



Strengthening capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance transparency and tracking of the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10734

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT

NGI

Project Title

Strengthening capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance transparency and tracking of the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Countries

Congo DR

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Climate Change

Taxonomy

Climate Change, Focal Areas, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Civil Society, Stakeholders, Academia, Beneficiaries, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 2

Duration

36 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

185,250.00

Submission Date

10/27/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-3-8	GET	1,950,000.00	105,428.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	1,950,000.00	105,428.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to establish the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, to improve the quality of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories and to monitor progress in achieving the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1. Strengthening institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Strengthened institutional and technical capacities in the AFOLU sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to comply with the ETF to collect data and report on its Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector.</p> <p>Indicator: # of people (at least 25% women) trained on MRV requirements of the AFOLU sector</p> <p>Indicator: Report with the conceptual framework of the MRV of the AFOLU sector, approved and published</p>	<p>1.1.1 A national methodological process established and a document prepared with the institutional arrangements, agreed based on the implementation of the national climate change policy, strategy and law, for the operation of the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and GHG inventories in the AFOLU sector.</p> <p>1.1.2 Government personnel and key stakeholders linked with the MRV trained to establish and operationalize the MRV of the AFOLU sector.</p> <p>1.1.3 A report containing the design of the MRV of the AFOLU sector that meets the ETF requirements developed.</p>	GET	709,091.00	42,172.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 2. Enhancement of data collection, processing and analysis to improve quality and transparency in the reporting of emissions and removals and monitoring of progress on mitigation and adaptation actions in the AFOLU sector.	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1 Improved technical capacity to produce and analyse transparent, accurate and consistent data for monitoring of progress on mitigation and adaptation actions as well as for the reporting of GHG emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector.</p> <p>Indicator: # of adaptation activities in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors monitored and included in national reports</p> <p># of documented procedures and tools to collect, process and analyze data to report emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector</p> <p>Indicator: # of people trained (at least 25% women) in data collection,</p>	<p>2.1.1 Process of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation actions in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors developed, documented and mainstreamed by the national institutions in charge of these actions.</p> <p>2.1.2 Methodologies, guidelines, protocols and templates for data collection, including quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) processes and full integration of the AFOLU sector data, are improved or developed, agreed and documented.</p> <p>2.1.3 Procedures and tools for data processing and analysis, including quality control, estimation of uncertainties and full integration of the AFOLU sector data, are enhanced or developed, agreed and documented.</p> <p>2.1.4 Government personnel and key stakeholders trained in: i) data collection, processing and analysis; ii) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</p>	GET	531,818.00	31,628.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 3. Incremental knowledge and capacity for data management and dissemination, reporting in accordance with the ETF requirements and monitoring of progress in achieving the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the AFOLU sector.	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 The country has increased capacity to manage and share data, to prepare the ETF-compliant international reports and to track the progress of its NDCs in the AFOLU sector.</p> <p>Indicator: A digital technology system/platform online for data management and exchange</p> <p>Indicator: # of people trained (at least 25% women) on all national processes and requirements to submit reports to the UNFCCC</p> <p>Indicator: An operational framework to track progress in the implementation and achievement of NDCs in the AFOLU sector</p>	<p>3.1.1 A system/platform for data management, storage and exchange, as well as the procedures necessary for its operation, developed.</p> <p>3.1.2 Technical and strategic team responsible for reporting to the UNFCCC, trained on the contents, submission processes and consistency requirements necessary for reports, as well as on the different national processes related to them.</p> <p>3.1.3. A framework to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs in the AFOLU sector, developed, agreed and documented.</p>	GET	531,818.00	31,628.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	1,772,727.00	105,428.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	177,273.00	
				Sub Total(\$)	177,273.00	0.00
				Total Project Cost(\$)	1,950,000.00	105,428.00

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	105,428.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	105,428.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

There is no mobilized investment. Instead, some recurrent expenditures have been valued as co-financing. The co-financing of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the CBIT project, through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), was established estimating the engagement of the ministry staff in the coordination and other activities of the project, as well as the infrastructure that will be used to carry them out. This estimate did not consider the additional contributions of staff from other ministries, government institutions, academia and other stakeholders.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Congo DR	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,950,000	185,250	2,135,250.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					1,950,000.00	185,250.00	2,135,250.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Congo DR	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	50,000	4,750	54,750.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	38			
Male	64			
Total	102	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description).

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in Central Africa, is crossed by the Equator line, it covers an area of 2,345,000 km² and its estimated population in 2019 was 86.8 million inhabitants, 65% under 25 years of age (United Nations, World Population Prospects 2019) and 73% in extreme poverty living with less than \$ 1.90 per day (World Bank, 2018). Since its independence from Belgium in 1960, the country has suffered instability and a series of armed conflicts that have led to the loss of millions of human lives and in recent years, a serious humanitarian crisis with millions of refugees and internally displaced persons. Currently, there are 5 million internally displaced persons (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2020). The peaceful presidential transition in January 2019 started a period of stability in the country and since then, the Government, with the support of the international community, has made efforts to pacify the country and improve the situation.

2. The country is located in the middle of Africa, with a single maritime outlet on a narrow strip of territory of around forty kilometres on the Atlantic coast, and it shares its borders with nine countries (Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola). A great extent of its territory is shaped by the Congo River Basin with an important part covered by a large tropical rainforest. In respect to the political and administrative division, DRC is a highly decentralized unitary state, divided into 26 provinces with wide autonomy in certain matters defined by the Constitution (Statistical Yearbook, 2015), although in practice most of these provinces do not have the capacity to exercise their jurisdiction due to country conditions (International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD), Country Strategic Opportunities Program 2019–2024). The provinces are subdivided into cities and towns (urban zones), and territories (rural zones). Thus, the country has 33 cities, 145 territories and 137 urban municipalities.

3. The country has significant resources:

- the diversified wealth of the subsoil (oil and gas; diamond, gold, cassiterite, chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, zinc, coltan, among other metals and minerals);
- very favourable climatic conditions for agricultural development, of which only around 15% of the 80 million hectares of arable land are actually exploited;

· the second largest area of tropical rainforest in the world[1]¹, with significant biological diversity, both plant and animal; including enormous hydraulic and fishery resources.

4. Despite these important natural resources, the DRC is counted among the Least Developed Countries, ranking in 2018 in the 179th place out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (index value: 0.419 female and 0.496 male) and in the 156th place in respect to Gender Inequality Index (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Report 2019)[2]². The economy is mainly based on the extractive industries, which are highly dependent on world prices and international economic dynamics. Episodic progress in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, reaching up to 10.5%, was recorded between 2001 and 2011. Since 2014 to 2017, this evolution was slowed down, mainly due rising inflation and lower prices for exported raw materials, especially copper, but GDP has grown again in 2018 at a rate of 4.1%, largely driven by the recovery in mining activity and world copper and cobalt prices, following an upturn in global demand for these products (World Bank, 2019). However, diversification remains embryonic, which makes growth still fragile, as shown by the adverse shocks in 2014 with falling prices for mining products. And even with the importance of mining and oil exploitation, the DRC economy is highly dependent on its agriculture and forestry. Since 2010, agriculture and logging (with the consequent loss and degradation of forests) have made the biggest contributions to the country's economy, and today agriculture accounts for nearly 40% of the national GDP and employs 70% of the population (IFAD, Country Strategic Opportunities Program 2019–2024).

5. Regarding climate change, the scenarios for the Congo Basin analysed as part of the Third National Communication (a "pessimistic" emissions scenario, which combines the climate projections obtained from the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios SRES A2 and the Representative Concentration Pathway RCP 8.5, and an "optimistic" emissions scenario, which combines climate projections obtained on the basis of the emission scenarios SRES B1, RCP 4.5 and RCP 2.6), indicate a significant warming around the years 2100's, while the precipitation regime could undergo important changes, with an increase in the intensity of heavy rainfall and a considerable increase in the frequency of dry periods during the rainy season, which implies a more sporadic distribution of precipitation in the future. In the DRC, this situation would increase extreme events, mainly heavy rains that in turn cause flooding, landslides and erosion; coastal erosion; heat waves; seasonal droughts. These effects will intensify vulnerabilities and combined with natural hazards and disasters, which particularly affect the northeast of the country, will contribute to the degradation or destruction of the ecosystems, whose cost of inaction is estimated between 5 to 20% of its GDP, and have incidence on economic growth and populations due to impacts on several sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fishing, forestry, energy, water resources and human health. Furthermore, food security is affected due to loss and damage of crops and harvests, increased disease and mortality of livestock, negative impacts on fisheries, and damage to infrastructure.

6. Although the country does not make a significant contribution to global emissions^[3]³, on the contrary, its important forest resources are a relevant sink for CO₂ on a global scale (the second largest continuous rainforests after Brazil, more than half of the total remaining rainforests in Central Africa (World Bank, 2015)), the DRC develops national actions and participates in the global efforts against climate change, due the country suffers its impacts, which are expected to increase according to climate change scenarios in the medium and long term, and due, in addition, its forest resources are being lost and degraded, with the consequent emission of CO₂ into the atmosphere and loss of biodiversity. To support global efforts to address climate change challenges, the country ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 and the Paris Agreement on December 13, 2017. In addition, DRC ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Furthermore, in 2009 the country began the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness process, as part of which the REDD+ National Strategy Framework, the REDD+ Investment Plan 2015–2020, the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) were developed.

7. The DRC has submitted three National Communications (NC) on Climate Change to the UNFCCC: the First NC in 2000^[4]⁴, the Second NC in 2009^[5]⁵,^[6]⁶ and the Third NC in April 2015^[7]⁷. The Third NC includes the third GHG inventory and covers the period from 2000 to 2010. It was prepared using the "Guidelines" and the "Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories" approved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1996 (IPCC, 1996). The emission factors were used by default given the national context of the country, which does not yet have appropriate emission factors, except for the agriculture, livestock and forestry, for which the DRC is in the process of developing specific methodologies for estimating GHG emissions. For most of the business sectors, the Tier1 method has been applied while improving the quality of the data. Five main sectors were taken into account: (i) Energy, (ii) Industrial Processes and Solvents, (iii) Agriculture, (iv) Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), and (v) Waste. The following table and figure summarize the emissions/removals and net GHG balance from 2000 to 2010 (in Gg CO₂eq):

Year	Total emissions	CO ₂ removals	Net GHG balance
2000	242,099.89	-321,659.00	-79,559.11

2001	243,388.37	-310,402.00	-67,013.63
2002	243,993.04	-298,901.00	-54,907.96
2003	244,006.46	-287,157.00	-43,150.54
2004	244,601.59	-275,114.00	-30,512.41
2005	245,359.76	-278,642.00	-33,282.24
2006	238,888.95	-269,453.00	-30,564.05
2007	237,830.33	-256,351.00	-18,520.67
2008	239,669.93	-231,012.00	8,657.93
2009	239,063.21	-217,928.00	21,135.21
2010	241,008.87	-204,505.00	36,503.87

Source: Third National Communication, 2015.

8. These data from GHG emissions/removals for the period 2000 to 2010 show that: (a) net CO₂ absorptions, attributable to the forest, decreased from 321,659 Gg of CO₂ in 2000 to 204,505 CO₂ Gg in 2010 (36.42%); (b) the net balance of GHG emissions/removals went from net removals of 79,559 Gg in 2000 to net emissions of 36,503 Gg in 2010 (starting the net emissions in 2008), which shows the loss of forest resources. The contribution of the main GHG net emissions by sector per year, from 2000 to 2010 (in Gg CO₂eq), are in the table and figure below:

Year	Energy	Industrial Processes	Agri-culture	LULUCF	Waste
2000	2.6%	0.1%	2.9%	93.5%	0.9%
2001	2.7%	0.1%	3.9%	92.4%	0.9%

2002	2.9%	0.1%	4.0%	92.1%	0.9%
2003	2.8%	0.1%	4.0%	92.2%	0.9%
2004	3.2%	0.1%	3.9%	91.9%	0.9%
2005	3.5%	0.1%	3.8%	91.6%	0.9%
2006	3.9%	0.1%	4.5%	90.4%	1.0%
2007	3.9%	0.1%	3.9%	91.1%	1.0%
2008	3.5%	0.1%	4.3%	91.2%	0.9%
2009	3.8%	0.1%	3.4%	91.8%	0.9%
2010	4.4%	0.1%	3.3%	91.4%	0.9%

Source: Table 3.10 of the Third National Communication, 2015 (Figure in separate document).

9. The significant importance of the LULUCF sector is observed, whose emissions are made up of CO₂, the major GHG in the country's emissions profile; the sector's emissions constitute over 81.1% of the total national CO₂ emissions and come mainly from the loss of forests. The other two sectors (LULUCF excluded) with more contributions to the DRC's emissions are the Agriculture sector and the Energy sector (which includes the Transport sector in the Third National Communication); although neither of them compares with the LULUCF sector in magnitude, the relative growth of the Energy sector during the period stands out.

10. In regard to forest loss, according to the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL, 2018 <https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=cod>), deforestation has increased in the last years and that dynamic is expected to continue and even accelerate, as its direct and underlying causes have increased over the years. Among the underlying causes are, in the first place, population growth, which maintains a high rate of 3%, of which, around 70% live in rural areas and practice itinerant subsistence agriculture with slash and burn to guarantee their food. This type of agriculture has been identified as the main direct cause of deforestation in the country and is expected to continue expanding. The same issue happens when producing energy and firewood, quantitatively the second engine of deforestation and directly related to population growth, as well as greater urbanization and the

consumption of charcoal. To counteract this, urban electrification projects are planned, which are fighting to find investors and it is expected that it will take between 10 and 15 years to have an impact on the energy matrix. Other energy sources seek to replace charcoal and firewood in urban areas, with gas being the most important, but its slow diffusion as well as the consumption and potential of gas production, point to a potential impact by 2025. The combined effects of population growth and the slow advance of other energy sources will result in absolute pressure on fuelwood that will continue, at least, for the next decade.

11. In addition, two important factors will have a future impact on deforestation: 1) the introduction of low-cost and low-consumption diesel engines for internal river navigation, coupled with investments to enhance the navigability of watercourses, which predict an increase in coal production and, therefore, in deforestation; 2) the improvement of almost 2,000 km of road network between 2011–2016 (PROROUTE Project), which results in deforestation at the edges of the routes and due to better access to markets, especially the urban ones. The expansion of cities (6% annual growth) and the planned improvement between 2018–2022 of another 2,000 km of roads, augur more deforestation, despite the environmental and social management plans included in PROROUTE Project (FREL, 2018). Moreover, the improvement of the road network will also lead to an increase in emissions from the Transport sector.

12. In addition, the contraction in the national economy as of 2014 increased the proportion of the population that depends on natural resources for their own consumption and income generation, putting more pressure on the forest. And in the coming years, even without knowing the direction of the economy and the financial state of the country, an increase in pressure on forest areas and natural resources is to be expected (FREL, 2018).

13. On the other hand, regarding the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the country submitted its first NDC[8]⁸ to the UNFCCC in August 2015. The main characteristics are: i) both mitigation and adaptation actions; ii) the reference year is 2000; iii) the commitment period is 2021–2030; iv) targeted sectors for mitigation are Agriculture, Forestry and Energy (including Transport), with sector-specific objectives for Agriculture: agricultural settlement and reduction of slash and burn agriculture, for Forestry: reduction of deforestation and forest degradation and improvement of carbon reserves, and for Energy: reduction of firewood and enhancement of access to electric power as well as development of inter and intra urban transportation; v) targeted sectors for adaptation are Agriculture, Forestry, Energy (including Transport) and Coastal and Littoral with needs mainly concern with access to the strengthening of drinking water supply, sanitation and waste management, strengthening of conservation measures biodiversity and integration of populations in the forestry sector and integrated protection of coastal areas; vi) gases concerned are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O); vii) reduction of emissions is 17% by 2030 compared to the baseline Business as Usual (BAU) scenario (430 Mt CO₂eq), a reduction of just over 70 Mt CO₂eq avoided; viii) the necessary financing is US\$ 21.6 billion (US\$ 9.1 billion for adaptation and US\$ 12.5 billion for mitigation).

14. In the NDC and during the preparation of the national communications (including the elaboration in progress of the Fourth National Communication and the BURs, mentioned in the next paragraph), as well as the establishment of the MRV for the forestry sector, gaps and barriers have been identified to face the major challenges of the country to establish a coherent adaptation program, considering that it is confronting various socio-economic development challenges, coupled with its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. These gaps and barriers also constitute a major challenge for the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement, and include:

i. low institutional technical knowledge on methodologies and tools to generate quality reports and submit them to the UNFCCC (MRV systems, GHG inventories, reports, among others), and on the UNFCCC processes in general.

ii. insufficiency of reliable **climate data**, as well as standardized and systematic processes for its collection, for a realistic analysis and interpretation of climate change, coupled with the need for an institutional system or platform to manage this information.

iii. weak technical, institutional and legal capacities to support the development of horizontal integration of the “adaptation” dimension at national, regional and local levels;

iv. weak institutional structures, after decades of instability in the country, to develop and integrate processes and decisions related to climate change and its integration into national policies.

v. financial insufficiency to support the implementation of adaptation initiatives.

15. Moreover and to continue to fulfil its reporting commitments to the UNFCCC, the country is developing the Fourth National Communication and the second Biennial Update Report (BUR), and will include the improvements that were put in place during the development of the first FREL (FREL, 2018), as part of the harmonization process that DRC is carrying out within the framework of the NFMS and through which are being incorporated significant changes into the national GHG inventories, national communications and the BUR that are currently under development. Additionally, the country will submit its first BUR no later than December 2020, which has been delayed by a review process due to the aforementioned methodological adjustments.

16. The following table contains the gaps and barriers that the country must address in the medium and long term to improve its reports to the UNFCCC and to take actions on the impacts of climate change, while complying with the ETF:

Type of barrier	Specific gap and barrier identified	Project component to reduce them
Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Insufficient commitment from technical institutions to the process of implementing obligations to the UNFCCC. · Low integration of climate change issues into the decision-making processes and development policies. · Lack of the active engagement of all stakeholders and a regulatory framework that demands the sectors that generate data to make them available for the GHG inventory. · The national GHG inventory system is not yet operational, although a legal framework is being developed to institutionalize it. Nor is the national MRV system operational for all relevant sectors, except for the Forestry sector. · Lack of an official collaborative framework for the national GHG inventory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project Components 1 and 3 · Project Component 3 · Project Component 1 · Project Components 1 and 2 · Project Component 1

Type of barrier	Specific gap and barrier identified	Project component to reduce them
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lack of technical skills of government personnel and key stakeholders. This technical barrier arises because national processes for generating reports to the UNFCCC were mainly carried out by external consultants. · Low knowledge about calculation methodologies and tools to develop GHG inventory, as well as lack of capacity to carry out the processes related to MRV. In particular, it is necessary to develop capacities for the use of IPCC methodologies for GHG inventory by several sectoral administrations and other key stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project Components 1, 2 and 3 · Project Components 1 and 2

Type of barrier	Specific gap and barrier identified	Project component to reduce them
Data quality and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Low data quality associated with external consultants, as a robust process was not used for data collection or for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC). · Lack and/or poor quality of data collected in priority sectors for national GHG inventory or MRV activities. · Absence of specific emission factors for key emitting sectors. · Uncertainty was not estimated for GHG sources and sinks. · Lack of data or reliable data in some source categories (N₂O emissions on agricultural land; CO₂ emissions and removals in forestry sector; energy consumption, particularly in transport, residential and commercial buildings, as well as volume of wood used as fuel). · Absence or very limited data collection, storage and archiving systems. There is no platform for managing and sharing information on climate change that is accessible to different actors and the international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project Component 2 · Project Component 2 · Due to it was not considered in this project · Project Component 2 · Project Component 2 · Project Component 3
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Inadequate provision of financial resources for the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · It was not considered directly in this project

17. Based on the identified gaps and barriers, and the need to strengthen national capacity to create knowledge that contributes to the processes to manage the impacts of climate change on its population and resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has expressed interest in requesting support from the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to develop actions with the goal of complying with the transparency requirements mandated by the Paris Agreement and supporting its national efforts in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. In this way, the country joins global efforts to address climate change and to respond to the ETF.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects.

18. According to the institutional framework for climate change of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD, French acronym for Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable) leads environmental and climate change issues, and it is responsible for the country's efforts in terms of adaptation and mitigation, coordinating with other sectoral ministries and relevant actors. The MEDD is also responsible for reporting to the UNFCCC, such as national communications, BURs and NDCs.

19. To integrate climate change subjects (mitigation and adaptation) into national development priorities and address commitments to UNFCCC processes, the country has developed or is preparing or updating, different policies, strategies, plans and regulations:

- Law No. 011/2002 of August 29th, 2002 on the forest code, which defines the applicable regime to the conservation, exploitation and development of forest resources throughout the national territory.
- Law No. 11/009 of July 9th, 2011 on fundamental principles relating to the protection of the environment, which is the framework law on environmental management.
- National Action Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) developed in 2006 to improve the resilience of the country to climate change. Contains several actions that have already been implemented.
- National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA, acronym in French for Plan National d'Investissement Agricole) for the period 2014-2020, which aims at the sustainable growth of the Agriculture sector, respectful of environmental capital. It intends as a national framework for planning national and external funds for the Agriculture and Rural Development sector, to establish synergies with all programs and projects in the sector. Its overall objective is to stimulate sustained annual growth in the Agriculture sector of more than 6%, which is essential for reducing poverty, ensuring food and nutritional security for the Congolese populations and for generating sustainable jobs and income.
- National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Climate Change 2016-2020 (PSPA-CC, French acronym for Politique, stratégie et plan d'action en matière de changements climatiques de la République Démocratique du Congo), which embraces a comprehensive policy and action plan focus on both mitigation and adaptation priorities.

- National Strategic Plan for Development (PNSD, French acronym for Plan National Stratégique de Développement); for the period 2017-2050, established as the country's global development strategy aims to launch the DRC to a developed nation by the year 2050. It considers the protection of the environment as well as the climate-relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the plans and budgets of each economic sector.

- National Adaptation Plan (NAP), under development as part of a project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It will enable the country to integrate climate change adaptation requirements into developmental planning and processes. The NAP aims to support the government and stakeholders in their effort to advance the adaptation planning process for priority climate sensitive sectors (agriculture, rural development, biodiversity, coastal areas, health, land use planning and energy) and regions. It is therefore a planning tool for defining and monitoring the priority activities to be carried out in key sectors. The NAP is building on existing institutional and policy frameworks, especially the PSPA-CC and PNSD. **As part of the NAP, the MEDD is currently developing the climate change policy and the law, which will be the basis on which the national methodological process and the institutional arrangements for the operation of the MRV and GHG inventories in the AFOLU sector will be established (output 1.1.1).**

20. Additionally, there are several coordination mechanisms established in the country related to climate change issues (UNDP, GCF Readiness Proposal^[9], 2017) that are important for planning processes, even when they are not fully equipped in terms of technical and institutional capacities and some have broad mandates, with high turnover in the representation of governmental institutions and ministries:

- The Technical Coordination Committee on Climate (Comité technique de Coordination sur les Changements Climatiques), set up with representatives from various ministries, secretariats of public administrations, universities, research centres and civil society, to ensure coherence and monitoring of the implementation of the different initiatives.

- The Technical Consultation Platform (PTC, French acronym for Plateforme Technique de Concertation), responsible for supporting the operational implementation of the NFMS and other REDD+ processes. The PTC plays a coordinating role in consultations between stakeholders, to ensure methodological harmonization, monitoring and evaluation of policies, interventions and activities in the context of the implementation of the NFMS. The PTC is made up of delegates from the MEDD, representatives of the various MEDD technical partners (including international organizations), REDD+ process leaders, as well as representatives of universities and research institutions.

- The Congolese Observatory for Sustainable Development (OCDD, French acronym for Observatoire Congolais du Développement Durable), monitors the progress of the country against the SDG indicators and supports the work of the national focal point of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

21. As for the AFOLU sector and given its national importance in terms of GHG emissions/removals and for the important resources involved, as part of the REDD+ readiness process, in 2012 the country officially adopted the REDD+ National Strategy Framework, whose aims to stabilize forest cover over 63.5% of the national territory by 2030, starting from 67% in 2000. Also, the REDD+ Investment Plan 2015–2020 was established to guide the major national REDD+ investments and in 2018, the country submitted to the UNFCCC the Forest Reference Emission Level based on the historical period 2000–2014 and focused on deforestation; as well, the NFMS was established and the MRV system of the Forestry sector. The REDD+ readiness stage in the country has been led by the MEDD with the engagement of other sectors and civil society, and with technical and financial support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank, the UN-REDD Programme implemented by the FAO, UNDP and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI). The design of the MRV of the AFOLU sector that will be developed as part of the CBIT (outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3) will be based on the NFMS and the MRV system established for the Forestry sector, and will include the improvements that were put in place during the development of the first FREL. Also, the changes incorporated into the national GHG inventories as part of the FREL will be an integral part of the respective training for government personnel and key stakeholders (output 2.1.4).

22. In regard to reporting commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the DRC has submitted the following documents:

- First National Communication on Climate Change in 2000
- Second National Communication on Climate Change in 2009
- Third National Communication on Climate Change in 2015
- Technology Needs Assessment in 2007
- National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management in 2007
- National Action Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) in 2006
- Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) in 2014
- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2015

23. As previously mentioned above, the first BUR is being finalized and the Fourth National Communication and the second BUR are under preparation, and as part of the process, the development of technical capacities is strengthened, promoting the participation of the staff of national institutions in the whole process instead of hiring the international and local consultants. However, the ambition is broad and it will not be possible to cover all the desired and necessary results for the country in these topics, so the national CBIT project will complement and expand the achievement of some of these objectives. Furthermore, and as indicated in paragraph 15, the new national communication and the BUR will include the improvements that were put in place during the development of the first FREL, as part of the harmonizing process that takes place in the framework of NFMS and through which are being incorporated significant changes into the national GHG inventories, national communications and the BUR. These changes will be consolidated with the installation of additional national capacities and the establishment of the MRV for the AFOLU sector, enhancing transparency (ouputs 2.1.4, and 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, respectively).

24. With respect to the implementation of the NDC and aware that the achievement of its national and global goals are at the heart of the Paris Agreement, the country has initiated an updating process with assistance of the UNDP through NDC Support Programme and NDC Partnership, seeking, in addition, to comply with the international commitments in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the achievement of the SDGs associated with climate change and supporting the reduction of poverty, the developing of a highly diversified and competitive economy, and the strengthening of the national unity. The revised NDC is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of December 2020, at the latest. Regarding mitigation, the sectors included are AFOLU, Energy (power generation), Transport (as an independent sector), Waste and Industry; the last three are new sectors, as such, in the NDC, while the target gases are CO₂, CH₄, N₂O and remain unchanged. On the adaptation side, the targeted sectors are those included in the ongoing process of the National Adaptation Plan: agriculture, rural development, coastal areas, biodiversity, energy, transport, health, water and sanitation. As part of the CBIT project, a framework will be established to monitor, evaluate and report the progress made in the implementation and achievement of the revised NDC in the AFOLU sector, as well as its future updates (output 3.1.3).

25. The revision of the NDC will consist of: i) adding new sectors not taken into account in the first NDC; ii) assess investment costs and opportunities; and iii) strengthening the NDC implementation monitoring plan, including revalidation of the NDC baselines to increase the accuracy of the data. Expanding the sectors to be covered in the NDC will allow mitigation to be addressed in a more integrated way, by reducing GHG leakage phenomena. This will help to collect more important data. The main aspects considered for the revision of the NDC focus on facilitating its implementation through the establishment of governance structures (for example, the design of a climate change law demanding the private sector to provide data on emissions), data management, long-term capacity building through training to eliminate the need for external consultants and the creation of an NDC funding strategy.

26. To contribute to climate actions in the DRC and to support the achievement of the updated NDC, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is being developed, supported by a project funded by the Green Climate Fund. As part of the process, the national climate change policy and strategy document is formulated, drafting the climate change law, preparing an investment strategy for adaptation and elaborating a national adaptation plan. Also, several other projects, programs and entities are already contributing or are about to contribute to the NDC, including:

- i. implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Development (PNSD);
- ii. implementation of the REDD+ process through its national REDD+ Investment Plan 2015–2020 as well as its iteration planned for 2021-2025.

27. Some other recently finalized projects or initiatives also contributed to the update of the NDC, such as Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) project, supported by the European Commission and the UN Environment, closed in 2019, for capacity building and long-term political decision-making regarding climate goals and development socio-economic priorities.

28. In addition, a series of ongoing cooperation projects related to the topic of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is summarized below. The CBIT project will ensure, during its preparation and implementation stages, the Paris Agreement, will aim:

- i. To strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities;
- ii. To provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement;
- iii. To assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

Project	Development Partner	Objective/Description	Relevance	Timeline and Budget (USD)
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Fourth National Communication and Second Biennial Update Report	UNEP/GEF	The facilitation of the Fourth National Communication and BUR preparation and submission	Reports to the UNFCCC	2019 – 2022 \$ 600,000
Finalization and Implementation Program of the DRC's National Forest Monitoring System	FAO/ FONAREDD/ CAFI	To provide the DRC with an operational NFMS capable of meeting the UNFCCC requirements for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism	NFMS activities concerning the AFOLU sector	2017 – 2020 \$ 10,000,000
REDD+ Investment Plan 2015–2020	CAFI	The implementation of the REDD+ process through its national investment plan	To ensure the capitalization of the results-based REDD+ payment	2015 – 2020 \$ 200,000,000
Strengthening of hydro-meteorological and climate services	World Bank/ METTELSAT/ GEF	To contribute to improve the quality of hydro-meteorological and climate services of the government of the DRC. This objective could be achieved by strengthening the capacity of the government's hydro-meteorological services, METTELSAT	Natural Disaster Risk Prevention Program	2016 – 2022 \$ 16,000,000
Strengthening national forest resources monitoring system and REDD+ pilot activity for promoting sustainable forest management	JICA/CAFI/MESD	The Project aims at strengthening the capacity of the MESD and Kwilu Province for implementing sustainable forest management through REDD+ by operationalizing the NFMS and implementing REDD+ pilot in Kwilu Province	REDD+ pilot activities in Kwilu province	2019 – 2024 \$ 7,086,955

Phase 2 of investment for REDD+	FIP/DGM/CAFI	To support the implementation of the investment phase	Capitalization and operation of FONAREDD	2015 – 2020 \$ 266,000,000
Phase 3 of results-based payments for REDD+ (emission reductions)	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)	To facilitate the access of DRC to the carbon market on performance base	Preparation of the Mai Ndombe legal program and ERPA signature	2021 – 2024 \$ 60,000,000
Planning for medium-term investment for adaptation in climate-sensitive sectors in the Democratic Republic of Congo: advancing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	UNDP/GCF	To mainstream climate change adaptation integration in DRC's national development priorities and increasing the financial sustainability of adaptation options	Drafting of Climate Change Law and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	2019 – 2020 \$ 3,000,000
Support for the preparation of the implementation of the NDC	UNDP	To prepare the implementation of the DRC's NDC in an inclusive and participatory way with a view to bringing Congolese society to appropriate climate actions towards carbon neutral development by 2100	Preparation of the legal framework, establishment of National Committee on Climate Change (Comité National sur les Changements Climatiques)	2019 – 2021 \$ 1,200,000

Umbrella program associated with the implementation of the NDC	UNDP/DRC-Italy Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●To improve the management mechanism for household and similar waste (DMA) in the town of Gombe ●To increase the access of communities to electric energy, around three (3) priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o to make improvements at all levels of community life o to promote access to drinking water thanks to the solar pumping mechanism, thus improving the living conditions of women and children (by reducing the water chore); o to support the promotion of innovative solutions and best practices to reduce the ecological footprint of rural areas 	Test the capacity of the DRC to ensure the implementation of the NDC	2019 – 2022 \$ 1,782,500
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3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project.

29. Article 13 of the Paris Agreement established the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) to build mutual trust and confidence and to promote effective implementation of the Agreement, in addition to provide a clear understanding of climate change action including clarity and tracking of progress in achieving NDCs, adaptation actions, as well as good practices, priorities, needs and gaps to inform the global stocktake. Also, the purpose of the ETF is to provide clarity on support provided and received in the context of climate change actions, as well as a full overview of aggregate financial support provided to inform the global stocktake. Each country shall regularly supply:

- i. A national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHG;
- ii. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDCs;
- iii. information related to climate change impacts and adaptation;
- iv. information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided or needed and received.

30. The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), as per paragraph 85 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) decision adopting the Paris Agreement, will aim:

- i. To strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities;

- ii. To provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement;
- iii. To assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

31. To meet the objectives of the CBIT previously indicated, and to address the main gaps and barriers listed in the table in paragraph 16, as well as to satisfy the needs and priorities identified by the country, this project proposes as a Theory of Change, to strengthen the national institutional and technical capacities of the DRC related to the enhancement of transparency in the AFOLU sector in order that the country has increasingly better processes, methodologies and data, which are available and contribute to the improvement of national and global climate actions.

32. The objective, components and results of the project to achieve this change are indicated below:

33. Objective: to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the AFOLU sector to establish the MRV system, to improve the quality of GHG inventories and to monitor progress in achieving the NDC to comply with the ETF under the Paris Agreement.

34. To achieve this goal, the components and outcomes described below have been established, which seek to consolidate or develop national processes and capacities that, due to the length and complexity of the country, will begin at national level, to generate the products and the necessary experience that will allow, in later stages, to extend the processes to the provincial scope and others more geographically disaggregated.

35. During the project preparation phase (PPG), the design of activities will promote the active participation of different national stakeholders, including women, particularly in activities related to capacity development. Both at that stage and during implementation, gender-sensitive approaches will be fully considered to entirely comply with Programming Directions of the CBIT. Likewise, the country will share and disseminate its progress and achievements related to the CBIT project in the CBIT Global Coordination Platform <https://www.cbitplatform.org/>.

36. Furthermore, the country will continue looking for synergies with other projects and initiatives, aside from new options, to support these national processes, which, due to the country's dimensions and the magnitude of the process, will require time and a significant amount of resources to be achieved, as well as multiple efforts and initiatives that support the development and consolidation of a complete national MRV system for all priority sectors and all levels: national, provincial, local, and even at the program and project level.

37. Additionally and considering the global impacts of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, during the execution of the project, whenever possible, actions will be promoted that increase the resilience of local populations, particularly those whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and forests, as well as activities that reduce GHG emissions and contribute to the conservation and increase of forests, reducing land degradation due to loss of forest cover, preserving biodiversity and promoting the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by forests and the cultural values of the populations associated with them.

38. The specific components and outcomes of the project are the following:

Component 1. Strengthening institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

39. This component is linked to the increase of knowledge, design and establishment of the MRV system for the AFOLU sector, as well as the establishment of national governance structures for the operation of the MRV and GHG inventories for that sector, enhancing the country's institutional capacities to comply with the commitments included in the Paris Agreement. This project will support the improvement of structures, coordination and working mechanisms among key institutions in the AFOLU sector on climate change issues. The proposed outcome of this component is: strengthened institutional and technical capacities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to comply with the ETF to collect data and reporting its GHG emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector.

40. Three outputs have been proposed for this component:

- i. *A national methodological process established and a document prepared with the institutional arrangements, agreed based on the implementation of the national climate change policy, strategy and law, for the operation of the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and GHG inventories in the AFOLU sector.* The MEDD is currently developing the climate change policy and the **law as part of the development of the NAP**, both of which are in an advanced stage of drafting for approval. The law, which has been technically validated within the Ministry, will be submitted to the Government and the National Assembly by December 2020 and the whole approval process will not be finalized before April 2021. Once the policy and law are approved, the country will require support for its implementation; in particular, for the law, since it will formalize the processes and structures for the implementation of climate change activities in the country, including decision-making on these issues and the institutionalization of GHG inventories in the MEDD, as well as the national processes that will allow generating them and to obtain the required data. For the AFOLU sector, the project will support the identification of all the actors involved at national level (public and private sectors, civil society and academia (universities and research centres), **including the Technical Coordination Committee on Climate**), **with balanced participation between women and men, will promote knowledge among them of the national climate change policy, strategy and law, and will facilitate dialogue in order that, based on what is stipulated by law, the necessary institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clearly established, as well as the documentation of the agreements reached to** operationalize the climate change national policy, strategy and law. Furthermore, it will collaborate with the processes for the transformation and consolidation of the structures already operative in the MEDD for the construction of GHG inventories, established for the preparation of the previous national communications and which have been consolidated or reorganized for the preparation of the Fourth National Communication and the BURs. This institutionalization will guarantee sustainability over time, will help the national provision of technical and financial resources and a continuous improvement in the generation of data and information.
- ii. *Government personnel and key stakeholders linked with the MRV trained to establish and operationalize the MRV of the AFOLU sector.* Training will involve a wide range of national institutions by several sectoral administrations and stakeholders, including academia, civil society and private sector, both on the processes necessary to establish and operate the MRV system of the AFOLU sector and on its requirements and links between different aspects. The MRV system will be established based on the MRV of Forestry sector ensuring the full integration of the Agriculture sector and considering national needs to guide policy decisions on climate change and to meet international reporting commitments; in particular, those related to transparency. Participants in the trainings should be identified according to their roles, guaranteeing availability (institutional and personal) to continue linked to the MRV process, seeking broad participation, promoting the inclusion of professional women to reduce the gender gap and the participation of young people with a view to generational replacement.
- iii. *A report containing the design of the MRV of the AFOLU sector that meets the ETF requirements developed.* The country has an MRV system for the Forestry sector, developed as part of REDD+ readiness. However, it is necessary to build an MRV system for the entire AFOLU. And although the country aspires to develop an MRV system for different levels of geographic disaggregation as previously indicated, due to the DRC conditions, it is recommended to start in this project by developing a first version of the system at national level, which allows generating the knowledge and experience necessary to advance, in later stages, towards a more elaborate system and other levels of disaggregation. The MRV of the AFOLU sector will be based on the MRV model of the Forestry sector and must fully integrated and in all its scope the Agriculture sector. It will be designed in a participatory way with gender balance and it will be necessary to establish, agree and document the objectives, national institutions involved, institutional arrangements, roles, responsibilities, methodologies, indicators, procedures for data generation and its flow, additional needs identified on the processes to be developed and the necessary capacities to establish and put the MRV system into operation, as well as analyse eventual legal barriers to ensure that transparency requirements are met. **This output will improve transparency over time since the country will have a robust MRV system for the AFOLU sector that will become increasingly consolidated.**

Component 2. Enhancement of data collection, processing and analysis to improve quality and transparency in the reporting of emissions and removals and monitoring of progress on mitigation and adaptation actions in the AFOLU sector.

41. This component is focused on enhancing the national technical capacity to quantify and track adaptation actions in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors, to produce and share transparent data for monitoring and reporting the GHG emissions and removals, and to improve the knowledge of government personnel and key stakeholders for data collection, processing and analysis as well as to develop GHG inventories in the AFOLU sector. The proposed outcome of this component is: improved technical capacity to produce and analyse transparent, accurate and consistent data for monitoring of progress on mitigation and adaptation actions as well as for the reporting of GHG emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector.

42. The following four outputs constitute this component and the first three (2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3) will contribute directly to improving transparency over time as they will support the establishment of robust processes of monitoring, reporting and evaluation of mitigation and adaptation activities to climate change:

- i. *Process of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation actions in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors developed, documented and mainstreamed by the national institutions in charge of these actions.* For the fulfilment of this output, methodologies and the exchange of best practices will be facilitated, and processes will be developed to validate them, as well as for their subsequent institutionalization. This activity will allow the country to establish a monitoring framework with the necessary indicators and protocols to evaluate and track the impacts of adaptation activities promoted in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors (such as establishing isolated trees and live fences, small water dams, harvesting water, replacing crops, etc.), as well as to quantify the impact of these activities and to include them in the national reports, for example, in the GHG inventories. Additionally, the project will provide the opportunity to systematize, monitor and evaluate adaptation actions in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors, which may constitute important experiences to improve the livelihoods of rural populations and increase their resilience to both climate change and to future crises of COVID-19 or similar crises. The CBIT project will contribute to the definition of the institutional mechanisms to operate a coordinated monitoring of the advances in this matter.
- ii. *Methodologies, guidelines, protocols and templates for data collection, including quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) processes and full integration of the AFOLU sector data, are improved or developed, agreed and documented.* The methodologies, guidelines, protocols and templates for data collection, including QA/QC processes, will be improved or developed for each subsector part of the AFOLU sector, as well as by data type. Particular attention will be given to methodologies and procedures in the Agriculture and Other Land Use sectors, as the Forestry sector has a well-developed MRV system; consistency of all data with each other will also be addressed. In addition, to enhance data on the Agriculture sector and therefore GHG inventories, the institutions of the sector should be integrated into the process, as well as to identify both the data and

the procedures for its generation and flow. Good practices and processes will be applied in consistency with the requirements outlined by the IPCC and relevant additional guidance like [Global Forest Observations Initiative](#) (GFOI), [Global Observation for Forest Cover and Land Dynamics](#) (GOFC-GOLD) and FAO resources. Extensive, detailed and rigorous documentation of all the methodologies, procedures and other elements of the process will also be guaranteed, which will be distributed to all participants and will be made available in the system or platform for data management, storage and exchange that will be developed as part of this project.

iii. *Procedures and tools for data processing and analysis, including quality control, estimation of uncertainties and full integration of the AFOLU sector data, are enhanced or developed, agreed and documented.* The procedures and tools necessary for data processing and analysis will be well developed, as well as comprehensive and rigorously documented. In particular, attention will be given to Agriculture and Other Land Use sectors, without neglecting the needs of the Forestry sector, despite progress in its development. In addition, if possible, resources/tools available from different initiatives or projects will be used. The procedures and tools will be approved by the national technical team that will be strengthened/established to elaborate the GHG inventories and reports to the UNFCCC for the AFOLU sector and the technical groups defined by the Government, with the support of additional specialists, if necessary. The documentation will be distributed to all the participants in the project and will be made available in the system or platform for data management, storage and exchange that will be developed as part of this project.

iv. *Government personnel and key stakeholders trained in: a) data collection, processing and analysis; b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies and tools to develop GHG inventories in a learning-by-doing process to prepare a national inventory report of GHG with well documented methodologies and processes for the AFOLU sector.* The government personnel from MEDD and several sectoral administration related to the AFOLU sector and responsible for international reporting, as well as key stakeholders from civil society, private sector, research institutions and the academia (for future technical support and to multiply knowledge, including training of trainers), will improve their knowledge through training, according to their roles and responsibilities, in the following topics, for which training plans will be carried out with broad participation, promoting the inclusion of women to close the gender gap and youth participation to seek generational replacement:

a) data collection, processing and analysis; this training plan will be based on the methodologies, guidelines, protocols, procedures, tools and documentation developed for outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 or other complementary initiatives. Participants in the training plan should be identified based on their roles and their participation in the process of strengthening national capacities in the AFOLU sector, guaranteeing the availability (institutional and personal) to continue to be linked to the data collection, processing and analysis processes.

b) IPCC methodologies and tools to develop GHG inventories in a learning-by-doing process to prepare a national inventory report of GHG; this training plan will be carried out using the methodological processes for the development of GHG inventories developed by the IPCC, such as 2006 Guidelines and 2019 Refinement. The tools developed by the IPCC and other entities, such as FAO, will also be used to facilitate calculations of GHG emissions and removals. A learning-by-doing process will allow participants to prepare a national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHG for the AFOLU sector at national level, which should thoroughly document institutional arrangements, methodologies, data sources and data flow, calculation procedures and description of the tools with a step by step of the procedures involved. The documentation will be reviewed and approved by the national technical team that will be strengthened/established to elaborate the GHG inventories and reports to the UNFCCC and the technical groups defined by the Government, with the support of additional specialists, if necessary.

Component 3. Incremental knowledge and capacity for data management and dissemination, reporting in accordance with the ETF requirements and monitoring of progress in achieving the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the AFOLU sector.

43. This component is geared towards developing national technical knowledge and capacities to manage and share data and information, to prepare international reports in accordance with ETF requirements and to track progress in implementing and achieving NDCs in the AFOLU sector. The proposed outcome of this component is: the country has increased capacity to manage and share data, to prepare the ETF-compliant international reports and to track the progress of its NDCs in the AFOLU sector.

44. The outputs for this component are:

i. *A system/platform for data management, storage and exchange, as well as the procedures necessary for its operation, developed.* An online system or platform for management, storage and sharing data are improved or developed. This output, in addition to making data and information available, fosters institutional ownership of products and the processes to generate them; this ownership is a key element for long-term sustainability of the national commitment to climate actions. The scope of this output will be defined with the national institutions in charge of managing this information during the project preparation phase, taking into account the capacities of those institutions to host, operate and maintain this interface, as well as any progress made up to that point. It will be taken into consideration from a website that allows the provision of documents and basic data, to a platform with different functionalities to manage, view, share and analyse data, and even a map viewer. Once the scope of the output has been established, the tool (website or platform) and the procedures for its operation (management, storage, sharing, and if possible, data analysis) will be designed and developed and should be well documented. A training plan for content management and system/platform administration will also be designed and executed aimed at the key users of the institution or institutions/dependencies where the system or platform will be hosted, as well as a dissemination plan for the system or platform and its contents. Additionally and as part of the process, initiatives will be identified to share and make data available as part of the ETF, to exchange experiences and establish South-South cooperation with more advanced countries in these processes, preferably from other CBIT projects and/or in the framework of the francophone network, to optimize resources and achieve further progress and learnings. **This output will contribute directly to the improvement of transparency over time as it will make the data and other information available to the national and international community.**

ii. **Technical and strategic team responsible for reporting to the UNFCCC, trained on the contents, submission processes and consistency requirements necessary for reports, as well as on the different national processes related to them.** A knowledge management process will be developed through workshops, Webinars, experience exchanges and technical-methodological discussion spaces, on contents, preparation, submission and consistency of reports (National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, Biennial

Transparency Reports) for the UNFCCC and according to the requirements of the ETF under the Paris Agreement. All the information and the national context of the various proceedings associated with the different reports will also be included in this knowledge management process. The academia will be a key actor in this training and knowledge management process, and formal agreements and mechanisms must be established between government institutions and academia (universities) in order that it has a permanent role in the development of national capacities (i.e., train the trainers).

iii. *A framework to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs in the AFOLU sector, developed, agreed and documented.* To meet the information requirements necessary to monitor, evaluate and report the progress made in the implementation and achievement of the NDC in the AFOLU sector, indicators will be identified and selected, as well as their description, including key parameters, data sources and models, IPCC guidelines, metrics and methodologies. The framework for tracking progress in the implementation and achievement of NDCs will be developed and agreed in a participatory and gender-sensitive way with government personnel and key stakeholders. This monitoring and evaluation framework will be well documented and will allow the country to enhance the NDC in future reviews, increasing the ambition of mitigation actions and strengthening the adaptation ones, as well as updating other elements to support the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement. It will also support aligning the NDCs with domestic long-term goals, the policies and strategies related to climate, and development and economic objectives. In addition, the entire process will strengthen the implementation and improve the communication of the NDC itself, and will contribute directly with the improvement of transparency over time by having an open system to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs in the AFOLU sector.

45. Furthermore, and as indicated in paragraph 82, the national CBIT from DRC is fully aligned and will benefit from already existing global CBIT led by FAO (CBIT- AFOLU and CBIT-Forest). The global knowledge products developed under these global projects will be of support to DRC. The project design document will help determine which of those products will be of benefit for this country. As an example, of products the projects have developed an eLearning course on “Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement” (CBIT-Forest) and “Preparing a greenhouse gas inventory under the Enhanced Transparency Framework” (CBIT-AFOLU).

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies.

46. The project seeks to strengthen national capacities by enhancing transparency to achieve compliance with national commitments in its climate actions, both in mitigation and adaptation, in the context of the Paris Agreement and in line with its national priorities and development strategies. In this way, the proposed project is aligned with the focal area of the GEF-7 “Climate Change Mitigation” (CCM), with the main objective 3: foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development

strategies. The element of the Focal Area is the CCM-3-8 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency”.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing.

47. Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo has established national and international commitments to climate actions, which it tries to fulfil, due to the difficult situation faced by the country in recent decades, it requires external funding to develop the institutional and technical capacities necessary to overcoming the main identified gaps and barriers to enhance its processes and information both for national decision-making and for reporting to the UNFCCC in compliance with the ETF.

48. The CBIT project funds will give the country the opportunity to generate capacities that, only with national resources, would be obtained very slowly, and that will guarantee, in the medium and long term, to enhance the monitoring processes of its mitigation and adaptation activities to climate change in the AFOLU sector as well as progress in the achievement of its NDCs, through institutionalized, robust, transparent and sustainable national systems, reducing or eliminating the dependence on external consultants and promoting national ownership of these processes.

49. To complement these funds, the country, and the MEDD in particular, will continue looking for new projects and initiatives to maintain and expand these efforts, while progressing in the development and consolidation of a complete national system for monitoring and reporting of all priority sectors as well as for its incorporation into public policies for national development. To reinforce this commitment, the DRC Government through the MEDD, will contribute with USD 105,428 to the project, corresponding to the time of the ministry's staff and infrastructure to carry out the project activities; this estimate does not include contributions from other ministries, government institutions, academia and other stakeholders.

50. In addition, the country will shortly have a baseline that will help meeting the ETF requirements for the different components, which will provide important inputs for achieving the outputs of the CBIT project:

i. *Component 1. Strengthening institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF):* the national climate change policy, strategy and law will be available as a basis for the output 1.1.1; and the processes and documentation of the NFMS and MRV of Forestry sector for the outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.

ii. *Component 2. Enhancement of data collection, processing and analysis to improve quality and transparency in the reporting of emissions and removals and monitoring of progress on mitigation and adaptation actions in the AFOLU sector:* documentation from the NAP and the institutions of Agriculture and Forestry sectors for output 2.1.1; and the processes and documentation of the changes incorporated into the national GHG inventories as part of the FREL, as well as those of the NFMS and MRV of Forestry sector for the outputs 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4.

iii. *Component 3. Incremental knowledge and capacity for data management and dissemination, reporting in accordance with the ETF requirements and monitoring of progress in achieving the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the AFOLU sector:* revised NDC for the output 3.1.3.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF).

51. This CBIT project will contribute to the improvement of national and global environmental conditions by supporting the development of local capacities to increase transparency in the processes of coordination, monitoring and reporting of climate actions in the AFOLU sector, which, in turn, will support collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and building global confidence in the process.

52. In addition, since the DRC has the second largest continuous tropical rainforest in the world, supporting its conservation through the project will also yield important global environmental co-benefits that encompass other GEF focal areas, like preserve biodiversity and support the sustainable use and management of forests and REDD+, including reduction in forest loss and forest degradation, maintaining the range of environmental services and products derived from forests, and enhanced sustainable livelihoods for local communities and forest-dependent peoples.

7) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation

53. This CBIT project involves several innovative aspects for the country related to the use of technological tools, the automation of procedures for data management and analysis, and the improvement/development of an online system or platform for managing and sharing data and information related to monitoring and reporting of the national climate actions.

54. In addition to the use of the IPCC tools for national GHG inventories, as part of the project and to facilitate the understanding and preparation of GHG inventories, automated procedures and tools will be developed for data processing and analysis, including routines to support quality control and estimation of uncertainties.

55. For the improvement/development of an online system or platform for management, storage and sharing data and information related to monitoring and reporting of the national climate actions, an online system will be designed and developed in accordance with the domestic installed capacity, which complies with the needs and priorities of institutions and key stakeholders, and with a best practice approach oriented to the use and dissemination of transparent data.

56. Additionally, during the project preparation phase, specific needs will be identified and analysed on the use and training in open access tools developed by the FAO, which would help the country to improve ongoing or established processes, to produce data that get fed into the GHG simulation tools and to estimate the GHG emissions and removals related to specific activities in the AFOLU sector. The tools that would potentially be used are:

- [Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring](#) (FAO, 2017), based on the valuable experiences and lessons learned from FAO member countries, on national forest monitoring projects and initiatives and on the main conclusions of international workshops and technical meetings held to develop this tool, as well as the contributions from institutional partners and stakeholders.
- Collect Earth Online (<https://collect.earth>), an open-source, satellite image viewing and interpretation tool for use in projects that require land cover and/or land use reference data.

- SEPAL (<https://sepal.io>), an open-source cloud-computing earth monitoring platform enabling users to produce geospatially explicit products for land cover and/or land use change and related areal statistics.
- “EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT)” (<http://www.fao.org/tc/exact/ex-act-home/en/>), an appraisal system providing estimates of the impact of agriculture and forestry development projects, programmes and policies on the carbon-balance, defined as the net balance of all GHGs, expressed in CO2 equivalents, that were emitted or sequestered due to project implementation as compared to a business-as-usual scenario.
- “Global database of GHG emissions related to feed crops” (<http://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/database/ghg-crops/en/>), a global database of emissions, emission intensities and life cycle inventory for 5 main crops: maize, wheat, barley, soybean and cassava. It provides downloadable information disaggregated by production system, agro-ecological zone, country and region.
- “FISH- emissions”, (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/affris/affris-home/fish-e-faos-tool-for-quantifying-the-greenhouse-gas-emissions-arising-from-aquaculture/en/>), for quantifying the GHG emissions arising from aquaculture for the main commodities, i.e.: catfish; cyprinids; Indian major carps; salmonids; shrimp; and tilapia.

Sustainability

57. This proposal has a medium and long-term sustainability approach based on the strengthening and development of institutional and technical capacities of the DRC to meet the information requirements for the enhanced transparency framework.

58. Institutional strengthening, through support the consolidation of the structures already operational in the MEDD and the establishment of institutional arrangements with key stakeholders, will allow the country to advance long-term processes for monitoring and reporting of national mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change. **These structures consolidated in the MEDD will facilitate the availability of the necessary institutional resources, after the end of the project, to guarantee the continuity of its achievements.**

59. The development of capacities of technical personnel from national institutions and key stakeholders (in particular, the academy) for the generation of more reliable, consistent and transparent data for the AFOLU sector and its dissemination through the Web, will contribute to ownership and will give more confidence to national processes, and will also provide more financing opportunities for mitigation and adaptation activities to climate change. **In addition, the link with academia must be strengthened and formal**

agreements must be established that allow the development of continuous training programs for national personnel, so that knowledge and skills are maintained within the Government in the long term, and new ones are developed as required. To this end, the project will train members of academia, and therefore can be considered training of trainers.

60. It would be desirable, to increase sustainability, that the development of technical capacities be accompanied by mechanisms and/or incentives to retain trained personnel in government institutions, as well as the inclusion and promotion of professional women throughout the process to close the gender gap.

Potential for scaling-up

61. Once the processes have been consolidated at national level, the country wishes to expand them at the sub-national level, detailing the MRV system, and therefore the reporting, at the provincial, local, and even at the program and project level. Likewise, the model followed by the project for the establishment of the MRV of the AFOLU sector will easily allow its replication and adoption by other sectors.

62. The South-South exchange between peers and the eventual replication of successful initiatives in other countries, particularly the French-speaking countries of Africa, could increase the possibilities of mobilizing additional resources to consolidate and expand the processes that will be carried out as part of this CBIT project. Also the two existing FAO-CBIT global projects will support the scaling-up potential of the project, already started in the context of the CBIT-Forest project, as indicated in paragraph 88 below.

[1] This forest is part of the Congo rainforest, which in turn is the second largest in the world, distributed mainly in six countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

[2] <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

[3] DRC reported net emissions, for the first time, for the year 2008, corresponding to 8,658 Gg of CO₂eq (Third National Communication, 2015).

[4] <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Democratic%20Rep.%20of%20Congo%20INC%20French.pdf>

[5] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RDC_SNC.pdf

[6] <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Executive%20Summary.pdf>

[7] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/codnc3_french.pdf

[8] <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Democratic%20Republic%20of%20the%20Congo/1/CPDN%20-%20R%C3%A9p%20D%C3%A9m%20du%20Congo.pdf>

[9] Readiness Proposal for Green Climate Fund “Medium term investment planning for adaptation in climate sensitive sectors in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Advancing the NAP process”

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

1. Project activities will be carried out at the national level. However, due to its nature linked to the development of capacities for monitoring and reporting at the national level, only key national institutions and stakeholders will be included; communities and other local actors will not participate at this stage nor will there be activities in the field. Below is a national location map.

2. Political Map of Democratic Republic of the Congo:



Source: FAO/Programme SNSF

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why: Yes

The project identification phase was carried out with a MEDD team, using information from recent consultations with key stakeholders as part of the NDC update. In the framework of this national process, the unit in charge of sustainable development within the MEDD organized the multistakeholders consultations with three target groups: the first group, integrated by technical ministries in charge of energy, agriculture, rural development, land use management, infrastructure, small business and communications; the second group was composed by civil society organizations including representatives of indigenous peoples, women, youth and others; the third one was composed by parliamentarians, international organizations and representatives of technical cooperation.. Additionally, a broad consultation process with other key actors is planned during the project preparation phase.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

65. The main objective of the project is to strengthen institutional and technical capacities, at national level, to improve monitoring and reporting of climate actions. The strengthening will be aimed to the institutions and stakeholders of the AFOLU sector for the achievement of the NDCs and who participate in the different processes of data generation and improvement, preparation of reports and dissemination of information, to support the development and adjustment of public policies and to contribute with the global goals.

66. The following table presents a list of relevant actors who will be engaged in the preparation and subsequent implementation of the project, according to their national role or responsibility and their role in the CBIT project:

Stakeholder	Responsibility/role	Role in the project
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	The MEDD leads and is the main national coordinator of environmental and climate change activities in DRC on behalf of the Government. It is responsible for developing various national and international reports (GHG inventories, national communications on climate change, BURs, NDCs, national climate change plans, etc.), as well as managing data related to Forestry sector. It acts as the focal point of the UNFCCC, GEF and GCF.	Leading national agency. It will coordinate all project preparation and implementation activities, as well as those related to monitoring, reporting and improving transparency.
Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGI, French acronym for Ministère de l'Agriculture)	Responsible for formulating, coordinating, promoting, monitoring and evaluating the policies for agricultural development. It is in charge of the management of all data relating to agriculture.	It will be in charge of coordinating the tasks related to the collection and improvement of data for monitoring and reporting of agricultural activities.
Ministry Rural Development (MINDER, French acronym for Ministère du Développement Rural)	Responsible for the achievement of food security and the sustainable and effective improvement of the living conditions of rural populations.	It will coordinate activities and data management related to rural activities and due its representation across the country, it will give operational and technical for all aspects of the AFOLU sector at various levels.
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (Ministère de Pêche et Elevage)	Responsible for the sustainable management of fisheries and livestock resources and their contribution to the food and nutritional security of the population. It is in charge of the management of all data relating to livestock and fisheries.	It will be in charge of coordinating the tasks related to the collection and improvement of data for monitoring and reporting of fisheries and livestock activities.
Ministry of Planning (Ministère du Plan)	Responsible for the production of national statistics and the management of all data related to the national and regional planning.	It will ensure compliance with national statistics standards.
Ministry of Finance (Ministère des Finances)	Responsible for national budget planning; it actively participates in various activities related to the review of public expenditures and the management of finances.	It will ensure the effectiveness of DRC's financial contribution to this project.

Stakeholder	Responsibility/role	Role in the project
Ministry of Gender, Family and Children (Ministère du Genre, Famille et Enfants)	It was created to develop and coordinate the implementation of government measures related to the promotion and respect of women's rights and protection of the family, to manage and coordinate social aspects. It is in charge of improving the legal and institutional framework to ensure women's participation in development, women's representation at all levels, and gender mainstreaming of policies and programmes of the country.	It will support the integration in the project of elements that help to close the gender gap in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, as well as more balanced access between men and women to national resources. It will also support the development of strategies to reduce the gender gap in the project activities, particularly those related to capacity development.
Technical Coordination Committee on Climate	It has an operational role and the key entities of the technical ministries involved in the various components of the NDC participate in it. Its role is to contribute to analyse and technically validate all data and technical information produced within the framework of the NDC.	It will support aspects related to the information associated with the NDC for the AFOLU sector and the achievement in its implementation.
Universities and research centres	They are responsible for conducting research, innovation and formal training in all areas, including those related to climate change, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures.	They will provide information on climate change, methodologies and approaches for monitoring, estimating GHG and tracking progress in implementation of the NDCs. They will be invited to participate in training, workshops and meetings in order to have an efficient exchange of knowledge and best practices. In addition, universities could support training processes and the inclusion of these topics in the curricula of university degrees.
Civil society organizations	They play an important role at the local level for the organization, awareness-raising, capacity building and execution of specific actions of adaptation and mitigation to climate change.	They will be invited to participate in activities related to the implementation of the climate change policy and law, capacity building and the generation/collection of data and information relevant to the operation of the MRV system and the GHG inventories.
Private sector organizations	They are a key actor in achieving the NDCs and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, as they also suffer its effects. Some examples of private sector organizations are Federation of Wood Industry (Fédération des Industriels du Bois, FIB) and agro-industries.	Its participation is required to make the implementation of the climate change policy and law feasible, both for the application of mitigation and/or adaptation measures and the achievement of NDCs and for the provision of data and information for the operation of the MRV and the GHG inventories.

67. Additionally, during the project preparation phase will be considered the participation of other institutions such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Decentralization, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Scientific and Technological Research.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

68. Both GEF and FAO have policies on gender equality to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in their activities. Based on them, the project will take the necessary steps to ensure the participation of women in all stages of the project, from the preparation phase to the implementation and evaluation phases, and that all potential benefits are enjoyed equitably. The project will ensure that the specific needs of women are met and the enjoyment of equal access to project activities.

69. At the national level, the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children is in charge of improving the legal and institutional framework to ensure women's participation in development, women's representation at all levels, and gender mainstreaming of policies and programmes of the country.

70. During the project preparation phase, with support of the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children and the participation of the gender focal points of both government institutions and other key organizations that collaborate in addressing climate change in the country, inputs will be collected that contribute to incorporating specific strategies and actions to ensure balanced gender representation in the results of the project, which will be integrated into the gender analysis that will be carried out as part of the project preparation, following the GEF and FAO guidance on gender analysis.

71. Furthermore, during the implementation phase, women's participation in all project activities will be promoted and efforts will be made to achieve equal participation and representation of women and men in the management structures and decision-making processes related to climate change (committees, institutional working groups, structures for the governance of the MRV system, etc.). In particular, women's participation in tasks related to capacity development will be encouraged, with the goal of reaching 25-30% female participation, well above 20% of women beneficiaries in previous national projects. Participation indicators will be broken down by gender to monitor progress.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

72. Private sector organizations are a key actor in achieving the NDCs and in transparently implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, without neglecting social and environmental aspects. Its participation is required to make the implementation of the climate change policy and law feasible, both for the application of mitigation measures and the achievement of NDCs and for the provision of data and information for the operation of the MRV system and the GHG inventories.

73. During the project preparation phase, the participation of private sector organizations will be defined, as well as in which project activities these organizations will be involved, although it is foreseeable that they will be related to the implementation of the climate change policy and law and contributions on the processes for the generation/collection of data and information relevant to the MRV system and the GHG inventories. Furthermore, the participation of representatives of the private sector in DRC is currently ensured by two entities: the Federation of Commercial Enterprises (FEC) and Federation of Wood Industry (FIB). However, the government is implementing the identification and mapping of additional key stakeholders representatives, their key intervention domains and interests, in order to define the decisive incentives that could enable them to better and more participate in the implementation of the NDCs.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

74. The risks and mitigation measures for the project are detailed in the table below:

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures
Lack of coordination between institutions and/or between institutions and civil society, academia or private sector organizations.	Medium	Dialogue spaces will be promoted to identify the benefits derived from coordination for each of the participating instances. These spaces will be established, from the inception of the project, to engage key stakeholders through awareness raising and consultation. In addition, the national climate change policy, strategy and law will provide the framework to establish the necessary institutional arrangements for the operation of the MRV system and the GHG inventories for the AFOLU sector.
Insufficient technical capacities or high turnover of national personnel to integrate a solid technical teams and/or lack of interest in carry out project activities.	Medium	<p>The following measures are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To establish a well-structured training program from the beginning of project implementation, in the language of the participants, with support material (methodologies, step-by-step guides, short videos, among others) and follow-up. ii. To identify and provide incentives to encourage the active participation and permanence of members of the technical teams, such as capacity development through a medium-long-term training plan, which could be built with resources through different projects and initiatives. iii. To encourage the institutions and key stakeholders to nominate more than one participant to the technical teams to guarantee the permanence, of at least, one technician. In the same way, to maintain permanent contact with the headquarters to report on the programmed activities, their objectives and the importance of participation.
Lack of interest from key stakeholders to participate in processes or limited representation of them.	Low	To mitigate this risk, civil society, academia and private sector organizations will be involved during the project preparation phase and its implementation. The Government and FAO will actively seek their participation in the different stages, providing relevant documents and data in a transparent manner, as well as validating the results through open events.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures
Difficulty of data access or to improve its quality for some sectors or activities.	Medium	The formal institutional arrangements, improvement processes, and enhanced transparency that will be established through this project will facilitate access to data and increase its quality. The experiences and learning from the elaboration of national communications, BURs, NDC and the REDD+ readiness process will be crucial.
Health crisis and its multiplying effects caused by COVID-19, including in particular difficulties in mobilising international expertise, securing co-financing and keeping project-related objectives high on the agenda	Medium	<p>The country and the UN have developed protocols and experiences to face local and national crises associated with COVID-19. The project will establish plans if lockdowns to mitigate and contain spread are presented, establishing actions like changes in project implementation timelines and the realization of virtual activities, such as meetings, working sessions and trainings, that guarantee the participation of both government personnel and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>The project will actively promote the transfer of knowledge for the use of platforms and technologies that facilitate remote work, communication and the engagement of all key stakeholder from institutions, private sector, academia and civil society, as well as women. These mitigation measures will also increase the resilience of those involved to face future similar crises.</p>
Climate events and their effects on the AFOLU sector and the capacity to monitor and report in a transparent way under the Paris Agreement	Low	For this capacity development project which does not rely heavily on fieldwork, climate events, such as heavy rains, dry periods or other extreme events and their effects, would have a low impact. FAO and national institutions would follow established protocols and instructions from competent authorities in case climate hazards should arise during project design and/or implementation.
Social and/or political instability.	Low	The FAO and UN have protocols to follow if the political situation in the country changes and civil unrest occurs. Depending on the situation, mechanisms would be established to carry out the activities with teleworking periods or with the support of local experts or contractors, under remote supervision of FAO staff based in other countries, if necessary.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

75. The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, through the Directorate of Sustainable Development, will act as a partner for the execution of this project, in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture. The Directorate of Sustainable Development will have the technical responsibility and overall execution of the project, and FAO will provide technical supervision as a GEF Agency.

76. Other national institutions, academy and research centres, civil society organizations and private sector organizations, as well as the Technical Coordination Committee on Climate, will also have an important role in project execution, which will be established in detail during the preparation stage. The engagement of all instances and stakeholders in project activities will also contribute to the process of national capacity development, including the dissemination of knowledge and training of trainers by the academy.

77. The specific institutional structure of the project and its operational arrangements will be defined and agreed during the project preparation stage, taking into account some general elements, including: i) the execution will be led by the MEDD through the Directorate of Sustainable Development; ii) FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency; iii) a Steering Committee will be established as the main governing body of the project and that will supervise its general execution; iv) a Project Management Unit will be established for the management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project. This Unit will include a National Project Director designated by the Government who will be responsible for supervising and guiding on the government policies and priorities, for coordination with all the national bodies and project partners, and for providing substantive technical inputs for the project execution.

78. Regarding monitoring and evaluation: i) general project supervision will be carried out by the Project Steering Committee and FAO; ii) FAO will monitor the activities, outputs and outcomes financed by the GEF; iii) the daily monitoring of the project will be carried out by the Project Management Unit and the person responsible for the FAO budget. Specific responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating project activities will be established during the preparation stage, as well as a plan to carry out the required monitoring and evaluation tasks.

79. With respect to other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives, the project will be executed in close coordination and cooperation with existing projects/initiatives, as well as with those that begin during its lifetime. In particular, there will be a broad coordination and cooperation with the ongoing process for the preparation of the Fourth National Communication and Second Biennial Update Report (BUR2), due to the nature of this initiative, linked with the preparation of GHG inventories, reporting to the UNFCCC and the capacity development, as indicated in paragraph 24. The MEDD will ensure the complementarity between both projects to guarantee the efficient use of resources, avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing synergies.

80. Additionally, actions will be coordinated with the mitigation and adaptation to climate change projects and initiatives listed in the table in paragraph 29, as appropriate. Where possible, products, knowledge and experiences generated by these projects and initiatives will also be used; in particular, those related to the REDD+ readiness process associated with forest monitoring and MRV, which FAO will continue to support.

81. Also, FAO will ensure that there is coordination with the two FAO-CBIT global projects. Specifically, DRC will benefit from tools that will be presented by the project “Global Capacity-Building Towards Enhanced Transparency in the AFOLU Sector” (CBIT-AFOLU) (GEF ID: 9864); and regarding the project “Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)” (GEF ID: 10071) the country will benefit from the upgraded of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) reporting platform[1], the e-learning course on “Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement”[2], case studies from different regions on forests and transparency, and the communication material (infographics, flyers) to help to raise awareness on forests and transparency. With own national CBIT funding, in case applicable, the country can participate to any regional technical capacity-building workshops on national forest monitoring system that it might be organised.

[1] <https://fra-data.fao.org/>

[2] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587>

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

82. The project aligns with the following national priorities contained in national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions:

- UNFCCC National Determined Contribution, which aims to reduce GHG emissions by 17% by 2030 through greening (intensification, sedentarization) of agricultural policy, sustainable management of forests, increase of energy supply, improvement of energy efficiency and 25% renewable energy in the electricity by 2035, whose implementation is estimated at USD 21 billion. The CBIT project will contribute to DRC's commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 17% by 2030, of which 95% require the support of international community. The outputs and outcomes of this project will have an impact on the implementation and updating of the NDCs through the establishment of

the MRV system and the consolidation and improvement of the GHG inventories for the AFOLU sector, that will allow for more transparent, accurate and reliable data for tracking national achievements and setting new goals.

- UNFCCC National Communications (NC) and UNFCCC Biennial Update Report (BUR). Like the NDCs, the NCs and the BURs will also benefit by establishing governance structures for the operation of the MRV system and for GHG inventories in the AFOLU sector that comply with the ETF, and their quality will improve with more technically consistent processes and better GHG inventory data.
- The national REDD+ strategy in DRC aims to stabilize forest cover over 63.5% of the national territory by 2030. This vision implies a change of historical trajectory towards a new trajectory of “green growth”, oriented according to a model of development “combining preservation of the forest, fight against climate change and solid, rapid and sustainable economic and human development”. It is based on a systemic approach which tackles in a multi-sectoral and integrated way the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation. In the DRC, this presupposes the essential enlargement of REDD+ social and institutional dimensions, as well as the coherent and coordinated mobilization of the various economic sectors, among other factors. The project will support the improvement of the GHG inventories data for the AFOLU sector and the establishment of an MRV for the sector based on the MRV of the Forestry sector, which will result in a general improvement of the system and the data, which, in turn, will provide a better understanding of the interrelationships between subsectors, as well as better data for REDD+ reporting.
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP). This national strategy is in the final stage of drafting and aims to support the government and stakeholders in their effort to advance the adaptation planning process for priority climate sensitive sectors and regions in DRC. Its results are very broad and include: the National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Climate Change 2016-2020 (PSPA-CC), the National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA), the National Strategic Plan for Development (PNSD) and provincial development plans for priority provinces, as well as financing options for adaptation investments in agriculture and rural development, health, land use planning and energy are identified with the support of the private sector. In particular, outputs 2.1.1 and 3.1.3 of the CBIT project will allow the PAN to have quality data to monitor and evaluate adaptation actions in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors, which will support the adjustment of this planning tool.
- National Strategic Plan for Development. PNSD's vision is to make the DRC an emerging country that lives up to its potential. This vision is based on the need to accelerate social development in order to improve the well-being of the population. It is structured in three phases: i) bringing the DRC to middle-income countries in 2020; ii) accelerate growth and social development and raise the country to the status of an emerging economy by 2030; and iii) raise the country to the rank of industrialized economy by 2050. The outcomes of the CBIT project will contribute to improving sectoral information for monitoring and adjusting this development strategy.
- The National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD) through its vision for 2030 and whose objective is "an emerging DRC in a healthy environment integrating the requirements of sustainable development in all public policies". For this strategy, the CBIT project will provide outcomes that will contribute to monitoring and evaluating the achievement of some of its objectives.

83. The project is also aligned with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2020 for DRC, in its Pillar 4: “Resilience, early recovery and food security: Building the resilience of target populations to address food insecurity, environmental, social and economic shocks”, Outcome 4.1: “By 2020, populations (especially vulnerable groups) in target areas are more resilient to environmental, social and economic shocks”, Indicator: 4.1 D: “Reduction in the size of the vulnerable population exposed to the risks of natural disasters (climatic and geophysical extremes)”.

84. Moreover, the CBIT project will address constraints and priority needs highlighted in the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD (2007), regarding capacity-building: strengthening of institutional capacity for GHG inventories; strengthening of human and material capacities of weather stations for climatic data-gathering and monitoring of weather parameters.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

85. Knowledge management and capacity building are fundamental and constitute the axis of this project, and will involve national technicians from different institutions, academia and research centres, as well as other stakeholders. Knowledge management will contribute to improving the processes, methodologies, data and analysis necessary for the country to have better information on the territorial dynamics that affect the environment and national GHG emissions/removals, allowing the design and adjustment of public policies linked to climate change, within the enhanced transparency framework, as well as the fulfilment of international commitments and supporting the achievement of national development objectives.

86. The project will take advantage of the knowledge and experience generated by other recent and ongoing projects and initiatives, through the analysis of available documentation, consultation with key personnel participating in these processes (in particular of the MEDD, which will lead the national CBIT) and the involvement of the Technical Coordination Committee on Climate, which includes, in turn, technical ministries linked to the different components of the NDC. Likewise, the project will use knowledge, lessons and best practices resulting from the REDD+ readiness process (MRV system established for the Forestry sector, improvements implemented into the first FREL and changes incorporated into the national GHG inventories), the development of the NAP and from other relevant national processes.

87. As part of the project, an online system or platform for data management, storage and sharing data will be improved or developed. The project will disseminate its findings, key products and lessons learned in this system or platform freely and openly, as well as other documentation and information relevant to the country related to the MRV system and the GHG inventories for the AFOLU sector. In addition, data and products will be shared through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and the project will actively participate in all initiatives of the Platform for knowledge management both national, regional and international levels.

88. The project will also support and encourage South-South Cooperation to ensure knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, peer support and seeking collective solutions. Possibilities for South-South Cooperation and to share lessons and experiences will be explored, starting at the regional level, such as regional projects carried out by the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC, French acronym for Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) in the Congo Basin, as well as activities undertaken by the Francophone Cluster of the Partnership for Transparency in the Paris Agreement.

89. The DRC will also take advantage of this project to strengthen its leadership role in knowledge management in the region in order to inform other countries with similar conditions, using the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and FAO resources. This process is already underway and DRC together with Costa Rica and Bangladesh have been selected by the CBIT-Forest Project as case studies on forests and transparency. A 2-pager case study has been developed in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) to showcase the progress to establish a national forest monitoring system to promote sustainable forest management. A global webinar aimed to share this knowledge was held at the end of September (material available [here](#)).

90. Through the project, the DRC will broaden the projection it already has of international leadership, since the country played a pivotal role in leading the climate change negotiations in order to advocate in favor of the interests and positions of LDCs. It also played a key role in defending the interests of the Francophone countries.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval

MTR

TE

Low

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

*In line with FAO's Environmental and Social Safeguards, the project has been screened against Environmental and Social risks and rated as **low risk** (see certification attached resulting from the E&S risk screening in FAO's Information System) . No FAO safeguards were triggered. The risk level will be further re-confirmed at PPG in line with FAO's stakeholder engagement processes. The Agency will make sure that all mitigation measures vis a vis any potential adverse impact are duly considered in the ceo-endorsement package.*

Furthermore, a climate risk screening has been conducted as well, as is attached as a separate document. Due to the nature of the project, this screening classifies the risk as N/A, as filter questions for a full screening are not being triggered. Nevertheless, a short description of climate baseline, past and future trends, hazards, exposure and vulnerability, climate resilience and recommendations are reported.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

ESR Certificate

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Dr. Ndaukila Muhinya Godefroid	Director of Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	3/10/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

