



GEF

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**  
 PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project  
 THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: April 20, 2009  
 Re-submission Date: September 11, 2009,  
 September 16, 2009

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**GEF PROJECT ID:** 3437      **PROJECT DURATION:** 36 months  
**GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:** 604284  
**COUNTRY(IES):** Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire  
**PROJECT TITLE:** SPWA - Development of a trans-frontier conservation area linking forest reserves and protected areas in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire  
**GEF AGENCY(IES):** FAO  
**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):** Forestry Commission (Ghana); SODEFOR (Côte d'Ivoire); and WWF (West Africa Office)  
**GEF FOCAL AREA (S)?:** Biodiversity  
**GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S):** BD-SP-3  
**NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:** GEF Programme in West Africa: Sub-component on Biodiversity

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*		Expected Dates
Milestones		mm/dd/yyyy
Work Program (for FSP)		n.a.
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Sept 2010
Agency Approval Date		Oct 2010
Implementation Start		Dec 2010
Mid-term Evaluation (if planned)		May 2012
Project Closing Date		Nov 2013

\* See guidelines for definition of milestones.

**A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

**Project Objective:** To establish a viable and sustainable trans-frontier conservation area that links forest reserves and protected areas in Bia, Goaso and Djambarakorr (in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire).

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA <sup>b</sup>	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing <sup>a</sup>		Indicative Co-Financing <sup>a</sup>		Total (\$) c=a+b
				(\$) <sup>a</sup>	%	(\$) <sup>b</sup>	%	
1. Establishment of functional bilateral framework.	100% TA	Improved forest management through bilateral cooperation and mainstreaming of system-based conservation in policies and legislation.	1. Assessment of national legislation and policies with regard to harmonizing the legal status of the trans-frontier conservation area 2. Functional bilateral agreements established for the collaborative management of the trans-frontier conservation area.	76,818	29	191,000	71	267,818
2. Enhanced ecological processes and ecosystem services.	70% Inv. 20% TA 10% STA	Ecological processes and ecosystem services enhanced through community participation in forest conservation and forest rehabilitation.	1. SLM/SFM best practices in cocoa agro-forestry and forest rehabilitation developed and promoted through demonstration at five sites – At least 75 ha of community forest established (Community forests established in at least 15-20 villages sustaining wildlife corridors (with at least 5 ha of community forest in each). 2. Extension agents in demonstration sites trained on	394,545	49	400,000	51	794,545

- 1 Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
- 2 Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

			SLM/SFM best practices for wider transfer and adoption in other communities. 3. Awareness raised on SLM/SFM across the project area						
3. Promoting conservation measures.	50% Inv. 25% TA 25% STA	The PA network in the area is enhanced through strengthening management effectiveness and measures to promote conservation in the surrounding production landscape.	1. Assessment of management effectiveness of 3 PAs carried out 2. Interventions to improve PA management effectiveness identified – selected interventions implemented 3. Conservation measures introduced in 50,000 ha of PA and HCVF. 4. Measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict in at least 25 villages.	317,727	38	519,000	62	836,727	
4. Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation	4.1 Project management 4.2 Monitoring and evaluation			49,000	44	63,000	56	112,000	
<b>Total project costs</b>				21,000	44	27,000	56	48,000	
				859,090	A 42	B 1,200,000	58	2,059,090	

<sup>a</sup> List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

<sup>b</sup> TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

**B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and by NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)**

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project
Project Government Contribution	In-kind	480,000
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	Cash and in-kind	235,000
NGO (WWF)	Cash (60%) and in-kind (40%)	335,000
Others (beneficiaries)	In-kind	150,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>		<b>B 1,200,000</b>

**C. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)**

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a) <sup>3</sup>	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing		A 859,090	859,090	85,910
Co-financing		B 1,200,000	1,200,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,059,090</b>	<b>2,059,090</b>	<b>85,910</b>

**D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)	
			Project (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup> Total c=a+b
FAO	Biodiversity	Ghana	604,545	60,455 665,000
FAO	Biodiversity	Côte d'Ivoire	254,545	25,455 280,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>			<b>859,090</b>	<b>85,910 945,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

<sup>2</sup> Relates to the project and any previous project preparation funding that have been provided and for which no Agency fee has been requested from Trustee.

<sup>3</sup> Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:**

The proposed Bia-Goaso-Djambarakoru Trans-frontier Conservation Area has been identified by government stakeholders and conservation partners as a viable wildlife corridor (see map below). It currently contains some of the highest concentrations of endemic but threatened plant and animal species of the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem and it has been identified as one of the priority conservation landscapes in that ecosystem. The total land area is approximately 2,115,600 ha, comprising 2 Protected Areas (PAs) and 8 forest reserves in Ghana, 1 PA and 4 classified forests in Côte d'Ivoire, plus a number of other forest blocks with variation in tree cover. These large forest blocks cover about 635,000 ha (30% of the area). In addition, other forest fragments may amount to a further 100,000 ha (5% of the area). The total area of strictly protected areas (3 PAs) amounts to about 80,000 ha. In order to make a strategic use of the GEF grant and prepare the basis of a solid and successful approach, the total area to be actually targeted by the project will amount to just 50,000 ha.

The various forest blocks in the area have different protection status. In Ghana, some are managed as national parks or wildlife reserves, while most of the forests in Côte d'Ivoire are managed for timber production. The area is also an important agricultural production landscape (e.g. for cocoa cultivation and subsistence farming) and plays a critical role in the support of rural livelihoods.

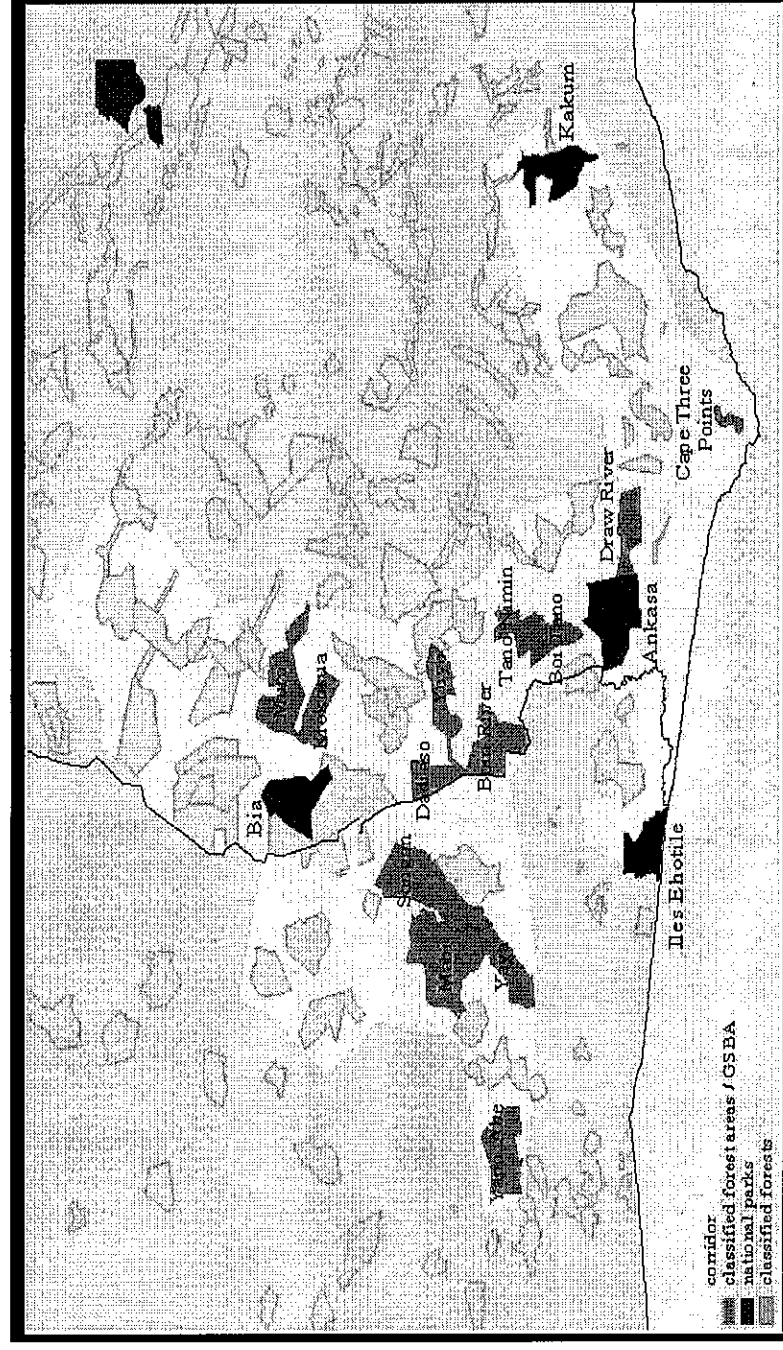
The forest landscape of south-western Ghana and southeastern Côte d'Ivoire contains significant populations of key species of global importance. This includes seven globally threatened species of large mammals (e.g. Forest elephants, chimpanzees). These areas also support more than 40 percent of the cocoa production of the two countries. The need for wildlife corridors to facilitate species interaction and sustainable cocoa production cannot be over-emphasised.

The main threats to sustainable land and forest management and biodiversity conservation in this area are: agricultural expansion; hunting pressure; over-harvesting of forest products; and human-wildlife conflicts. These threats are exacerbated by current forest management and development policies in both countries that are national in orientation and do not reflect the conservation benefits that could be achieved from managing the area as one contiguous unit.

Agricultural practices and local harvesting of forest and wildlife resources in this area are both currently unsustainable. This is leading to increases in forest fragmentation and land degradation, species loss (due to both over-harvesting and habitat destruction) and a reduction in future livelihood options from the gradual degradation of ecosystem functions. In particular, these trends are having a notable impact on the local forest elephant population (estimated to be the largest in West Africa), chimpanzees and other key species, where there is concern that habitat fragmentation will lead to interbreeding and a loss of genetic variability.

This project will attempt to overcome some of the threats described above through the interventions described below. Component 1 would cover the whole area, while Components 2 and 3 would focus in and around the PAs and large forest blocks with the highest conservation value (likely to be mostly in the centre of the area).

## Proposed Bia-Goaso-Djambarakoru Trans-frontier Conservation Area



**Component 1: Functional bilateral framework for collaborative management of the conservation area.** In collaboration with appropriate national institutions, the project will facilitate the development and implementation of a bilateral cooperative framework for management of the Bia-Goaso-Djambarakoru Trans-frontier Conservation Area. This will include the definition (and harmonising) of the legal status of the area in national legislation and policies in both countries, the assessment of national legislation in the two countries and the establishment and co-operation between national working groups for the development of local forest management strategies, regulations and procedures (following the experiences of the on-going GEF northern biodiversity conservation project between Ghana and Burkina Faso). It will also include measures to enhance transparency and accountability to support achievement of the desired conservation and livelihood outcomes in communities. Finally, using this area as an example, it will include assistance to develop system-based approaches to conservation that integrate national level conservation and development strategies into a broader regional framework.

### **Component 2: Ecological processes and ecosystem services.**

The project will develop, test and promote best practices in cocoa agroforestry for the rehabilitation of degraded forest landscapes that will also provide connectivity between the fragmented forest blocks and enhance ecosystem services (e.g. watershed protection, carbon sequestration). This will be done through the establishment of three demonstration sites at Samreboi, Asemaneye, and Gyambea in Ghana and two demonstration sites at Bettie and Agnibilekrou in Côte d'Ivoire. Within this component, priority will be given to rehabilitation with appropriate indigenous species in riverine areas and forest margins that would contribute most to reversing forest fragmentation. At each demonstration site, at least three local communities will also be encouraged to set aside forest mosaics as community forests (of at least 5 ha per community) to support sustainable harvesting of non-wood forest products, following the Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) concept used in Ghana (which will be replicated in Côte d'Ivoire).

The promotion of wildlife corridors, best practices in cocoa agroforestry and sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products will not only contribute to the improvement and protection of habitat for globally threatened species, but will also enhance local food security and people's livelihoods and reduce poverty by maintaining conditions for sustainable cocoa production in the long-term. It will also enhance carbon sequestration and hence contribute to mitigating the impact of global warming. As capacity building is a key priority of this project, the development of best practices at the demonstration sites will also be followed by training and deployment of extension agents to help other communities adopt best practices.

**Component 3: Appropriate conservation measures in the forest landscape.** The project will undertake an assessment of the management effectiveness of the 3 existing PAs (using World Bank/WWF tracking tools) and will also identify other relevant High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) in the production landscape. This information will be used to design and implement interventions to strengthen management effectiveness in the 3 PAs (with, in particular, a focus on financial sustainability) and measures to mainstream conservation (e.g. improved control of hunting activities) in the HCVF identified in the production landscape. This will include, for example, surveys and monitoring of threatened species to identify critical problems related to conservation in these areas (like Human-Wildlife conflict situations) and appropriate interventions to mitigate them. The area of existing PAs is about 80,000 ha and a similar amount of HCVF may be identified. However, in order to develop a more strategic approach and a sound strategy to be later replicated, it is proposed that this component focus on just 50,000 hectares of the total area, covering about 25 villages with an estimated population of 1,000 inhabitants.

In addition, to encourage replication, the project will partner with local civil society organizations (e.g. Living Earth Foundation in Ghana and AGNA NTI in Côte d'Ivoire) to raise awareness and educate other communities in the project area about the feasibility of adopting more sustainable forest and land management practices.

**Global environmental benefits (GEBs):** This project will increase the capacity of the governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to collaborate on cross-border conservation, support local community-based conservation efforts and help local people to develop and implement more sustainable forest and land management practices. The direct impact will be forest conservation and extension activities (focused on conservation and environmental improvement) occurring in at least 15 local villages at the five demonstration sites, leading to the establishment of at least 75 ha of community forests, strengthened protection of 50,000 ha of PAs and HCVFs (covering a universe of 25 villages), along with forest rehabilitation and other improved forest and land management practices across additional areas (to be determined during project preparation). These interventions can potentially reach, in the long run, an area of 2.1 million ha, as the indirect impact of the project.

The two major GEBs expected from this project are improved biodiversity conservation and reduced land degradation. In particular, this project will safeguard the habitat for the eight globally threatened wildlife species present in the existing forest landscape<sup>4</sup>. The expected increase in forest cover (from agroforestry, community forestry and changed land and forest management practices) will also enhance carbon sequestration and contribute to the mitigation of global warming.

Indirectly, the increase in forest cover, combined with the adoption of agroforestry best practices in cocoa production will encourage the sustainable production of cocoa and other crops in the area and reinforce the long-term sustainability of the expected outcomes of the project. In addition, the experience that will be developed on this project will serve as an example that could be replicated in other trans-frontier conservation areas of critical importance in the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem and elsewhere.

## **B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:**

**1. National policies for forestry policy and poverty reduction:** The project will contribute to sustainable forest management as stipulated in the forestry and wildlife policies and laws and the National Poverty Reduction Strategies of both countries. Specifically, the focus on developing the capacity of local communities and civil society organizations to participate in forest conservation activities and benefit sharing (e.g. utilizing the CREMA concept) is in line with national strategies for forestry development. Some aspects of the proposed approach can contribute to the promotion of alternative and therefore achieve poverty reduction goals. Some synergies with the Small Grants Programme in both countries can also be pursued.

**2. Priority conservation area:** Ghana ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 30 May 2003 and Côte d'Ivoire on 29 November 1994. The project is consistent with the National Biodiversity Strategy of Ghana which has conservation of areas critical to biodiversity conservation as one of the immediate objectives, and Côte d'Ivoire's National Environmental Action Plan and its Nature Protection Strategy. The countries identified the proposed project area as one of the five priority regions for biodiversity conservation in the Upper Guinea Forest Region at the West

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<sup>4</sup> Species of great importance: Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*); Western Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*); African Teak (*Pericopsis elata*); Water Chevrotain (*Hyemoschus aquaticus*); Diana Monkey (*Colobus diana roloway*); White-naped Mangabey (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*); Dermidoff's Galago (*Galagoides demidoffi*); Giant Forest Hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*)

Africa Priority Setting Workshop in December 1999 (GEF Project ID 536). The National Biodiversity Strategy for Ghana also mentions this area as a priority and refers to the problem of forest fragmentation and the need to address and overcome the threats mentioned in Section A above.

**C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:**

**Biodiversity focal area:** As the project area will contain a mixture of protected areas and production landscapes, the project will contribute to GEF Strategic Objective 1 for Biodiversity. Its main contribution would be to strengthening the terrestrial PA network (BD-SP 3) while linking together the existing PAs and developing and implementing a bilateral framework for the management of the whole area.

**Sub-regional context:** This project responds to two of the three main biodiversity components of the GEF Programme in West Africa, namely: “consolidation of protected area networks” and, complementarily, “reducing poverty among communities residing in and around protected areas”.

**D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:**

The project will build upon the results of the many previous forestry projects implemented in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire, such as: the EU Protected Areas Development Program (which developed and tested benefit sharing mechanisms using local Management Advisory Boards and Community Conservation Committees that eventually formed the basis of the CREMA concept); the GTZ Participatory Management of Classified Forests Project (which developed various mechanisms for local participation in forestry in Côte d’Ivoire); the Biodiversity Component of the GEF Natural Resource Management Programme (which supported general capacity building in the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission); previous technical work on reducing human-animal conflicts supported by FAO and Conservation International. WWF, under the Global Forest and Trade Network project, is also already working on the Ghanaian side of the project area to improve management practices of the productive forest reserves. The project will also build on the GEF High Forest Zone and Northern Savannah Biodiversity Conservation projects in Ghana that led to the designation of 30 Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas and the signing of Bilateral Agreement between Ghana and Burkina Faso on transboundary conservation of elephants and other species.

**E. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :**

**Without GEF support**, conservation efforts will be limited to existing forest reserves and PAs with some small efforts to implement CREMA around the boundaries of these areas. Some of the main forest blocks are partly connected, but with an average size of only 20,000 ha they are unlikely to be able to support viable populations of many important species (e.g. forest elephants) and it is expected that species numbers and diversity will decline. Furthermore, although in the period 2000-2005 forest cover in Côte d’Ivoire has remained stable, the annual deforestation rate in Ghana is currently about two percent (Global Forest Resource Assessment 2005, FAO). The majority of this deforestation occurs outside the main forest blocks, so within five years, it is quite possible that at least half (50,000 ha) of the current forest fragments could disappear. This loss of habitat combined with the continued human-wildlife conflicts, unsustainable resource harvesting and poor land management practices will continue to put pressure on biodiversity and land resources and do little to address the underlying causes of these problems, such as poverty and a lack of knowledge about sustainable livelihood options.

**With GEF support**, Component 3 of the project will strengthen the management of 50,000 ha of PAs and HCVF, reducing the threats to these areas and resulting in more secure long-term management. Supporting this, Component 2 of the project will attempt to test some best practices to secure the existing forest fragments and expand forest cover in some areas (through CREMA, community forestry activities and forest rehabilitation in cocoa agroforestry systems), resulting in a higher area of native forest compared to the baseline (i.e. without GEF support). Furthermore, with careful targeting of locations and subsequent extension activities, the project should lay the ground for a possible increase in species numbers and diversity within the region as a whole.

In addition to the environmental benefits gained from GEF support, it is estimated that these components should improve local livelihoods in at least 25 local communities (approximately 1,000 people). An indicative target for increased income from the implementation of improved land use practices could be about 5 percent so, assuming

average annual income of USD 350 per capita, the socio-economic benefit of improved incomes would amount to about USD 17,500 per year.

**F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:**

The potential risks to project implementation and mitigation measures that will be taken are as follows:

Risk	Mitigation
Change in political regime that does not recognize the importance of trans-frontier collaboration.	This will be mitigated by developing broad-based support for the project amongst local politicians, civil society organizations and local champions.
Lack of stakeholder commitment to the project objective.	This will be mitigated by awareness raising, using experiences of CREMA and other previous activities as practical examples of success.
Illegal activities in currently forested areas such as mining, poaching, logging and encroachment.	More effective law enforcement due to bilateral cooperation among governmental agencies and involvement of communities as a result of increased awareness creation and benefit sharing.
Agricultural expansion outside forest reserves and protected areas leading to carbon emissions and increased human-animal conflicts.	Promotion of agroforestry land-use practices in the degraded forest landscape that incorporate mitigation measures including a choice of crops less attractive to animals, such as elephants.
The main climate change risk is increased susceptibility to forest fires if temperatures increase.	This risk is probably quite low, but will be addressed by including measures to prevent fires in extension activities.

**G. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:**

The land use and population figures presented in Section F above are approximate estimates and the statements about what the project hopes to achieve are preliminary targets that will be clarified with site surveys and further analysis during project preparation. The total investment of approximately USD 2.250 million (GEF funding and cofinancing) will achieve joint and multiple benefits in terms of biodiversity conservation and reversal of forest and land degradation. However, based on the proposed activities, it seems likely that about three-quarters of this investment will be focused more towards biodiversity conservation and the remainder focused more towards reversing land degradation. Thus, the direct benefits of improving biodiversity conservation in the 50,000 ha of PAs and HCVP, would be achieved at an average cost of USD 37 per ha. In addition to this, the activities focused more towards halting land degradation will result in socio-economic benefits from sustainable land and forest management with a value of USD 17,500 per year, which represents a 3.1 percent return on the investment on those activities.

The above figures are indicative examples of how the cost-effectiveness of this project might be calculated in more detail during the project preparation phase. This would include collecting baseline data and defining the likely future trends (without the project) in the following areas: biodiversity conservation (as measured by tracking tool(s); land-use practices (e.g. basic forest and land-use statistics); and local socio-economic data. Extensive consultation with stakeholders would then be used to define priority needs and a desired end-state for the project, refine the proposed interventions (including costs) and set feasible and quantifiable targets that the project would aim to meet. This would be presented in the final project document as an option appraisal that would include a more robust cost-effectiveness analysis (or cost-benefit analysis) of the proposed project.

**H. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:**

Activities under this project will take place in forests and the forest-agriculture margins. The proposed GEF Agency for this project is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which has already been identified by GEF as the agency with comparative advantage in these areas.

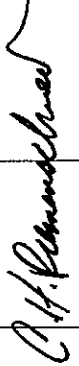
**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**

Mr Jonathan Allotey Executive Director Environmental Protection Agency P.O. Box M 326 Accra, GHANA	December 6, 2007
M. Alimata Koné-Bakayoko Responsable des Fonds de l'Environnement Banque Nationale d'Investissement (NEMEF) Ministère délégué auprès du Ministre chargé de l'Economie et des Finances Av. Marchand 01 BP 670 Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE	September 12, 2008 September 9, 2009

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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