 21st century under the RCP8.5 scenario.[4]

2. ***Extreme weather events:*** DRC is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events, including floods and droughts. Intense and unseasonal rain has led to significant flooding in urban and rural areas alike, causing loss of life, displacement, and damage to agriculture and infrastructure. Droughts and heavy rain events also reduce agricultural productivity, affecting both local economies and food availability. Overall, DRC is expected to experience higher heat stress and increased extreme events with notable temporal shifts in its hottest conditions up till mid-century, with significant increases occurring towards the end of the century.[5]

3. ***Ecosystem degradation:*** In 2010, DRC had 198 Mha of natural forest, extending over 85% of its land area. In 2023, it lost 1.32 Mha of natural forest, equivalent to 888 Mt of CO_2 emissions.[6] It has been established that forest degradation in the DRC is influenced by factors such as built-up area, fire frequency, and armed conflicts[7]. Deforestation increases local temperatures and negatively impacts rainfall in the DRC, potentially disrupting local agricultural practices and impacting biological diversity.[8] DRC's rainforests, which also play a crucial role in sequestering carbon dioxide, are under threat from both human activities and climate change. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation, and extended dry seasons are expected to stress these ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and forest cover. This degradation not only contributes to GHG emissions but also weakens natural systems that local communities rely on for resources such as food, medicine, and clean water.

1. ***Agricultural productivity and food security:*** Climate change directly threatens agriculture, which employs over 60 percent of Congolese and comprises 19.7 percent of GDP.[1] It should be noted that DRC has varied agro-ecological zones and high agricultural potential, however productivity is stubbornly low, agricultural value chains are limited, and the rural economy faces significant constraints.[2] The agriculture sector is likely to face increasingly adverse consequences from climate change across its value chain including the agricultural labor force, and notably at the crop production, processing, storage, and transport stages. As outlined above, risks to DRC's agricultural sector include crop damage, reduced yield potential, greater pest damage, declining animal health and fish catches, rising production costs, and decreasing labor productivity caused by heat stress.[3] With changing rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells, crop yields are decreasing, affecting food availability and raising prices. Staple crops such as maize, cassava, and beans are particularly sensitive to these climatic shifts, putting millions of people at risk of food insecurity.

Addressing the aforementioned impacts is important for the country to stave off large costs on the economy and exacerbate household vulnerability that climate change will impose. However, the country's ability to address the impacts of climate change faces a number of important adaptation challenges, notably the following:

1. ***Limited institutional capacity and governance:*** One of the major adaptation challenges in DRC is the lack of institutional capacity and effective policies and governance frameworks to

manage climate adaptation. Local and national institutions often lack the resources and technical expertise to implement large-scale adaptation projects. Moreover, coordination between government agencies and international partners is often weak, which impedes effective response to climate challenges. As the country goes through another wave of conflicts, it is important to acknowledge the project-related governance challenges. Common Challenges with Project Governance and Execution in the DRC (these are touched upon in the table of Risks):

- Political and institutional instability: The DRC has a history of political instability and weak governance structures. This instability often leads to inconsistent policy implementation and a lack of continuity in project execution.[25]

- Corruption: High levels of corruption are prevalent in the DRC, affecting various sectors including project governance. Corruption can lead to misallocation of resources, delays, and increased project costs.[26]

- Lack of financing: There is an acute lack of financing for developmental efforts in the DRC. This financial constraint hampers the ability to execute projects effectively and sustainably.[27]

- Complex institutional framework: The DRC's institutional framework is often complex and fragmented, leading to challenges in coordination and implementation of projects. This complexity can result in inefficiencies and overlaps in responsibilities.[28]

- Security concerns: Persistent conflicts and the presence of multiple guerilla groups create a challenging environment for project execution. Security concerns can disrupt project activities and pose risks to personnel and assets.

- Limited technical capacity: There is often a lack of technical expertise and capacity within local institutions to manage and execute projects effectively. This limitation can affect the quality and sustainability of project outcomes.

To address these important project-related governance challenges, the following strategies will be considered for AVENIR-DRC:

- Inclusive and participatory planning: Engage local communities and stakeholders in the planning and decision-making processes. This approach ensures that the project addresses the actual needs and priorities of the communities and fosters a sense of ownership.

- Strengthening institutional capacity: Invest in building the technical and managerial capacities of local institutions. This can be achieved through training programs, capacity-building workshops, and partnerships with experienced organizations.

- Transparent and accountable governance: Implement robust mechanisms for transparency and accountability to combat corruption. This includes regular audits, transparent procurement processes, and community monitoring of project activities.[29]

- Securing adequate financing: Ensure that there is sufficient and sustainable financing for the project. This may involve leveraging multiple funding sources, including international donors, private sector investments, and government allocations.

· Risk-informed decision making: Incorporate risk assessments and scenario planning into the project design. This helps in identifying potential risks and developing strategies to mitigate them, ensuring the project remains resilient to unforeseen challenges.

· Building resilient infrastructure: Focus on constructing infrastructure that is resilient to climate hazards. This includes using climate-smart technologies and materials that can withstand extreme weather events.

· Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track project progress and outcomes. Regular assessments help in identifying issues early and making necessary adjustments to keep the project on track.

2. ***Financial constraints:*** Financing for climate adaptation remains a significant hurdle. Although international organizations provide some funding, the scale of financial resources needed to address the impacts of climate change in DRC is far greater than what is currently available. Limited access to financing also affects rural communities disproportionately, as they struggle to implement adaptive measures in agriculture, forestry, and water management.

3. ***Dependence on natural resources:*** Over 60% of the DRC's population relies on agriculture, forestry, and fishing, making them highly vulnerable to climate impacts. Traditional livelihoods are becoming less sustainable due to environmental degradation and climate-related challenges, which creates a pressing need for alternative income sources. However, transitioning these communities to more resilient livelihoods is a long-term challenge requiring extensive support and planning.

4. ***Infrastructure and technological limitations:*** Infrastructure in DRC is underdeveloped, especially in rural areas, which makes it difficult to deliver basic services, such as agricultural extension, as well as emergency support during extreme weather events. Limited infrastructure for water management, irrigation, and transportation exacerbates the impacts of droughts and floods. Access to modern technology, such as climate-smart agriculture tools and early warning systems, is also lacking, further limiting DRC's adaptive capacity.

5. ***Social vulnerability and health impacts:*** Climate change compounds existing vulnerabilities, particularly among marginalized groups, such as women, children, and indigenous populations. These groups often have less access to resources, land, and decision-making processes, which hinders their ability to adapt. Additionally, climate-related health issues, such as malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and malaria, are on the rise as environmental conditions become more favorable for disease transmission.

6. ***Conflict and political instability:*** Ongoing conflict in parts of DRC complicates adaptation efforts. Political instability diverts attention and resources away from climate initiatives, while displacement due to conflict increases the demand on already strained resources. Moreover, competition for resources, such as water and arable land, can escalate tensions within and between communities, making it more challenging to implement sustainable adaptation measures.

The project is proposed in four provinces, namely: Congo Central, Kwilu, Kwango and Haut Katanga. The adaptation challenges in these provinces include the following:

- *Congo Central*: The socio-economic impacts of climate change include reduced agricultural productivity, increased water-related risks, and challenges in maintaining livelihoods dependent on natural resources. A study done in Luki Biosphere Reserve in the province revealed that the month of October, which is the start of the rainy season, has become increasingly dry - highlighting the instability of the climate with the rainfall onset increasingly late. There is a trend towards a significant increase in temperature and a decrease in the number of rainy days. These fluctuations illustrate the climatic instability in the province. Agriculture is the main economic activity among rural residents of the Province, and increasing climatic disturbance will have negative impacts on agricultural production and household wellbeing. The dry season, which traditionally begins in May and ends in September, now tends to extend towards the end of October and even the beginning of November, resulting in 15 to 30 fewer rainy days. The short dry season is also increasingly unstable and occurs in December, January, February and even early March.[4]

  As a coastal province, Congo Central is vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Coastal erosion, flooding, and saltwater intrusion affect agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure. Inland areas also experience deforestation and biodiversity loss due to agricultural expansion and logging. Adapting to climate impacts in Congo Central is constrained by limited infrastructure to manage coastal risks, such as flood defenses and early warning systems. The lack of resources and institutional capacity to implement sustainable land and water management practices further hinders adaptation efforts. Moreover, low public awareness of climate risks and adaptation practices remains a challenge for implementing community-based adaptation initiatives.

- *Kwilu*: The province is highly dependent on agriculture, making it particularly sensitive to shifts in weather patterns. The region faces increased rainfall variability, with erratic and heavy rainfall causing flood and erosion damage to farmland, homes, and infrastructure. Extended dry spells also negatively impact crop yields and food security. The province lacks meaningful irrigation and/or drainage infrastructure and limited access to resilient crop varieties, further hampering adaptation efforts. Moreover, rural communities rely heavily on rain-fed agriculture, which is highly susceptible to changing climate patterns. Limited financial resources and technical expertise further constrain the implementation of effective adaptation measures.

- *Kwango*: Kwango province serves as a vital basin for harvesting agricultural and forest products, supplying the city of Kinshasa and other surrounding urban centers. Agriculture and livestock farming are primarily family or artisanal based, with at least 80% of the population involved in this sector. Indeed, most of the rural population practices subsistence agriculture, focusing on staple crops and occasionally using forest products other than timber and other plants. Productivity has declined over the years due to a lack of technical resources, soil fertility depletion, deforestation, and the

deterioration of agricultural genetic resources. This has resulted in rural populations in Kwango having comparatively higher levels of malnutrition, coupled with lower levels of protein consumption.

Kwango experiences irregular rainfall that affects soil stability and water availability. Soil erosion and land degradation are widespread, exacerbated by deforestation and unsustainable farming practices. These challenges are exacerbated by limited institutional support for sustainable land and water management, along with insufficient awareness of climate-resilient farming practices among farmers. Moreover, high poverty rates and a lack of financial capital hinder the adoption of adaptive practices, such as soil conservation, crop diversification, and water harvesting techniques.

Non-timber forest products, including caterpillars such as *Gnetum africanum* (commonly known as 'fumbwa)' and mushrooms significantly contribute to household income in the province. Similarly, the demand for charcoal production is high, facilitated by demand from the capital Kinshasa and the accessibility of territories and communities along National Route Number 1. In fact, charcoal production is preferentially carried out using the species *Erythrophleum africanum Afzel* (Herman et al., 2020). This species is considered the 'green gold of Kwango' as it is the source of income for most rural households. However, this charcoal production has consequences on ecosystem services, including ecosystem resilience in general and loss of biodiversity. This economic activity also impacts food production, in these Miombo forests, particularly with respect to the harvesting of caterpillars noted above, wild sources of protein, soil erosion, , landscape degradation, and loss of agricultural soil fertility, among others.

As a result, Kwango Province is considered the most degraded, primarily due to unsustainable practices in natural resource exploitation. These practices include charcoal production, slash-and-burn agriculture, artisanal and uncontrolled logging, uncontrolled bushfires, unsustainable harvesting of caterpillars by destructively cutting host plants, illegal land exploitation permits, and poaching. These factors are compounded by easy road access to Kinshasa, which is a major market for agricultural products, caterpillars, and charcoal from Kwango province.

- *Haut Katanga*: Located in the southeastern part of the country, Katanga Province has two distinct climate types: a humid tropical climate (with a dry season lasting 2 to 5 months) and a temperate region (where temperatures can drop below -3ºC). Climate change projections indicate a decrease in rainfall in this region, making it unique in the country in this regard. The province is home to nearly 9 million people and benefits from significant mining activities. However, subsistence farming remains the primary activity for most of the rural population. High poverty levels are prevalent (69.1%), and the population of Haut Katanga also have limited access to clean drinking water, energy, and healthcare services. It is estimated that 15% of the DRC's poor households live in Katanga, making the area particularly vulnerable. Deforestation, land degradation, and water pollution are common issues. Rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns also threaten both agriculture and mining. Addressing these acute environmental challenges is often restrained by the difficulty in

balancing mining interests and associated impacts with environmental conservation. Water scarcity, intensified by pollution, affects local agriculture and water supply for communities. Limited coordination between mining operations and the agricultural sector or environmental conservation initiatives further complicates adaptive capacity, while mining-induced deforestation amplifies soil erosion and habitat loss, further reducing resilience to climate impacts.

Overall, an uncertain future shaped by climate change in DRC could bring profound socio-economic and environmental consequences, particularly in provinces like Kwilu, Kwango, Haut Katanga, and Congo Central. The trends and drivers at play in each province offer insight into how this future might unfold, as climate change continues to interact, potentially in unpredictable ways, with existing vulnerabilities, natural resources, and socio-economic challenges.

In summary, across these provinces a future scenario with insufficient climate change adaptation will likely see poverty levels rise as natural resources are depleted and land productivity declines. Resource conflicts could become more common, especially as water and fertile land grow scarcer. Health outcomes might also deteriorate, as food insecurity and water scarcity combine with increased exposure to diseases related to poor water quality and malnutrition. It is important to stress that an uncertain future in the DRC underscores the critical importance of proactive climate change adaptation strategies. Without them, climate change could trigger a cascade of negative impacts that threaten both environmental stability and human well-being across these vulnerable provinces.

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[25] Huma Haider - Political Economy and Governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Helpdesk Research Report

[26]Soeren J. et al - Decentralisation in a weak state: Traditional and state governance in the DRC IGC report

[27] Soeren J. et al - Decentralisation in a weak state: Traditional and state governance in the DRC IGC report

[28] IMF (2020). Democratic Republic of the Congo: Governance and Anti-corruption Assessment - Technical Assistance Report

[29] IMF (2020). Democratic Republic of the Congo: Governance and Anti-corruption Assessment - Technical Assistance Report

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

This section first presents climate change in DRC under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios to provide foundation for the adaptation rationale of the project. The scenarios are tabulated below:

Table of RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 Scenarios in DRC

RCP4.5 (optimistic scenario)	RCP8.5 (pessimistic scenario)	Project rationale
Temperature and precipitation: The increase is projected to be less severe compared to higher emission scenarios, with a rise of ~1.04°C under cooler conditions by 2050. This moderate warming is expected to influence regional climate patterns, including rainfall distribution and intensity.[31] It is projected that there will be more frequent riverine and flash floods, especially along the Congo River Basin, affecting Kinshasa and other low-lying areas. Also, it is noted that with climate change, the Lualaba River Basin is projected to increase, resulting in higher water availability for energy and food production and the need for flood risk management.[32][13]	Temperature and precipitation: 3°C to 4°C rise by 2050, with extreme heat becoming the norm, particularly in southern and central regions. This increase will contribute to more frequent and intense heatwaves. The rise in temperature is a critical factor that will influence other climate-related impacts, such as drought and biodiversity loss.[33][14] Erratic rainfall patterns, longer dry seasons and more violent downpours will lead to flash floods and soil erosion. For example, intensified flooding across the Congo River system, displacing communities and affecting key infrastructure (e.g., roads, hydropower plants). Overall, under the RCP 8.5 scenario, significant warming and precipitation changes are projected, leading to increased runoff in some regions and decreased in others.[34][15]	To address the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 temperature and precipitation scenarios for, the project seeks to support interventions related to the production and dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties; gender-responsive alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities; small-scale, solar-powered irrigation systems to ensure year-round water supply for crops; and institutional capacity for climate-resilient agricultural production systems (see component 1).
Drought frequency: The DRC is likely to experience changes in drought patterns, with a distinct humid period projected until 2060, followed by drier conditions.[35][16] Although the RCP4.5	Drought frequency: Severe droughts will hit southern DRC, affecting key agricultural zones, exacerbating food insecurity. This is due to a combination of higher temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns, which are expected to lead to more frequent	To address the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 drought scenarios for, the project seeks to support interventions related to the production and dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties; gender-responsive alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities; small-scale, solar-powered irrigation systems to ensure year-round water supply for crops; and institutional

scenario suggests a less severe increase in drought frequency compared to RCP8.5, the country may still face significant dry events. Seasonal droughts may extend in southern regions (e.g., Katanga), stressing agriculture and water access.[36][17]	and severe droughts across Africa, including the DRC.[37][18]	capacity for climate-resilient agricultural production systems (see component 1). Under component 3, the project will establish real-time data collection tools and indicators to monitor climate adaptation efforts on the socioecological systems in the priority regions; provide trainings on climate adaptation strategies and sustainable resource management; and integrate climate resilience into local development plans and locally-led adaptation.
Biodiversity shifts: Rainforest ecosystems may face fragmentation due to shifting climate zones, though the humid environment remains relatively intact. The distribution of endemic legume species in the DRC is expected to decline significantly by 2050, with a projected loss of over 40% of climatically suitable areas for these species1. This loss of habitat suitability is driven by changes in precipitation patterns and seasonality, posing a threat to biodiversity in the region.[38][19] It should be noted that deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion, could exacerbate warming by 0.78°C, affecting precipitation	Biodiversity crisis: Rainforests face dieback and drying in the northern savannah zones, endangering iconic species (e.g., gorillas, okapis). Also, the country's endemic legume species, for example, are projected to experience a significant reduction in climatically suitable areas, leading to potential biodiversity loss. The anticipated changes in temperature and precipitation patterns are likely to disrupt the habitats of many species, exacerbating the biodiversity crisis by 2050.[40][21]	To address the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 biodiversity crisis scenarios, the project plans to support the establishment of community forest management groups to be trained in various silvicultural practices; restoration of key agro-pastoral production landscapes; and promotion of the harvesting and marketing of non-timber forest products (see component 2). Related to biodiversity as well is that the project will seek establish real-time data collection tools and indicators to monitor climate adaptation efforts on the socioecological systems in the priority regions; provide trainings on climate adaptation strategies and sustainable resource management; and integrate climate resilience into local development plans and locally-led adaptation (see component 3)

patterns and reducing rainfall by 5-10%.[39][20]		
Agriculture: Climate change under RCP4.5 is projected to impact agricultural productivity in the DRC. The use of soil and water conservation practices, such as tied ridges, could mitigate some of the negative impacts by improving water use efficiency and reducing yield losses by 5-25%. However, the overall agricultural water use may face challenges due to changes in precipitation and temperature. [41][22]	Climate change under RCP8.5 is projected to negatively impact the agriculture sector. Staple crops (maize, cassava, rice) face reduced productivity due to heat stress and shorter growing seasons. For example, the Congo River basin is projected to experience increased drought and food scarcity in the future. The average discharge under RCP8.5 for period 2011–2041, period 2041–2070, and period 2071–2100 are 4534, 4495, and 4682 cms, respectively.[42][23]	To address the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 agriculture scenarios, the project, the project will train key stakeholders on climate adaptation strategies and sustainable resource management; establish knowledge sharing and exchange platforms to disseminate best practices to farmers; and support integrating climate resilience into local development plans and locally-led adaptation (see component 3)

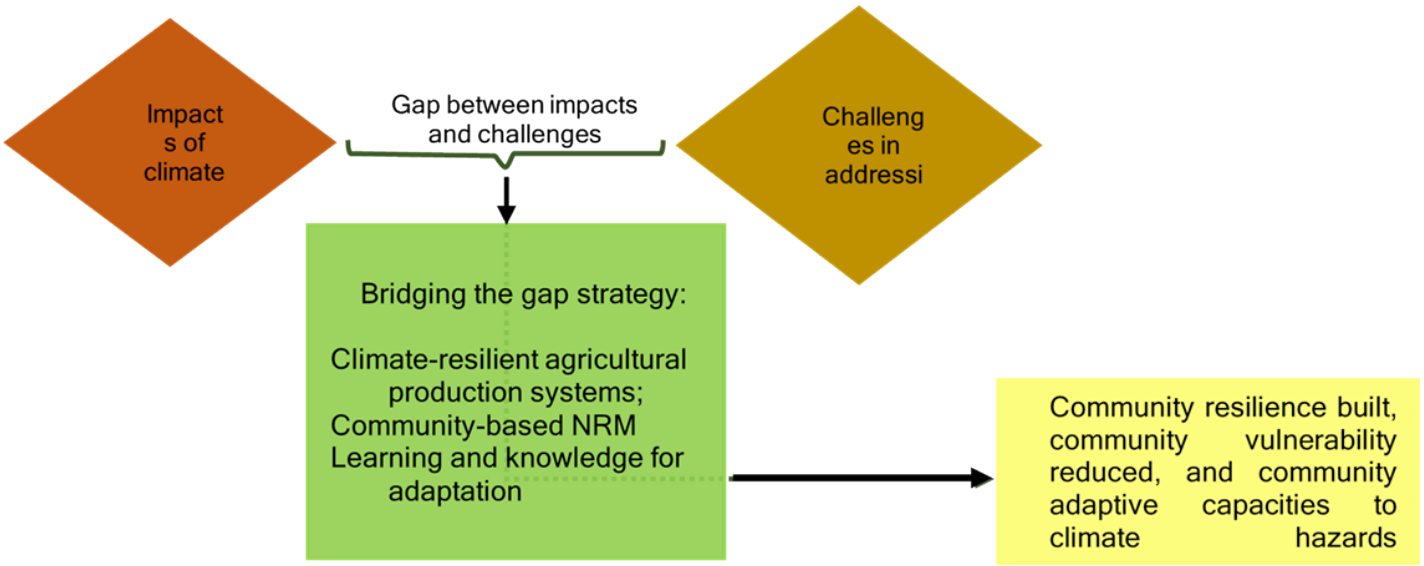
Why adaptation is therefore critical:

- Food and water security: both scenarios threaten agriculture. Thus, adaptation strategies like drought-tolerant crops, climate-smart farming, and improved irrigation can safeguard yields (component 1-focused interventions).
- Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening flood defenses and early warning systems is crucial for high-risk zones, and interventions in reforestation to support flood control, will prevent landslides, and protect biodiversity (components 2 and 3-focused interventions).
- Protecting Biodiversity: It should be noted that the DRC holds over 60% of Central Africa's rainforest[43][24] — vital for carbon sequestration and global climate stability. Expanding community-based forest management and anti-deforestation policies will help to balance conservation with local livelihoods (components 2 and 3-focused interventions).
-

It has been noted in the previous section that temperature rise and shifts in rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, ecosystem degradation and increasingly variable agricultural productivity and food insecurity constitute important impacts of climate change in DRC - and reflected in the priority target

provinces for AVENIR-DRC. It is equally apparent that the country faces serious challenges to address these impacts. This is due to limited institutional capacity and governance, financial constraints, dependence on natural resources, infrastructure and technological limitations, social vulnerability and health impacts, and conflict and political instability.

To bridge the gap between the impacts of climate change and barriers to address them, AVENIR-DRC will be comprehensively designed to build community resilience, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards through targeted activities addressing climate-resilient agricultural production systems to ensure food and nutrition security, and enhancing community-based natural resource management for climate change adaptation. It will also build local capacities to address these challenges, including those to support learning to enhance sharing of climate-related knowledge and lessons. This is illustrated in the figure below:



The figure above also illustrates the logical flow of interventions that define the Theory of Change (ToC) for the project. The central premise of the ToC is that by enhancing climate-resilient agricultural practices, promoting sustainable natural resource management, and bolstering local capacity, communities will be better prepared to both withstand and adapt to the likely future impacts of climate change. The gap-bridging strategy illustrated above represents the pathways to change – essentially to improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change by reducing vulnerabilities and increasing adaptive capacities.

The Theory of Change (pathways to change) is briefly described below:

1. *Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security*

    - *Main activities:* The project will introduce and scale climate-resilient agricultural practices, such as drought-tolerant crops, agroforestry, and integrated pest

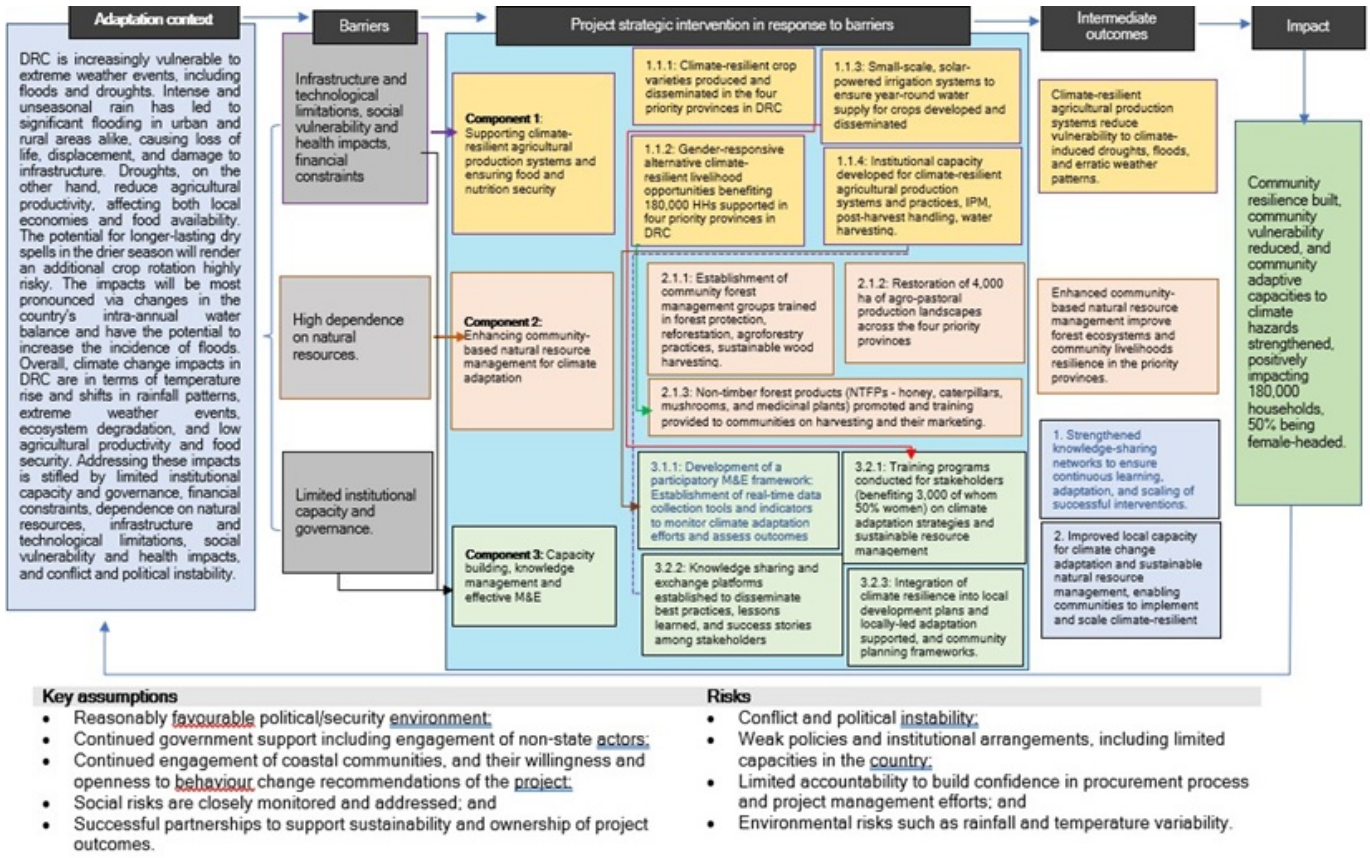
management. It will also provide communities with access to climate-smart technologies, support efficient water use, and develop early warning systems to help farmers anticipate and adapt to changing weather patterns.
- *Immediate outcomes*: Improved food production and nutrition security, even in the context of increasingly adverse climate conditions.
- *Long-term impact:* Communities experience enhanced food security, reduced economic vulnerability, and a more reliable food supply along with essential nutrients.

2. *Enhancing community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation*
   - *Main activities:* The project will strengthen local governance structures to manage resources like water, soil, and forests sustainably. It will engage communities in sustainable practices to conserve biodiversity, restore degraded land, and enhance water resources through participatory approaches, reinforcing the management of communal resources.
   - *Immediate outcomes:* Increased sustainable use and restoration of natural resources, providing a buffer against climate change impacts.
   - *Long-term impact*: Communities have healthy, functioning, and resilient ecosystems that sustain livelihoods and offer natural protections against climate hazards such as floods or droughts.

3. *Capacity building, knowledge management, and effective M&E*
   - *Main activities:* The project will conduct training to enhance local knowledge and skills in climate-resilient practices, provide access to climate information, and promote knowledge sharing. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will assess progress and adjust strategies as needed, ensuring effective project management.
   - *Immediate outcomes:* Increased local expertise and improved project management capacity.
   - *Long-term impact:* The project sustains its results beyond its duration, with communities empowered to continue adapting to climate change risks independently.

Overall, by combining climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable resource management, and capacity building, the project enables communities to maintain food security and economic stability amid climate variability. Stronger governance and management skills ensure sustainable practices are maintained, fostering resilience which can be shared with other community members and across generations. Through these pathways, the project envisions durable improvement in the adaptive capacities and resilience of communities in DRC to climate hazards. The proposed Theory of Change for the project is summarized in the diagram below:

Diagram of the Project's Theory of Change at PIF



AVENIR-DRC seeks to build community and agro-ecosystem resilience, improve natural resource management, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards in priority provinces in DRC. The project's central consideration is building up resilience, a term that refers to a heightened systemic capacity to anticipate, respond to, and recover from climatic shocks. Resilience-building involves strengthening three specific capacities.[1]

- Absorptive capacity. The ability of people, assets, and systems to prepare for, mitigate, or prevent negative impacts of hazards to preserve and restore essential basic structures and functions, for example, through protection, robustness, preparedness, and/or recovery.

- Adaptive capacity. The ability of people, assets, and systems to adjust, modify, or change characteristics and actions to moderate potential future impacts from hazards to continue to function without major qualitative changes, for example, through diversity, redundancy, integration, connectedness, and/or flexibility.

- Transformative capacity. The ability to create a fundamentally new system to avoid negative impacts from hazards.

The development of AVENIR-DRC builds on the PANA project in Kwilu, Congo Central and Haut Katanga provinces that sought to implement climate change resilient interventions. This proposed investment builds on what was achieved to continue reinforcing resilience to the increasing frequency

and severity of extreme weather events. The PANA project has demonstrated that community engagement, knowledge management, development and dissemination of drought-tolerant crop varieties, among other practices, will provide a solid basis for this LDCF project proposal. Based on experience derived from PANA interventions, investments in AVENIR-DRC are rationalised based on the following:

- *Seed quality and renewal:* Improved seeds were developed over a decade ago. Due to seed deterioration of genetic resources, however, there is an urgent need for seed rejuvenation, which involves introducing fresh, high-quality seeds into the planting cycle.
- *Impact of drought:* Frequent droughts have become a common occurrence in the target provinces, with cases of 'localized droughts' where one community may receive rainfall while a neighboring one does not. Rainy seasons have been delayed and shortened by about 2-3 months. This environmental degradation is exacerbated by communities' heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture.
- *Promotion of irrigation systems:* The project emphasizes promoting irrigation systems suitable for smallholders and developing value chains around key crops to mitigate drought impacts.
- *Chronic poverty levels:* High poverty levels limit community resilience to extreme weather events, which have increased in both frequency and severity.
- *Deployment of weather stations:* Establishing weather stations to improve community access to climate-related information is essential. Some automatic weather stations, however, such as the one in Ngimbi, Congo Central, are currently non-functional.
- *Capacity development and policy integration:* There is a need for capacity development and for integrating climate change adaptation into provincial development plans and policies.
- *Inclusive approaches:* A “whole-of-society approach” is recommended, particularly addressing women's vulnerabilities and creating socioeconomic opportunities for youth, including green job creation through improved value chains.
- *Community land tenure:* The establishment of Local Community Forestry Concessions (LCFC) helps secure land tenure for local communities, protecting them against encroachment, especially near major urban centers.

Lessons have been learned, and key aspects with potential to transform and build community resilience, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards in priority provinces in DRC will be prioritized.

The project seeks to strengthen these capacities in several ways, including (a) absorptive capacity through developing infrastructure; (b) adaptive capacity through diversified livelihoods, improved farming and managing post-harvest losses, and established management of community forests; and (c) transformative capacity by improving access of smallholder farmers to markets. To achieve these, AVENIR-DRC has been conceived around three interlinked components:

- Component 1: Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security

The project will improve agricultural practices through component 1 which will improve climate-resilient agricultural production systems, reduce vulnerability to climate-induced droughts and floods as well as erratic weather patterns, and increase resilience to climate impacts and enhance food security. Under this component, it is expected that farm-level investments in climate-smart agricultural practices will improve farm incomes and enhance adaptive capacity amongst farmers.[2] Under this component, the project will focus on important activities related to the following:

- Production and dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties in the priority target provinces in DRC;
- Support gender-responsive alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities (including community-based seed banks to facilitate improved localized access to drought-tolerant seeds to ensure availability during uncertain weather conditions);
- Support and disseminate small-scale, solar-powered irrigation systems to ensure year-round water supply for crops; and
- Develop institutional capacity for climate-resilient agricultural production systems and practices (including enhancing extension services, access to climate related information), IPM, post-harvest handling, and water harvesting - with a focus on gender equity. This includes ensuring women, youth, and marginalized groups have equitable access to training, leadership opportunities, and decision-making roles in agricultural extension services, as well as tailored support to address gender-specific barriers to technology adoption and market access.

Component 2: Enhancing community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation

The project will strengthen community capacity to sustainably manage natural resources and protect ecosystems from climate change impacts through component 2 to enhanced community-based natural resource management improve forest ecosystem and community livelihoods resilience in the priority provinces. It will focus on important activities related to the following:

· Training community forest management groups in forest protection, reforestation, agroforestry practices, sustainable wood harvesting - ensuring gender-balanced representation and leadership. Training programs will incorporate gender-sensitive approaches, recognizing and promoting the roles of women and youth in forest management, while addressing barriers to their participation.

Special attention will be given to empowering women with skills in agroforestry and sustainable resource use to enhance their economic opportunities and decision-making influence within the groups;

· Supporting restoration initiatives on 410,000 ha of agro-pastoral production landscapes ensuring gender-inclusive participation in planning, implementation, and benefit-sharing - Capacity-building efforts will integrate gender-sensitive training on sustainable land management practices, and women's roles in agro-pastoral systems will be promoted – including leadership opportunities in community-led restoration efforts; and

· Promoting non-timber forest products (NTFPs - honey, caterpillars, mushrooms, and medicinal plants) and providing gender-responsive training to communities on harvesting and their marketing. Special focus will be placed on empowering women and youth, recognizing their traditional knowledge and roles in NTFP collection and value chains. Training will include business development, market access, and financial literacy tailored to address gender-specific barriers, ensuring equitable participation in income generation and leadership within NTFP enterprises.

The project will work to connect IFAD's target groups to markets using an inclusive approach to value chain development. The experiences of PRAPAM and PREPAS in CAR show that, in order to create the conditions required for resilience and improved living conditions for the vulnerable, interventions must cover all segments of a value chain, from upstream to downstream. The vulnerable must be supported not only to improve their production capacities and means, but also to gain sustainable access to markets for goods and services and products (in order to generate income). Access to markets plays a key role in access to income in any process of building resilience, escaping extreme poverty and rebuilding the social contract.

An IFAD publication in 2021 on lessons learned from inclusive rural and agricultural finance in West and Central Africa (WCA) revealed that the tripartite and bipartite cost- and risk-sharing financing mechanisms piloted in WCA from 2016 are performing well. Good performance is measured by loan repayment rates of at least 90%, even for very poor/extremely poor but economically active people for loans taken out from a blended finance facility at blended/negotiated interest rates. These financing mechanisms have been strengthened and scaled up in Mali/INCLUSIF, Togo/ ProMIFA and Cameroon/PEA-Jeune and continue to offer good loan repayment rates. The project will adopt these effective cost- and risk-sharing financing mechanisms and apply them to its beneficiaries, who will be supported in presenting bankable proposals (business plans). In order to overcome certain delays in the case of PREPAS and PRAPAM, PEAJ's key partner operators for social and technical engineering, the implementation of financial mechanisms, and digitalization, will be pre-identified as part of the third-party implementation approach; beneficiaries will be supported in acquiring their own production kits from approved local suppliers and the operational capacities of the technical support structures will be strengthened.

Overall, the project will support local dynamics for transformation towards gender equality. Support will be geared towards increasing the integration and position of women and young people in livestock value chains, facilitating their professionalization and economic empowerment and strengthening their control over the resources and income generated, as well as their involvement in decision-making processes for the governance and management of collective sites and infrastructure promoted by the project. Their financial inclusion will be strengthened through support for the development of more appropriate financial products and services, as well as their inclusion in productive and/or commercial partnerships that are inclusive and respect equity in business relations. Technologies that save time and labour (resilient kits adapted to small-

scale traditional livestock farming and modern livestock farming, honey collection, adapted equipment for modern milk and honey processing, etc.) and reduce the drudgery of work will be promoted. The project will focus on awareness-raising and training with a view to changing behaviour and promoting alternative models of positive masculinity.

Targeted support for young people will involve guidance and support for maturing their request for support; training and close, individualized support for access to funding for their economic initiatives. The pathway to integration and empowerment for the young people targeted will be made operational through specific support mechanisms reflecting the diversity of their profile and their varied needs and interests. For young entrepreneurs or those with business ideas, an incubation-acceleration-development programme or an apprenticeship-employment programme will be offered, combined with essential services such as the development of business plans, access to finance, formalization of the business, etc. As for young adults, the PEAJ will provide direct support for 'initiation-intensification of production' to encourage their integration into production in the agro-pastoral sectors. To empower young people, the project will provide comprehensive and sustained support over time in terms of strategic thinking and entrepreneurial training, development of business plans and support for the management of their economic initiative, facilitating access to incubation and training facilities, provision of kits and equipment to meet the needs of their farms/businesses, specific support in accessing funding and appropriate digital options, support in formalizing their business, negotiating partnerships, etc. The project will adopt the principle of flexibility and will provide support to young people in the development of their businesses. The project will adopt the principle of flexibility to guarantee their participation, and a system of listening and dialogue.

As far as possible, an account will be opened for beneficiaries eligible for the progression model. Each member's financial support will be positioned in this account. There are several advantages to this option: (i) it will improve the connection between eligible beneficiaries and MFIs and thus the targeted financial inclusion; (ii) it will mitigate the risks associated with over-the-counter transactions (misappropriation of funds, aggression by savings and loan officers in charge of carrying the funds, etc.).

Component 3: **Capacity building, knowledge management and effective M&E**

The project will build capacity and enhance knowledge for climate adaptation across institutions, communities, and stakeholders under component 3 to strengthen knowledge-sharing networks to ensure continuous learning, adaptation, and scaling of successful interventions, and improved local capacity for climate adaptation and sustainable natural resource management, enabling communities to implement and scale climate-resilient practices. It will focus on important activities related to the following:

- Developing a participatory M&E framework to monitor climate adaptation efforts and assess project outcomes;

- Providing training workshops for local government and community leaders on climate adaptation, resource management, and sustainable agriculture techniques;
- Establishing a knowledge sharing and exchange platform to disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and success stories among stakeholders, including farmers and government agencies – the project will ensure that knowledge produced on lessons learned and best practice capture results and advances on gender equality and women's empowerment; and
- Integration of climate resilience into local development plans and support for locally-led adaptation, ensuring gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies are mainstreamed into district and community planning frameworks. This includes promoting the active participation and leadership of women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes, ensuring their specific vulnerabilities, knowledge, and adaptation needs are reflected in planning. Capacity-building initiatives will prioritize empowering women and youth to engage in local climate governance, fostering inclusive, community-driven resilience strategies.

Under component 3, the project will develop a robust M&E system to track the progress, effectiveness, and impact of interventions in climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security, along with community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation. The process of tracking project results will inform adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making. Under this component, the project will be well positioned to share information with stakeholders to create space for a more participatory approach to project development, implementation and monitoring.

These components aim to address climate vulnerabilities while fostering sustainable development in DRC – particularly responding to the socioeconomic needs of vulnerable communities facing increasingly erratic climate conditions. Below is a summary of adaptation benefits that are expected to accrue from the implementation of AVENIR-DRC:

- ***Component 1.*** *Supporting climate-resilient agricultural production systems and ensuring food and nutrition security:* By introducing drought-tolerant crop varieties, climate-smart irrigation, and better food security measures, this component directly addresses crop productivity and food access in the face of rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall. Drought-tolerant crops can better withstand extreme weather conditions, stabilizing yields and ensuring food security even in adverse conditions. Climate-smart irrigation reduces water use while maximizing crop output, making agriculture more resilient to water shortages. Proposed activities under component 1 will be gender-responsive and will benefit 180,000 households, 50% of which will be female-headed.

- ***Component 2.*** *Enhancing* ***community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation****:* Establishing community-managed forests and restoring degraded lands help mitigate soil erosion and maintain ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water regulation. Community engagement in natural resource management empowers locals to adopt sustainable practices, protecting biodiversity and the long-term productivity of ecosystems. Promoting non-timber forest products (NTFPs) also diversifies income sources and helps to support ecosystem-based approaches for sustainable livelihoods, while at the same time enhancing resilience against deforestation and forest degradation. Through this

component, 4,000 ha of degraded production landscapes will be restored, and the restoration interventions will contribute to carbon emission mitigation (-64,724 metric tons of CO_2e see attached NEXT and table of core indicators).

- *Component 3. Capacity building, knowledge management and effective M&E:* Building local capacity through training (benefiting 3,000 of whom 50% are women), data monitoring, and knowledge-sharing fosters a better understanding of climate risks and adaptive responses. Creating monitoring systems enables communities to track climate impacts and adapt practices accordingly. Knowledge-sharing across regions accelerates the spread of effective adaptation techniques, helping communities and regions learn from each other's experiences.

Through these components, the project will strengthen overall adaptive capacity, promote sustainable land and water use, and safeguard food security – all essential for improving resilience and adaptive capacity against climate challenges in both the short and long term.

The implementation of AVENIR-DRC will seek to synergize and complement interventions from other development partners in DRC. Below is a list of relevant projects under implementation that constitute an important baseline for the AVENIR-DRC project to build on:

- Additional Financing to the Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Livelihoods Project. This is a $50,000,000 World Bank funded project that was approved in November 2023. The project seeks to strengthen landscape management, increase the use of improved livelihood activities, and reduce food insecurity in targeted communities.

- Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Livelihoods Project (ProClimat Congo). This is an $82 million World Bank funded project that was approved in March 2023. The project aims to improve landscape management and promote resilient and inclusive livelihoods in targeted communities.

- Northern Congo Agroforestry Project. This is a $15.6 million World Bank financed project that was approved in February 2022. The project seeks to strengthen climate-smart agriculture and conservation practices in Community Development Zones in the departments of Sangha and Likouala.

- Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management. This is a $4.5 million World Bank funded project that was approved in December 2021. The project aims to support and increase participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the Forest Investment Plan and REDD+ policies and programs.

- Integrated Agricultural Value Chain Development Project. This a $62.3 million AfDB financed project that was approved in November 2019. The overall objective is to promote competitive and resilient agriculture through the integrated development of agro-food value chains in Congo. The specific objectives are (i) to improve the performance of Agricultural Value Chains (AVC); and (ii) to enhance the business environment conducive to promoting profitable small and medium agricultural enterprises.

- Youth Entrepreneurship Project in Agriculture and Agribusiness. This is a $40 million AfDB funded project that was approved in 2016. The project seeks to create wealth by establishing agro-enterprises run by young people, alongside improving food and nutritional security. Specifically, it aims to create favorable conditions for the establishment and management of successful agribusiness enterprises by young people. Additionally, it seeks to develop a supportive policy, organizational, and institutional framework to promote and facilitate the growth of these enterprises.

Besides the afore-mentioned partner projects, the AVENIR-DRC will build on the following projects that have been funded by the GEF in DRC:

- Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change by promoting innovation, transfer, and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value-chains and creating jobs ($8.9 million, UNIDO). The project components are: linking adaptation technologies and finance innovation with national planning in Water, Energy, and Food (WEF) sectors; transforming early-stage climate adaptation technologies into commercial enterprises; innovative financing for Climate Change adaptation to build resilience of vulnerable groups; and project monitoring and learning.

- Community-based forested landscape management in Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba ($13.8 million, UNEP). The project aims to scale up and improve forest landscapes through community-based natural resources management in trans-boundary landscapes. It is structured around mainstreaming Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) for conservation and sustainable development, ensuring biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscape; promoting sustainable land use in priority landscapes, and improving capacity, knowledge management, and transboundary collaboration.

- Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management ($3.7 million, UNDP). This project aims to strengthen the management of the Kabobo-Luama protected area and enhance conservation of endangered species for sustainable local development and global biodiversity benefits. Components include: institutional capacity for landscape management and biodiversity conservation, enhanced protected area management and reduced poaching, improved livelihoods, and mainstreaming of safeguards and knowledge management.

· Promoting Effective Management of Salonga National Park through Community Forests and Improving Local Communities' Well-being ($5.7 million, UNEP). This project supports community-based, landscape-scale planning and sustainable production management in the Monkoto Corridor and Salonga National Park, with components focusing on establishing community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and developing sustainable livelihood alternatives to reduce wildlife and forest pressures.

· Improved Forested Landscape Management Project (GEF Additional Financing) ($6.2 million, World Bank). This project tests new approaches to improve community livelihoods and forested landscape management while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Key focuses include governance strengthening, capacity building for decentralized

administration, implementing simple management plans, developing perennial crop value chains, restoring connectivity, supporting vulnerable communities, family planning, and protected areas.

· The Restoration Initiative, DRC child project: Improved Management and Restoration of Agro-sylvo-pastoral Resources in South-Kivu ($3.6 million, FAO). This project promotes reforestation and sustainable natural resource management by local communities using a Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach in South-Kivu, with components on policy development, demonstration of FLR options and sustainable livelihoods, upscaling institutional and funding capacity, and knowledge sharing on FLR.

· Community-Based Miombo Forest Management in South East Katanga ($4.3 million, FAO). This project promotes sustainable management and restoration of miombo forest ecosystems to reduce carbon emissions and improve livelihoods through marketing sustainably harvested wood fuels and non-timber forest products (NTFP). Components include developing community forest management systems, strengthening the legal framework, knowledge management, and project monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

With a focus on building community resilience, reducing vulnerability, and strengthening adaptive capacities, The AVENIR-DRC project has a strong foundation for collaboration with several complementary projects. This coordination ensures synergies, resource efficiency, and scaling up of best practices. By fostering active collaboration, AVENIR-DRC will reduce project duplication and amplify impact through shared resources and expertise; enhance community resilience with proven adaptation technologies and sustainable livelihood models; and support policy development by unifying voices from multiple projects, ensuring inclusive, climate-resilient rural development. Thus, coordination and cooperation will include:

a) Strategic partnerships for climate-resilient livelihoods:

- Through ProClimat Congo and Additional Financing to the Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Livelihoods Project focus on landscape management and improved livelihoods, AVENIR-DRC will align its efforts to scale resilient agricultural practices and share community-based adaptation innovations.
- Through Integrated Agricultural Value Chain Development Project supports agro-food value chains, AVENIR-DRC will enhance these value chains by integrating climate-smart agriculture and rural entrepreneurship models.

b) Knowledge and resource sharing on climate adaptation

- Through Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change (UNIDO) focuses on adaptation technologies, AVENIR-DRC will leverage this by introducing context-specific technologies to rural communities, ensuring innovative financing reaches vulnerable groups.
- Through the Restoration Initiative, DRC child project (FAO) and Community-Based Miombo Forest Management promote reforestation and sustainable resource management, AVENIR-DRC will build on these models to improve ecosystem services supporting agricultural resilience.

c) Strengthening community and indigenous participation

- Through Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management encourages indigenous participation in forest governance, AVENIR-DRC will empower these communities by integrating indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation strategies.
- Through Promoting Effective Management of Salonga National Park ensures community-led resource management, AVENIR-DRC will expand these community-based models to other vulnerable regions, promoting sustainable livelihoods.

d) Enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience building

- Through Community-based forested landscape management in Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba supports integrated land-use planning, AVENIR-DRC will replicate this approach to balance conservation and rural development in other priority provinces.
- Through Improved Forested Landscape Management Project focuses on governance and capacity building, AVENIR-DRC will strengthen local institutions for climate resilience and community leadership in natural resource management.

As noted, the projects above will constitute an important pool of lessons to inform the prioritization of activities to build community resilience, reduce vulnerability and strengthen community adaptive capacities to climate hazards in priority provinces in DRC. The lessons underscore the importance of community participation, knowledge sharing, diversified income sources, and inclusive value chains in strengthening resilience to climate hazards. Integrating these insights can help create a more adaptive, sustainable, and inclusive approach to climate change risk management in DRC. Based on stakeholder engagements, the table below summarises key lessons and insights.

Table of key lessons and insights

- ***Community-driven vulnerability assessments:*** Engaging communities in assessing vulnerabilities supports ownership and yields along with relevant solutions tailored to local needs;
- ***Promotion of inclusive agricultural techniques:*** Climate-smart agricultural practices have proven effective in building resilience. Projects can incorporate techniques that optimize yields under changing climatic conditions, such as drought-tolerant crops;
- ***Capacity-building for adaptive management:*** Ongoing training in climate adaptation improves both immediate and long-term adaptive capacity. Strengthening this component ensures that communities can adapt practices as climate impacts evolve;
- ***Agroforestry for soil and water conservation:*** Agroforestry techniques, such as integrating tree planting with crop cultivation, reduce soil degradation and enhance water retention, benefiting agricultural productivity and ecosystem resilience;

- *Diversification of income sources:* Agroforestry improves fertility and provides multiple products (e.g., timber, fruits) and reduces reliance on single income sources, which is essential for resilience in a fluctuating climate;
- *Incorporation of Indigenous knowledge:* Recognizing and incorporating traditional knowledge contributes to resource sustainability and strengthens the social fabric of communities. This local expertise can help develop strategies well-suited to the specific environment;
- *Capacity-building for community-led resource management*: Establishing clear roles in community-based natural resource management fosters long-term sustainability by building local skills and empowering stakeholders to take initiative in conservation;
- *Building resilient agricultural value chains:* Strengthening the entire agricultural value chain ensures that communities benefit at each stage, from production to market, while reducing vulnerability to climate shocks;
- *Facilitating access to climate-resilient markets:* Developing markets that support climate-resilient crops and practices encourages farmers to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to long-term livelihood stability;
- *Engaging youth in climate-smart agriculture:* Training youth in climate-adapted agriculture not only promotes job creation but also brings innovative solutions to climate adaptation; and
- *Development of youth-led microenterprises:* Supporting small, climate-resilient businesses enables communities to diversify their income sources, increasing resilience to climate impacts;

The involvement and role of the private sector in AVENIR-DRC

The development of this proposal acknowledges that private sector's involvement in climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture in DRC is essential for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Engaging the vulnerable including youth through targeted interventions which guard the agriculture sector against extreme weather events is a key strategy to unlock the sector's potential. Creating space for private sector involvement can pave the way for a more vibrant, productive and climate-resilient agricultural landscape in the DRC. Indeed, optimizing agricultural investment in the DRC can lead to faster growth and achievement of poverty reduction goals than sub-optimal levels currently represent.[1]

Building on the previous achievements of the PANA project noted above, the project will collaborate with the Institut National d'Etude et de Recherche Agronomique (INERA) (National Institute of Agricultural Study and Research). With its goal to ensure food sovereignty, food and nutritional security while protecting natural resources and biodiversity, INERA collaborates with the private sector in, for example, the development and distribution of climate-resilient seed varieties that are suited to different ecological zones of the country. AVENIR-DRC will build on previous experience with INERA in collaborating with the private sector. Details on the modalities and specifics of the

private sector entities will be confirmed after additional consultations with key stakeholders, including INERA administration during the PPG phase.

Gender considerations

With respect to climate change, women are typically more seriously affected than men. For instance, women are more vulnerable to climate change because of their greater dependence on climate-related resources (due to their responsibility to provide or produce water and food). In addition, their adaptive capacity is lower due to restricted mobility, limited access to education, credit and banking services, and provisions on land tenure, combined with the low employment of women in the formal sector (30 percent) and in political positions (20 percent). The literacy rate of women among 15-24 year olds is significantly lower (59 percent) than that of men (86 percent),[2] which creates an imbalance in access to climate-related and other important information and limits women's ability to adapt. It has been reported that in the DRC, there is a limited participation of women in discussions on climate change issues, resulting from a low rate of political representation. For example, only 12.8 percent of members of parliament are women.

It has been reported that higher proportions of women in forest user groups perform less well than mixed or male-dominated groups, possibly due to gender biases in technology access, labour constraints, and imbalances with respect to authority. The gender aspects of the project are therefore critical, with the understanding that the DRC is a male-dominated society – and the resulting inequalities are reflected in households, religious institutions, and throughout society.

The Gender Development Index is 0.891, which means that women's human development is about 89% of that of men. The difference arises primarily from lower indicators related to education and health, as well as incomes. The value of the Gender Inequality Index of the DRC, 0.673, is lower than many African countries. Concomitantly, the value of Social Inclusion and Gender Index is 0.4276, which denotes high gender inequality, reflecting a discriminatory family code, inequality in physical integrity, limited access to resources and assets, and lack of freedom as a citizen.[3]

Marriages are also viewed as institutions in which primarily favour men. For instance, the income of the wife is often put under the husband's control. Assets obtained within marriage are registered under the name of the husband and regarded as assets of the husband, and by extension his parents and brothers. Women can inherit according to the law, but women cannot own a house according to the prevailing social norms. Very often when a husband dies, his parents and/or brothers take the house and land, and the widow becomes destitute. In South Kivu of DRC, sexual violence against women is a societal phenomenon, with resulting community isolation and shame being as important as the attack itself for survivors. In fact, sexual violence and gender-based discrimination in the DRC are a 'normalized' part of everyday life, despite existing legislation and policies on gender equality and women's rights.

In the natural resources sector, women's voices are often muted in forest governance and REDD+ decision-making, highlighting the need for institutional changes to increase their bargaining power

and participation in decision-making processes. A series of reforms undertaken in the 2010s, have made it easier for Congolese women to participate in economic life. In 2015 the Law on Parity granted women in the DRC more rights to economic and social participation, bringing the country closer to formal gender equality in the law. In addition, an amendment to the Family Code in 2016 established that women in the DRC no longer need to obtain their husband's authorization to sign a legally binding contract or to provide a formal letter of permission when starting a job or registering a business. Despite such positive steps, women in the DRC remain underrepresented in the political sphere and in the private sector. While women make up 48.5 percent of the total labour force, they work disproportionately in agriculture, vulnerable (non-wage and non-salary) jobs, and self-employment compared to men (World Development Indicators).

Recognizing the gender context of DRC, AVENIR-DRC has been designed to deliberately take into account gender aspects, particularly with respect to target beneficiaries will constitute 50% female-headed households among the total 180,000 HHs project target. Gender considerations will be reported on and reflected in the project's logical framework. In addition, a gendered approach to natural resource planning and management is crucial and fundamental to project design in order to ensure sustainable management outcomes.

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[41] Bagula, E. et al. (2022). Climate Change Effect on Water Use Efficiency under Selected Soil and Water Conservation Practices in the Ruzizi Catchment, Eastern D.R. Congo. *Land*. https://doi.org/10.3390/land11091409.

[42] Karam, S., Zango, B.-S., Seidou, O., Perera, D., Nagabhatla, N., & Tshimanga, R. M. (2023). Impacts of Climate Change on Hydrological Regimes in the Congo River Basin. *Sustainability*, 15(7), 6066. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15076066

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Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The project will be the subject of financing agreements signed with the Ministry of Finance. However, the project will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Strategic guidance will be provided by the Project's National Steering Committee (CNP), made up of representatives of the various ministries and representatives of producer organisations. The CNP will review overall progress and validate the PTBAs.

Project management will be delegated to the AVENIR Project Management Unit (PMU), which reports to the Ministry of Agriculture and has administrative and financial management autonomy, being accountable to the Ministry of Finance for the use of funds. The PMU will be responsible for fiduciary and operational management, including planning, administrative and financial management, implementation and technical supervision of implementing partners (including procurement, audit, knowledge management and production, and the monitoring and evaluation system). The PMU will be headquartered in Kikwit (Kwilu province) with four branches located in each of the intervention regions. Thus, executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, this project will be managed by the same Project Management Unit as AVENIR, through a cost-shared arrangement that will be clarified at PPG after additional consultations that will include key PMU staff that will be paid for by the project.

Financial management, procurement and governance

Financial Management. The PMU team will be fully responsible for the implementation of GEF funding in compliance with IFAD acceptable fiduciary and procurement standards.

Each sub-office will have an accountant and an administrative assistant who will be responsible for checking supporting documents and entering accounting transactions into the web/online version of the accounting software. After scanning and entering the accounts, the antenna teams will be required to submit all supporting documents to the Kikwit team for checking and archiving.

The PMU will prepare quarterly financial and accounting statements to be sent to IFAD in order to monitor commitments, disbursements, the project's financial performance, its efficiency (level of operating costs) and access to financial data for cross-technical and cross-financial monitoring. This system will prepare consolidated financial statements of project operations, resources and expenditure.

On internal control, to mitigate the risks of vulnerability in internal management, the management manual will document the roles and responsibilities of all players. More specifically, internal control activities will focus on verifying the conformity of financial commitments, compliance with expenditure settlement rules and checking the consistency of management accounts and the balance sheet. On a monthly basis, the RAF will reconcile the disbursements made by donors with the budget outturns and the uses recorded in the balance sheet.

The National Audit Office (Cour des Comptes de la République Démocratique du Congo) will act as the project's internal auditor if the planning of project-related work can be integrated into the Court's programme. The Court will submit an annual internal audit report on the Project's accountability. The control missions of the Inspectorates General of the Ministries in charge of agriculture and finance, which will also be carried out during the Project implementation period, will strengthen the PMU's internal control environment.

External audit. An independent and qualified external auditor from the private sector will be recruited annually by the supervisory ministry to carry out the external audit of the PMU's financial statements (see Implementation Manual).

Procurement of goods, services and works of the Project will be conducted in accordance with the revised IFAD Guidelines available on the site at the date of signature of the financing or credit agreements. In this regard, the Project will apply the provisions of the Public Procurement Code of the Democratic Republic of Congo, whenever they are compatible with the IFAD Guidelines. Project procurement is aligned with IFAD's revised policy on the prevention of fraud, corruption, money laundering and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and to this effect, all available tools shall be used during its implementation. Any non-compliant practices observed in these areas must be reported immediately to the corresponding IFAD office.

The PMU of the AVENIR Project, which has its own administrative and financial management, will include a procurement unit whose internal members and external partners involved in the process will receive technical training on procurement in accordance with the new IFAD Guidelines, including all tools, principally the CMT and END2END developed by IFAD and applicable standard documents.

Core Indicators

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF **true**	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer **false**	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation **false**
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? **false**		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). **false**		
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. **true**		
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. **true**		
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). **false**		
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below		
Green Climate Fund **false**	Adaptation Fund **false**	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) **false**

This Project has an urban focus.
false
This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation
true
This project will support South-South knowledge exchange
false

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *	
Agriculture	35.00%
Nature-based management	40.00%
Climate information services	10.00%
Coastal zone management	10.00%
Water resources management	5.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	0.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*

Sea level rise **false**	Change in mean temperature **true**	Increased climatic variability **true**	Natural hazards **true**
Land degradation **true**	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation **true**	Groundwater quality/quantity **true**	

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	200,000	100,000.00	100,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	4,000.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	6.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	3,000	1,500.00	1,500.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience	200.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	High	As of 2024, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index ranked DRC as 169th out of 185 countries in terms of vulnerability and 189th out of 192 with regard to readiness. DRC is vulnerable to extreme weather events and general impacts of climate change. To mitigate climate-related risks, this project has proposed measures to support the country, particularly target areas to more effectively improve the governance of natural resources but also concrete interventions through reforestation, agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable land management practices which will contribute to sequester carbon, enhance resilience to climate impacts, and improve livelihoods. Community engagement, capacity building, and policy support are integral to the project's approach to ensure climate impacts on the project are reduced, and project intervention activities remain sustainable.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The DRC faces important environmental challenges which have socio-economic negative impacts given the level of community dependence on the use of natural resources. This is particularly relevant for rural communities, internally displaced people and indigenous communities. As mitigation measures, the project will continue embracing participatory approaches to engage with local stakeholders to ensure their participation and benefit-sharing, implementing sustainable land management practices to restore ecosystems, and providing alternative livelihood opportunities to alleviate pressure on natural resources. The project will develop a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track project outcomes and ensure adherence to environmental and social safeguards in a participatory fashion.
Political and Governance	High	DRC has known years of conflict that has had negative spillover effects on governance and institutional capacities. At the time of this PIF development, eastern DRC is going through an active conflict. These are reflected in corruption, and political instability. Component 1 of the project focuses on establishing an enabling environment to strengthen governance structures to enhance the management of natural resources. Through target activities, the project will contribute to fostering transparent and accountable governance structures, engaging with government agencies and local authorities to ensure alignment with national policies and regulations, and promoting community participation in decision-making processes. Strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, including various civil society organizations in priority regions will be essential to mitigate political risks and ensure the project's success and sustainability in the country. Also, the development of this project has received overwhelming support from the government, including government agencies accompanying the technical team in all stakeholder consultations in all the target regions.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The project has been designed to contribute to enhance the sustainable management of miombo woodland landscapes. It has been deliberately designed to build technical capacities and is consistent with the government policies for the governance of natural resources in the country. Also, the

		implementation of the project has been designed to include local level institutional structures that will include non-state actors within the policy guidelines of Integrated Development Plans of target territories. Therefore, overall, the risk level of institutional and policy context is low.
Technological	Moderate	Target project areas are socio-economically poor and generally characterized by low level of technological advancement. They are also isolated from active political centres. The project has been designed to reflect this context and created space for community engagement as a bottom up approach. Thus, technological risks are rated low with no envisaged potential risks on the implementation and outcomes of the project.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	To build adaptive capacities, the project has been designed to create and strengthen existing value chains within the target regions. Therefore, the basis is what communities are already used to, thereby reducing the learning curve and time in a manner that will facilitate adoption. The risk of this model on the project outcomes and implementation is therefore expected to be low.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Substantial	As has been alluded to above, institutional capacity risks in the DRC arise from weak governance structures, inadequate human and financial resources, and limited coordination among government agencies and stakeholders. Weak administrative systems and corruption undermine accountability and transparency, increasing the likelihood of project failure or mismanagement and therefore sustainability. Additionally, political interference further exacerbates institutional capacity and sustainability risks in the DRC. As mitigation measures, the project will strengthen local institutions through capacity building, promote inclusive decision-making processes, and foster partnerships with civil society organizations and build on achievements of other projects implemented by other development partners. Also, the project will develop a robust monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as providing ongoing technical support to enhance the sustainability of project interventions and ensure long-term impact in the target regions and beyond in the DRC.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Fiduciary risks in the DRC stem from challenges in financial management and procurement processes, including corruption, mismanagement, and lack of transparency. Weak financial controls and oversight mechanisms increase the likelihood of financial irregularities, misappropriation of funds, and budgetary constraints. Inadequate procurement procedures and capacity constraints hinder the timely and efficient acquisition of goods and services, leading to project delays and cost overruns. Additionally, limited access to financial resources and volatile economic conditions further exacerbates fiduciary risks in the DRC. As mitigation measures, it is recalled here that this project programmatically builds on achievements and lessons from the closed PANA project, but also the AVENIR project which is under implementation – and therefore already has financial structures in place to

		more effectively ensure fiduciary best practices. Consistent with IFAD financial management regulations, the project will conduct regular audits and ensure transparency and accountability in procurement practices. The project will strengthen capacity for financial planning and reporting, as well as providing training for project staff and local partners to enhance fiduciary oversight and mitigate risks of mismanagement and corruption.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Stakeholder engagement risks in the DRC may be linked to inadequate consultation, communication breakdowns (the country is vast with many languages), and conflict among diverse stakeholder groups. Limited participation of key stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups, may lead to resistance, opposition, or mistrust towards project objectives and outcomes. Additionally, cultural, linguistic, and social barriers further complicate effective engagement and collaboration. In terms of mitigation measures, the development of the project has been highly participatory from the outset, and has comprehensively engaged stakeholders at national, regional and community levels. The project will build on these stakeholder engagement processes to establish an inclusive and gender-responsive platform for dialogue and consultations and promoting participatory decision-making. The project will continue engaging local communities through awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building workshops, and participatory planning exercises to foster stakeholder ownership and support for project objectives.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	High	Based on the analysis done above, the overall rating of identified risk is expected to be High. The risks are there, and overall, are rated High. Considering this rate and the uncertainty around the evolution of conflict in eastern DRC, the project has proposed adequate mitigation to address and minimize the potential impacts of the risks on the project outcomes and its overall implementation.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project aims to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs and is designed to cover the additional costs of priority adaptation measures identified in the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA). This project originates from the NAPA projects implemented to address

the impacts of climate change in Congo Central, Kwilu and Haut Katanga. The conceptualization of AVENIR-DRC has involved the full participation of relevant national stakeholders, aligning with the implementation financing framework with the country's priorities for environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management. The NAPA highlights the need to prioritize agriculture and food security in the DRC.

Through piloting innovative approaches, the project intends to build capacities among regional and national stakeholders, allowing them to replicate best practices after the project concludes.

Overall Compliance with the GEF

This project is being designed to meet the general requirements of the GEF.

- **Sustainability**: The project is structured to have a significant impact at village, provincial, and national levels.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**: A specific M&E section will be developed during the PPG phase, including provisions for ongoing or ad hoc independent outcome evaluations. This continuous process will ensure lessons are learned and shared with related initiatives. Additionally, knowledge-based activities in this project will contribute to generating new insights on adaptation in the DRC on an ongoing basis.
- **Replicability**: By focusing on specific pilot projects within the country's primary climate zones, the project will demonstrate adaptation options to make agricultural sector development climate resilient. These adaptation activities and measures can be replicated throughout the country.
- **Stakeholder Engagement**: In line with NAPA guidelines, the project will use an effective participatory approach. As mentioned in Section 1.4, a stakeholder engagement plan will also be developed for the project.

The design of the project takes into consideration the socioeconomic, political and environmental vulnerabilities in the DRC. The project's strategic approach focuses on concrete activities to support climate-resilient agricultural production systems and to enhance community-based natural resource management for climate adaptation. The success of these concrete activities will hinge on an enabling environment that the project will enhance through training workshops for local government and community leaders on climate adaptation, resource management, and sustainable agriculture techniques, but also the integration of climate resilience into local development plans and locally-led adaptation strategies, among others. Mainstreaming climate adaptation strategies in district and community planning frameworks will be critically important for the success and sustainability of concrete adaptation interventions.

By investing resources in land restoration and broadening and diversifying socioeconomic opportunities for vulnerable communities in the target communities, the project will be complementary to the healthy planet, healthy people framework of the GEF-8 Programming Directions. The project will eploy nature-based solutions and similar actions on 4,000 ha of land to protect, sustainably

manage, and restore natural ecosystems[1][25] thereby contributing to the restoration of ecosystem services that underpin livelihoods in the priority provinces. The AVENIR-DRC investment will address challenges within the context of climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction, contributing to human well-being and biodiversity conservation.

Furthermore, the AVENIR-DRC project has been developed consistent with the GEF-8 LDCF programming priorities as well as levers for transformation, as demonstrated below.

- *Agriculture, Food security, and Health*: Food and nutritional insecurity are chronic challenges in DRC. Recent data shows that between July and December 2024, approximately 25.6 million people in the DRC, or 22 percent of the population analysed, are experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes around 3.1 million people facing critical levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). Projections for early 2025, suggest a similar outlook unless effective assistance is provided.[2][26] However, through the production and dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties, support for gender-responsive and climate-resilient livelihood opportunities benefiting 180,000 HHs (50% of which are female-headed), the development and dissemination of small-scale solar-powered irrigation systems to ensure year-round water supply for crops, and sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs - honey, caterpillars, mushrooms, and medicinal plants), the AVENIR-DRC initiative has been conceived to improve outcomes for agricultural production, forested ecosystems, food and nutrition security, along with the health and wellbeing of local people.

- *Nature-Based Solutions*: As noted above, the NbS approach is essential to address the inter-connected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity. The project will support activities, which promote sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem resilience, in support of economic growth, enhancing social well-being, and nature-positive strategies in the face of accelerating impacts from climate change in the four priority provinces – contributing to the restoration of 4,000 ha of degraded production landscapes.

- *At the level of transformational levers:*
  The proposed project identifies important production, economic, and capacity-related entry points that are relevant to address the challenges of vulnerability to climate change, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Based on assessments of completed and ongoing initiatives, the identified solutions are envisaged to be innovative and impactful to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience at community level and reduced vulnerability.

- As outlined above, the DRC faces escalating environmental and climate change challenges. Deforestation threatens biodiversity and amplifies processes of land degradation. Erratic rainfall patterns result in droughts and floods, disrupting agriculture and food security. Limited

infrastructure hinders disaster preparedness and response. Oil exploration, especially in Congo Central Province, heightens pollution risks, endangering water sources and ecosystems. These intertwined issues exacerbate poverty and conflict, demanding urgent local and international collaboration for sustainable solutions and resilience-building.

Within the identified environmental, economic, social, and climate-related challenges, AVENIR-DRC's resilience building efforts will cut across institutional, social, economic and environmental dimensions in the project target areas. The project's investments to strengthen institutional, policy, and local capacities will enhance both multisectoral and integral responses to the diverse environmental and socioeconomic challenges reflected at local and national levels. This will be achieved through (i) mainstreaming adaptation and climate resilience in subnational policies and local development plans (policy coherence and mainstreaming of climate adaptation lever); (ii) adaptation planning and investments in the provinces to reinforce institutional integration (strengthened governance for adaptation lever); and (iii) support towards sharing of best practices, and scaling-up of adaptation solutions from other projects within the target provinces and beyond.

In addition to the GEF-8 Programming Directions and priorities, AVENIR-DRC has been developed cognizant of DRC's national policy priorities and climate adaptation ambitions. The government is committed to combating climate change by building resilience through key areas identified in the NAPA. The NAPA has five target adaptation priorities including water resources, coastal zones, health, agriculture, and land and ecosystem degradation. Moreover, DRC's medium-term climate strategy framework is anchored in its NDC. The Government has made clear its commitment to tackling climate change by reducing emissions and building resilience through adaptation measures. The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted in 2015 cited several impacts of climate change in DRC, in particular damage to infrastructure, destruction of habitat, increased water-borne diseases, and severe disruption of crop cycles due to seasonal droughts.

Furthermore, the most recent National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP 2022-2026) has nine adaptation objectives and includes sectoral-level targets for adaptation and climate change resilience. These include (i) managing forest ecosystems and biodiversity; (ii) strengthening the agriculture sector's resilience; (iii) managing climate risks in smallholder farming; (iv) reducing the risk of disasters; (v) managing water resources and sanitation; (vi) strengthening the health sector's climate resilience; (vii) guaranteeing people's access to energy; (viii) protecting energy production infrastructure; and (ix) improving energy efficiency. These priorities have been integrated under priority NAP programs and included in provincial development plans (PDPs) and for the implementation of SDGs.

The 2017-2023 National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention (UNISDR) is currently the main instrument for implementing the country's vision and priorities for disaster risk management (DRM). Since many strategic intervention axes are linked with climate change, the NAP was developed to ensure complementarity to the UNISDR. Similarly, a new Disaster Reduction Management (DRM) strategy is expected to build on this context, but risk and vulnerability assessments are not coherently undertaken for DRM. While the Ministry of the Interior has a unit on

disaster management, responsibilities are divided between three ministries: Interior, Defense, and Environment – the latter which leads vulnerability analysis.[3][27]

Against this background, DRC's regulatory framework includes a range of relevant environmental and climate relevant legislation, policies and regulations. These include the following:

- Third National Communication (2014)
- National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation in DRC Protected Areas (SNCB-AP) (2008);
- National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change (2016-2020)
- Forest Code (2002);
- Environmental Law (2011);
- National Plan for Agricultural Investment (PNIA) (2013-2020);
    - Law for Nature Conservation (2014);
    - Law on Agriculture (2011);
    - Second National Programme for Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity (PNEFEB2) (2013- 2023);
    - National Strategic Framework for REDD+ (2012);
    - National Action Programme against Land Degradation and Deforestation (PAN-LCD) (2006);
    - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) (2016); and
    - The Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper (PRSP).

As noted above, AVENIR-DRC has been conceptualized consistent with national environmental and climate change priorities, and the project will build on interventions from other development partners. Beyond national priorities and partner interventions, AVENIR-DRC will continue engaging with different stakeholders in its preparation. The development of this PIF, for example, has benefited from extensive stakeholder consultations at national and subnational levels in Congo Central, Kwilu, Kwango and Haut Katanga in August and September 2024. Communities and NGOs were met in these provinces as well as project managers of PANA. The mission also met with the Miombo Forest Observatory in addition to local government authorities to develop a preliminary understanding of adaptation challenges in the priority provinces as well as map successes and lessons from previous interventions.

Thanks to the engagement with stakeholders at different administrative levels, the project concept mission learned about the following:

- The PANA projects supported the production of drought-resistant maize, rice, cassava, cowpea, and bean varieties in collaboration with INERA. These varieties were cataloged in the Service National de Semences (in English: National Seed Service) (SENACEM)'s national seed database and disseminated;

- There are opportunities to work with the private sector, especially PANA project agri-multipliers, to advance them toward SME status;

- In several areas, projects partnered with associations and local radio stations to broadcast climate change and meteorological information;

- Community participation in accessing and disseminating meteorological information is facilitated through “listening clubs,” which include training community members to interpret rainfall data shared with meteorological stations. In this regard, local authority agents and communities need substantial capacity building and awareness-raising. In the same vein, provincial assemblies (regional representatives) need to be more involved for better engagement with political decision-makers and supporting communities;

- AVENIR-DRC will be instrumental in building community resilience in the target regions. There are already some existing interventions, and it will therefore be important to develop synergies to optimize results and avoid dispersion of efforts while emphasizing more added value in proposed activities. For example, sustainability challenges, such as the near-abandonment of Muanda's fish drying and smoking facility, need to be supported by AVENIR-DRC or similar initiatives. Additionally, agro-meteorological information systems require significant strengthening. Furthermore, improved seeds produced a decade ago during NAPA need regeneration for better efficiency;

- Due to increasingly frequent droughts, participants (especially in Haut Katanga) emphasized the importance of small-scale irrigation and intensive lowland development;

- There are opportunities to build on existing associations, which require substantial capacity strengthening to transition into cooperatives capable of engaging in project activities and using their experience to share best practices;

- Support was provided to primary processing units for agricultural and fishery products;

- Veterinary pharmacies were introduced to support livestock rearing; and

- A climate information exchange platform was established for planning and managing climate risks through listening clubs, community radios, volunteer observers, INERA, and METTELSAT;

Stakeholders also expressed the following concerns:

- Overall, activities focused on alternative livelihoods have not achieved the expected results, and there is little evidence of what the projects accomplished in this area;

- Community ownership remains at an insufficient level;
- Communities and community institutions expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of involvement of state services in the implementation of project activities. Some project activities were discontinued after the project's closure;
- Local government structures were 'sidelined' and not involved in implementing project activities. This led to two negative outcomes: i) lack of sustainability; and ii) lack of ownership. For example, facilities like fish-drying racks and markets built in Muanda were not handed over to the communities for use and remain unused to this day; and
- Land tenure insecurity remains an issue, particularly at the INERA Kipopo site, which has been significantly encroached upon.

Please refer to PIF for pictures and participant list taking part of stakeholder consultations during PIF development.

Besides state agencies, stakeholders consulted during PIF development included the following tabulated below:

Table of stakeholders

Stakeholders	Date	Stakeholder interest
INERA (Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomique - *National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research in English*)	August 16, 2024	To support climate-tolerant seed development
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	September 24, 2024	Technical lessons and experience sharing with regards to agricultural practices and community engagement
CPEDD - HK (Coordinantion Provinciale de l'Environnement et Développement Durable Haut Katanga - *Provincial Coordination of Environment and Sustainable Development Haut Katanga in English*)	October 23, 2024	Policy guidance, institutional support during project implementation for sustainability
Apronapakat (Action pour la protection de la nature et des peuples autochtones du Katanga - *Action for the Protection of Nature and Indigenous Peoples of Katanga in English*)	October 15, 2024	To support engagement and mobilization of indigenous communities for their participation in the project as beneficiaries and important stakeholders
BDD (Bureau de Développement Diocésain - *Diocesan Development Office in English*)	October 18, 2024	To support community mobilization and engagement in the project during development, implementation and monitoring
Agri-multiplicateurs - (*Agri-multipliers in English)*	September 15, 2024	To participate in climate-tolerant seed production and distribution
Bénéficiaires du PANA (Programme d'Action National d'Adaptation - *National Adaptation Action Programme in English*)	August 18, 2024	Sharing of lessons and experiences to inform the eventual development but also implementation of GEF-AVENIR
CLGs (Comité Local de Gestion - Local Management Committee) des CFCLs (Concessions Forestières des Communautés locales - *Local Community Forest Concessions in English*)	August 25, 2024	Participation in community engagement in forest restoration activities of the project.
IPAPEL (Inspection Provinciale de l'Agriculture, Pêche et Elevage - Provincial Inspection of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock) - SENASEM (Service National des Semences - *National Seed Service in English*)	August 15, 2024	Policy but also technical support during climate-tolerant seed production and distribution
Communautés Pêche et élevage de Muanda - *Fishing and Livestock Communities of Muanda in English)*	August 21, 2024	Sharing of lessons and experiences to inform the eventual development but also implementation of GEF-AVENIR
UNILU (Université de Lubumbashi - *University of Lubumbashi in English*)	September 16, 2024	Technical and research support in forest restoration activities of the project

It is recalled here that for AVENIR, engaging diverse stakeholders is crucial for building community resilience, reducing vulnerability, and strengthening adaptive capacities to climate hazards in the DRC. Local communities, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, hold valuable traditional knowledge and must be actively involved in decision-making. Government agencies ensure policy alignment, while NGOs and development partners provide technical expertise and funding. Private sector actors contribute innovative solutions and market access. Inclusive participation fosters ownership, ensures context-specific interventions, and enhances sustainability. By integrating diverse perspectives, the project can address socio-economic and environmental challenges holistically, leading to more effective, equitable, and lasting climate adaptation solutions.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

The pictures and participant list below highlight some of the stakeholder consultations that informed the development of this PIF:

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

Medium/Moderate

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
IFAD	LDCF	Congo DR	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	8,932,420.00	848,580.00	9,781,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**8,932,420.00**	**848,580.00**	**9,781,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
IFAD	LDCF	Congo DR	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	8,932,420.00	46700000
Total Project Cost		**8,932,420.00**	**46,700,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	45200000
Recipient Country Government	MEDD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Total Co-financing				**46,700,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The $45.2 million has been sourced from IFAD as the implementing agency through its IFAD-12 resource grant allocation to the country;

The $1.5 million is the government pledge of support to the project through support staff time and tax exemptions.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Pierre Yves Guedez		Multilateral Climate Funds Lead (AF, GEF, GCF)		p.guedez@ifad.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	Paola Palestini		GEF Technical Focal Point		p.palestini@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	Bernard Hien		Regional Director		b.hien@ifad.org

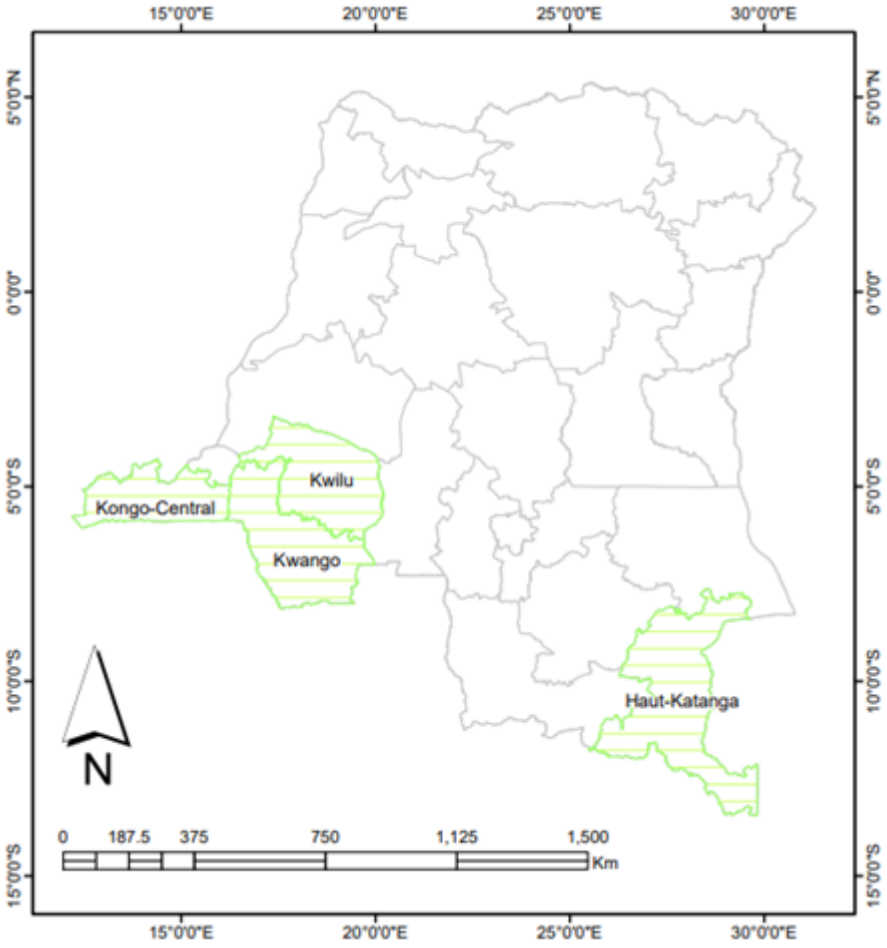
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Benjamin Toirambe Bamoninga	Secretariat General	Ministere de l' environnment et developpment durable	3/29/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Map showing provinces of project interventions



Geo Name ID *Required field if the location is not an exact site*	Location Name *Required field*	Latitude *Required field*	Longitude *Required field*	Location Description *Optional text field*	Activity Description *Optional text field*
	Haut-Katanga	12° 43' 59' S	28° 28' 0' E		
	Kongo-Central	4° 34' 13' S	15° 7' 46' E		

	Kwilu	5°37' 0' S	14°16' 0' E		
	Kwango	5° 37' 13' S	17° 12' 10' E		

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

AVENIR-DRC ESS Screening

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision making; convene multi-stakeholder alliances; and demonstrate innovative approaches		
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries, private sector, local communities, civil society, knowledge and learning, stakeholder engagement		
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development, knowledge generation and exchange, learning		
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming, gender results areas		
Focal Area/Theme	Climate change		