**Request for CEO endorsement/Approval**

**Project Type:**

**the GEF Trust Fund**

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**Submission Date: February 11, 2011**

**Resubmission Date: May 3, 2011**

|  |
| --- |
| **Expected Calendar** (mm/dd/yy) |
| **Milestones** | **Dates** |
| Work Program (for FSPs only) | 11/05/2008 |
| Agency Approval date | 07/14/2011 |
| Implementation Start | 11/01/2011 |
| Mid-term Evaluation (if planned) | 12/15/2013 |
| Project Closing Date | 11/31/2016 |

**part i: project Information**

**GEFSEC Project ID:** 3779

**gef agency Project ID:** 113167

**Country(ies):** Regional: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo

**Project Title:** Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD Issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin

**GEF Agency(ies):**

**Other Executing partner(s):** COMIFAC, Ministers in charge of environment and forests in the six countries

**GEF Focal Area(s):**

**GEF-4 Strategic program(s)**: CC: SP-6: Management of LULUCF as a means to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions; SFM: Biodiversity/Climate Change/ Land Degradation SP "Management of LULUCF as a means to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG”

**Name of parent program/umbrella project:** Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the Congo Basin (CBSP)

1. **Project framework**

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Objective**: To strengthen the capacities of the Congo Basin countries on REDD+ issues and on forest carbon stocks measurements, in particular. |
| Project Components | Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA2 | **Expected Outcomes** | Expected Outputs  | GEF Financing1 | **Co-Financing1** | **Total ($)**c=a+ b |
| ($) a | % | ($) b | % |
| 1. Improving Knowledge and Coordination on REDD+ in the Congo Basin | TA’ | Congo Basin countries have reinforced their capacities on REDD; their contributions are better coordinated within the region and better reflected in international debates.Economies of scale are achieved through enhanced information exchange, sharing of country experiences, and support for regional coordination.Regional cohesion and harmonization on REDD+ policy and technical aspects is strengthened and feeds into national policy dialogues.Civil society, in particular indigenous and forest dependent people as well as other marginalized groups, are better represented in national and regional REDD dialogues and enabled to participate in the discussions on the social dimensions of a future REDD+ mechanism as well as national land tenure reform processes. National REDD Coordination are fully participating in regional REDD initiatives.REDD is mainstreamed in policy and regulatory frameworks at the national level (FCPF).Benefit sharing mechanisms allow for equitable redistribution of REDD benefits to local populations (FCPF). | A regional coordination process for REDD is established and the COMIFAC Secretariat is reinforced in its role. Biannual regional workshops at the policy and technical level ensure efficient sharing of experiences and the latest thinking on REDD. High-level policy discussions are organized to ensure that the policy dialogue integrates across different sectors. South-South Cooperation is promoted, particular with Latin American countries.Networks representing the interests of different civil society groups (i.e. indigenous people, women, youth, local parliamentarians, etc.) are strengthened in line with the ongoing CEFDHAC reform. Their capacity has been strengthened on prioritized topics, in particular on the social dimension of REDD. Incremental financing needs (financing gaps) of National REDD Coordination is (partially) met with national envelopes.National REDD Strategies are developed (FCPF).National-level Social and Environmental Assessments (SESAs) are carried out. Consultations on REDD are held in each of the six countries (FCPF).Community consultations on REDD are held at the local level (FCPF); | 4,705,000 | 30 | 10,800,000 | 70 | 15,505,000 |
| 2. Building Technical Capacities for Measurement and Monitoring of Carbon Stocks in the Congo Basin Forests | TA | Economies of scale are achieved between the multitude of initiatives addressing methodological and technical aspects of forest carbon measurement and monitoring in the Congo Basin. Uncertainties of carbon stock estimations for the Congo Basin forests have been significantly reduced with the establishment of allometric equations, complying with IPCC guidelines and standards. National institutions responsible for forest monitoring have the technical skills and capacity to measure and monitor forest carbon stocks. MRV systems have been established under a regional umbrella for the Congo Basin countries and forest GHG fluxes are monitored and reported on (AfDB/CBFF).Forest carbon stock baselines are established in all the Congo Basin countries (AfDB/CBFF). | A regional scientific partnership for forest carbon measurements and monitoring is in place and OFAC plays a coordination role.Allometric coefficients/equations are established for groups of trees in order to cover the major types of forests in the Congo Basin. Effort is being made to link satellite imagery records to data from field measurements to allow for future correlation of biomass and carbon stock estimates with potential future crown-based monitoring systems. National capacities to measure and monitor forest carbon stocks are strengthened through on-the-job-training/full involvement in carbon measurement exercise at the technical level. Technical capacities to monitor, verify and report on REDD have been strengthened (AfDB/CBFF). Forest inventories have been carried out and provide information on forest types, level of degradation/deforestation, and carbon stocks (AfDB/CBFF). | 4,050,000 | 10 | 35,000,000 | 90 | 39,050,000 |
| 3.Mainstreaming REDD Concept in SFM Projects | TA | A critical mass of experience and lessons learned has been generated from REDD+ pilot projects to inform and guide decision-makers in the development of REDD Strategies. The portfolio of REDD+ pilot projects in the Congo Basin has been analyzed and targeted capacity building has enhanced the marketability and social impact of selected REDD+ pilot projects. Technical guidelines provide a framework of recommendations that countries can adjust to their respective national context to advance readiness for REDD. Drivers of Deforestation have been analyzed and modeled against different global economic scenarios and policy scenarios (WB TF). | A network of REDD+ pilot developers is established to scale up knowledge exchange and learning with decision-makers. Portfolio analysis of REDD pilot projects has been carried out for the Congo Basin countries. Developers of REDD+ Pilot Projects in the Congo Basin are supported with training and technical guidance to advance and improve sub-national REDD+ Pilot Projects. Technical guidelines have been developed and issued drawing on findings from analytical work, covering amongst other: Social standards for REDD+, consultation approaches for REDD+, and methodologies for participatory mapping of customary land rights and other land tenure forms. Results from the modeling of policy & economic scenarios quantifies impact on forest ecosystems at the macro-level (WB TF). | 2,970,000 | 21 | 11,500,000 | 79 | 14,470,000 |
| 8. Project management | 1,275,000 | 30 | 3,000,000 | 70 | 4,275,000 |
| **Total Project Costs** | 13,000,000 |  | 60,300,000 |  | 73,300,000 |

 **1** List the $ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

 **2** TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

**B. Sources of confirmed** [**Co-financing**](http://gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C.20.6.Rev.1.pdf) **for the project** (expand the table line items as necessary)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name of Co-financier (source)*** | ***Classification*** | ***Type*** | ***Project***  | ***%***\* |
| Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) |  |  | 21,600,000 | 36 |
| AfDB managed Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) |  |  | 35,000,000 | 58 |
| World Bank Trust Fund |  |  | 700,000 | 1 |
| COMIFAC |  | In-kind | 3,000,000 | 5 |
| **Total Co-financing** | 60,300,000 | 100% |

 \* Percentage of each co-financier’s contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

**C.**  F**inancing Plan Summary For The Project ($)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Project Preparation a*** | ***Project*** ***b*** | ***Total******c = a + b*** | ***Agency Fee*** | ***For comparison:******GEF and Co-financing at PIF*** |
| GEF financing | 399,000 | 13,000,000 | 13,399,000 | 1,339,900 | 13,000,000 |
| Co-financing  | 1,079,000 | 60,300,000 | 61,379,000 |  | 13,180,000 |
| **Total** | 1,478,000 | 73,300,000 | 74,778,000 | 1,339,900 | 26,180,000 |

**D.**  **GEF Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Focal Area(s) and Country(ies)1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  ***GEF Agency*** | ***Focal Area*** | ***Country Name/******Global*** | ***(in $)*** |
|  |  |  |  ***Project (a)*** | ***Agency Fee ( b)*2** | ***Total c=a+b*** |
|  |  | Cameroon | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  |  | Central African Republic | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  |  | Dem. Rep. Congo | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  |  | Equatorial Guinea | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  |  | Gabon | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  |  | Rep. Congo | 1,800,000 | 180,000 | 1,980,000 |
|  | Tropical Forest Account | Tropical Forest Account | 2,200,000 | 259,900 | 2,459,900 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | 13,000,000 | 1,339,900 | 14,339,900 |

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

 **2** 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.

**E. Consultants working for technical assistance components**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Component*** | ***Estimated person weeks*** | ***GEF amount($)*** | ***Co-financing ($)*** | ***Project total ($)*** |
| Local consultants\* | 460 | 529,915 | 5,087,989 | 5,617,904 |
| International consultants\* | 1128 | 2,340,144 | 7,631,983 | 9,972,127 |
| **Total** | 1588 | 2,870,059 | 12,719,972 | 15,590,031 |

**\* Details to be provided in Annex C.**

**f. Project management Budget/cost**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Cost Items* | *Total Estimated person weeks/months* | *GEF amount****($)*** | *Co-financing ($)* | *Project total ($)* |
| Local consultants\* | 705 | 514,885 | 1,000,000 | 1,514,885 |
| International consultants\* | 235 | 500,080 | 0 | 500,080 |
| Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications\* |  | 175,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,775,000 |
| Travel\* |  | 85,035 | 400,000 | 485,035 |
| Others\*\*  |  |  |       |  |
| **Total** |  | 1,275,000 | 3,000,000 | 4,275,000 |

 \* Details to be provided in Annex C. \*\* For others, it has to clearly specify what type of expenses here in a footnote.

**G.** **Does the project include a “non-grant” instrument?** yes [ ]  no [x]
 (If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected
 reflows to your agency and to the GEF Trust Fund).

**H. describe the budgeted m &E PLAN:**

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress as agreed in semi-annual work plans and related budget plans, (b) proactively identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c) assess and report on achievement of planned outputs, outcomes and impact as per Results Matrix.

The M&E system will be based on the Results Matrix (see Annex A). The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for data collection and upstream reporting of monitoring information and overall progress towards achieving results to the Steering Committee and the World Bank on a semi-annual basis.

Cost for collection of monitoring information is embedded in the activities. Additional funds related to compiling, analyzing, and reporting M&E have been estimated at $50,000 and earmarked as part of the Project’s Operational Cost. Given the emphasis of the project on processes, such as regional coordination, facilitation, and capacity building rather than physical investments, results monitoring will rely on indicators that capture achievement of milestones (i.e. PDO level indicator 2).

An independent project progress review will be conducted at mid-term and a project impacts assessment at the end of the project.

part ii: project justification: In addition to the following questions, please ensure that the project design incorporates key GEF operational principles, including sustainability of global environmental benefits, institutional continuity and replicability, keeping in mind that these principles will be monitored rigorously in the annual Project Implementation Review and other Review stages.

1. **State the issue, how the project seeks to address it, and the expected global environmental benefits to be delivered:**

***Context*:**

The Congo Basin forest ecosystem is the world’s second largest contiguous block of tropical forest on the planet, harboring extraordinary biodiversity and a high level of endemism. It forms an integrated ecological unit encompassing the territories of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. It is home to more than 24 million people, most of whom rely on forest for their livelihoods. The Congo Basin forest also performs valuable ecological services, such as flood control, climate regulation at the local and regional levels, and a buffer against global climate change with a huge amount of carbon stored in its abundant vegetation. In all of the six countries, logging concessions (59m ha) form the main land use category in the Congo Basin countries and forestry is a major economic sector, providing jobs and local livelihoods from timber and non-timber products, and contributing significantly to export revenues and fiscal revenues (OFAC-CIFOR, 2010).

The Congo Basin forests represent a considerable carbon stock - just the above-ground vegetation is estimated to store 24-39Gt of carbon - which provides an important buffer against global climate change. Aside from conserving carbon, avoiding deforestation and degradation could further generate many other important benefits, such as water services, flood control, biodiversity conservation, and local climate regulation.

While historical deforestation rates in the Congo Basin have been low compared to other large forest blocks (Amazonia, South-East Asia), pressures on forest are expected to increase. Driven by pressure from a variety of forces, including road development, agricultural expansion (both for subsistence purposes and for cash crops), oil and mineral extraction, deforestation and degradation are anticipated to increase. These drivers are likely to accelerate due to rapid population growth as well increasing global market forces. Annual deforestation amounted to 0.17% and annual degradation to 0.15% in Central Africa for the period of 1990-2000, but these rates are expected to amplify drastically in the coming decades.

In order to sustainably manage their forest ecosystems and associated natural resources and global goods, countries will need to better understand the current dynamics and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. They will need to make strategic choices related the land use and land use changes that is currently mainly driven by global market forces and economic benefits of production. REDD provides an incentive mechanism to compensate countries for reduced deforestation and forest degradation, thus adding value to forest resources and reducing the GHG emission contributing to global climate change.

The Congo Basin countries are already committed to regional coordination efforts on forestry issues in the sub-region. Furthermore, they have demonstrated high interest in REDD as a mechanism to support sustainable forest management. However, the Congo Basin countries still have to overcome significant challenges to be ready for a future REDD mechanism. A number of constraints in terms of institutional capacity, technical prerequisites, as well as social and environmental considerations need to be addressed before countries can be ready for REDD. Further, given the fast-moving international policy context, countries also need to adjust and adapt continuously as the REDD concept takes shape.

***Issues that the Project seeks to address:***

1. *Limited input from Congo Basin countries in UNFCCC negotiations:* Without GEF support, regional coordination and knowledge exchange on REDD+ issues amongst the Congo Basin countries would remain weak and sporadic. Previously, the Climate Change Working Group that brings together the Climate Change Focal Points of six countries was supported by France and the Working Group actively participated in the Bali UNFCCC negotiations demonstrating strong common positioning of the Congo Basin countries. At present, the Climate Change Working Group lacks facilitation and operational support and as a result, meetings and dialogue among the group is currently limited to ad-hoc opportunities at other regional events and international gatherings. Further, capacity building needs and knowledge input to the SFM and REDD policy dialogue is insufficient. The group has identified and prioritized various areas, where additional technical assistance is needed, but no other donor has thus far come forward to support the group.
2. *Weak donor coordination and fragmented knowledge exchange and information sharing:* Overall, a large and continuously increasing amount of financial resources is dedicated to various local, national, and international REDD initiatives in the region. For example, significant funds are being made available by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) to establish national MRV systems under a regional approach with implementation support by the FAO. The FCPF is investing in REDD readiness activities in all of the six countries. The Forest Investment Fund (FIP) will further provide significant up-front financing for readiness reforms and other large-scale investments in DRC. DRC’s national REDD Readiness process is further supported by UNREDD. Various research initiatives (CIFOR, CIRAD, ICRAF-ASB, etc.) are investing in scientific and analytical work on drivers of deforestation and sustainable forest management approaches. The African Development Bank is further financing a large program on ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. Despite these significant investments, knowledge sharing and coordination among these initiatives remains inadequate. During GEF Project preparation, feedback from various stakeholders suggested that coordination efforts among currently ongoing activities is in fact so weak, that project preparation workshops for the GEF Project were perceived as milestones for regional coordination and exchange. Without GEF financing, significant shortfalls will remain related to regional coordination and many ongoing and planned initiatives in the forest sector and on REDD will remain fragmented with lost opportunities for achieving economies of scale and building regional cohesion on the REDD agenda.
3. *Limited focus on the cross-sectoral nature of the REDD concept and weak linkage with the broader Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) agenda:* Under the baseline scenario, many initiatives remain strictly focused on either biodiversity/forest conservation or carbon-related issues, but are lacking broader cross-sectoral scope and proper fit within the broader Sustainable Forest Management framework. Moreover, as it has been the case for the CDM instrument, where unfavorable rules for Africa were adopted by the UNFCCC, the rules on REDD are elaborated with little consideration to Congo Basin specificities.
4. *Weak technical capacities on forest carbon stock measurements and fragmented efforts in individual countries:* Without GEF support, constraints for regional coordination and knowledge exchange at the technical level would continue to persist. At present, no formalized regional technical groups of experts on REDD or SFM exist and learning and knowledge exchange between national experts remains opportunistic. Further, important shortfalls remain related to priority research activities and field data collection to establish more accurate and regionally comparable carbon stock data for the Congo Basin forests. Under the baseline scenario, scientist would continue having to rely on allometric equations established for Latin American and South-East Asian forests.
5. *Limited focus on the social dimension of REDD:* Under the baseline scenario, immense needs would remain related to participation and representation of local stakeholder groups, in particular indigenous and forest-dependent people in regional SFM and REDD debates. Bilateral support from Germany and other development partners is currently provided to the regional Network of Indigenous People (REPALEC) and the regional Network of Parliamentarians for Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems (REPAR). However, huge constraints remain related to actual representativeness of these two regional networks as their bases, i.e. their respective national networks remain weak and the dialogue and feedback with local communities in each of the countries is almost absent. There are further very limited investments in analytical work to better understand the social dimensions of REDD. At present, REDD+ pilot projects are rarely taking stock of the social and environmental co-benefits they may or potentially could achieve.

***How the project seeks to address the above issues:***

*Project design:* The Project for "Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD Issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin", or short "Regional REDD Project" was designed against the above background. The Project will build on the existing framework for regional coordination in the Congo Basin and was designed to add value through activities that can realize economies of scale, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support the regional harmonization agenda on sustainable forest management.

The project has three technical components as well as provisions for project management (a detailed description of the project design is provided in Annex 2 of the Project Document).

***Component 1: Improving Knowledge and Coordination on REDD + in the Congo Basin****:* While the six Congo Basin countries are advancing on their REDD Readiness process at the national level, many capacity building and training needs are common across the different countries, and significant economies of scale and value-added can be achieved through enhanced information exchange and sharing of country experiences. Knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy dialogue as supported under this Component will build on the findings of analytical work carried out under Component 3 of this Project. The two components are closely linked, in that technical guidelines and recommendations from analytical works will provide substance for policy and technical dialogue on REDD+ as well as feed into regional harmonization efforts under CEEAC. More specifically, the Component will:

1. *Strengthen regional dialogue and coordination functions for REDD+ across the Congo Basin countries* with a specific focus on learning and exchange at the political and technical levels, as well as between policy makers and technical experts. At the policy level, the Climate Change Working Group (GTC) will receive facilitation and capacity building support with the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat in the coordinating role. Higher-level cross-sectoral policy dialogue will be advanced through the engagement with CEEAC (*Communauté Economique des Etats d’Afrique Centrale*). At the technical level, the COMIFAC, through its technical subsidiary body the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC), will coordinate knowledge exchange and scientific partnerships. Technical guidelines developed under Component 3 will guide the regional dialogue on common topics and will provide a framework of recommendations that could then be adjusted to country-specific context. Further, South-South cooperation will be supported between the Congo Basin countries and other mayor tropical forest regions (Amazonia and Southeast Asia).
2. *Promote inclusive participation and representation of stakeholder groups in policy and strategy discussions* at the regional level, focusing on support to the regional civil society networks organized under CEFDHAC[[1]](#footnote-1). Project support will focus on addressing current constraints related to the representativeness of regional networks due to insufficient exchange between network representatives and their local constituencies. As such, the Project will finance consultations, awareness raising and capacity building to ensure that national networks under CEFDHAC are better connected with their basis. Priority topics identified by the CEFDHAC networks in the context of REDD+ include issues related to land tenure and customary rights, social standards of REDD, and benefits sharing mechanisms for forest carbon revenues.
3. *Respond to incremental capacity building needs of national REDD coordination to maintain regional cohesion.* Whilesomeneeds are common to all six countries and can be covered at the regional level, there are others that are country-specific Accordingly, moderate envelopes will be allocated to each of the national REDD coordination teams to ensure that they receive the needed technical support to fully engage and contribute to regional processes. This incremental support to national REDD coordination teams is important to maintain and strengthen regional cohesion. However, and in line with the subsidiarity principle, particular attention will be given to ensure that the Project will do not duplicate support provided from FCPF, UNREDD, and other donors.

***Component 2: Building Technical Capacities for measurement and monitoring of carbon stocks in the Congo Basin forests:***This component will build technical capacities to help countries in the longer process of establishing systems to measure and monitor forest carbon stocks in line with the transparency, comparability, completeness, and accuracy principles expected by the IPCC. More specifically, this component will address the current constraint of the huge uncertainties of current carbon stock estimates in the Congo Basin with the creation of a detailed and accurate database on tree measurements representative for the different forest types of the Congo Basin. The data base will serve the elaboration of allometric equations for estimation of above- and belowground biomass and carbon stock and will significantly reduce the error for carbon stock estimates for the Congo Basin forest. This will be an important building block for the overall MRV systems that will be established in parallel for the Congo Basin countries under a regional approach financed by the AfDB-managed CBFF. For this purpose, this component will:

1. *Set up a scientific partnership for forest carbon measurement and monitoring,* to support coordination of the numerous related activities in the Congo Basin and thus maximize impact for the countries. Regional scientific knowledge exchange through a network of international and national research institutions will also support the creation of pool of national experts on carbon measurements.
2. *Elaborate* *allometric equations for the groups of tree species representative of major forest types within the Congo Basin,* to address the current challenge of reliable and accurate data availability for forest carbon stock estimates in the Congo Basin and to lay the foundations for a MRV system necessary for a future result-based financial incentive system for REDD+. Activities supported by the Project will include (a) definition of a methodology in compliance with IPCC guidelines, including a sampling strategy to guide fieldwork to be carried out in the six countries, (b) data collection in the six countries, based on a sampling strategy as spelt out in the agreed-upon methodology proposed by a competitively selected firm/research institute or consortium, and (c) data compilation in publically accessible database, data analysis for the elaboration of allometric equations for carbon stock measurements. These activities will all be carried out in close collaboration with national research institutions and forest management agencies and will include an important component of capacity building and knowledge transfer. All efforts will be made to ensure that the data collected and analyzed will be relevant and applicable to future national MRV systems that will be developed in parallel with support of other partners (i.e. CBFF, FCPF, UNREDD, etc.).

***Component 3: Mainstreaming REDD + concept in SFM projects:*** This component will serve private REDD practitioners at the local level on one hand and national policy-makers on the other hand. Building on a preliminary inventory of REDD+ pilot projects in Central Africa[[2]](#footnote-2), the Project will support private developers of REDD+ pilot projects with targeted capacity building and information exchange. Concurrently, the Project will compile experiences from pilot projects on the ground, facilitate a dialogue between practitioners in the field and policy makers and stimulate a learning process. . This Component will:

1. *Set up an Incubator to promote REDD+ pilot projects in the Congo Basin*. The Incubator will essentially be a helpdesk that provides technical and practical guidance to REDD+ project developers on demand. A special emphasis of capacity building activities to REDD+ practitioners will be on social and environmental standards and their application in pilot projects. Building on the inventory of sub-national REDD+ pilot initiatives set up during the preparation phase, the Incubator will also strengthen a network of practitioners to support horizontal knowledge exchange and learning. The Incubator will further facilitate two-way communication between policy-makers and private REDD practitioners. Governments are looking towards learning from experiences made under local REDD+ pilot projects to inform their national- REDD strategies, yet they are often unaware of the initiatives ongoing in their countries. The Incubator will help to bridge this gap by serving to connect practitioners on the ground and decision-makers at the national level. A key output that is expected from this process, is the development and presentation of country-level portfolios identifying existing, planned and potentially viable (but not yet existing) REDD pilot projects.
2. *Define methodologies to promote REDD+ in the Congo Basin.* The Project will supporttargeted analytical works to further investigate critical issues related to REDD, with a specific attention to social and environmental dimensions of REDD. Priority analytical works for the first year of implementation have been identified, one of them being the Regional Environmental and Social Assessment of REDD (RESA) that will be launched upon effectiveness. The RESA will provide a broad regional assessment of the existing environmental and social challenges related to REDD implementation in the Congo Basin (including issues related to benefit-sharing mechanisms, land tenure and carbon right aspects). The RESA will serve two main purposes: Primarily, it will serve as a safeguards risk mitigation instrument for the potential down-stream impacts of activities that will be implemented under the Regional REDD Project. Secondly, it will serve to identify specific needs for technical guidelines that would guide countries with the safeguards process for REDD readiness at the national level. Such technical guidance will support countries with the preparation of their national-level SESAs. Further details are provided in Annex 3 iii) on *Environmental and Social (including safeguards)*. Given the highly dynamic REDD+ policy context, further analytical works for implementation during project years 3-5 will be identified based on the recommendations of the RESA and as part of work plan development. Based on the findings of analytical works, technical guidelines will be established that provide guidance to project developers (as per Component 3 i).

***Component 4: Project Management.*** This component will support costs of project management that are incremental to the operational cost of COMIFAC’s Executive Secretariat. GEF financing will mainly finance salaries of the staff of the Project Management Unit (PMU), attached to COMIFAC Executive Secretariat with offices based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The PMU will be composed of a Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager/M&E Specialist, a Financial Management Specialist, an Accountant and a Procurement Specialist, needed to ensure fiduciary standards and accountability. GEF will further contribute to cost related to other support staff, facilities, operating cost and travel. COMIFAC will contribute to all of the latter costs.

***Incremental Added Value by GEF funding:***

* Strengthened institutions at regional and national levels through targeted capacity building for REDD readiness thus setting the stage for a future financial incentive mechanism to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote SFM.
* Enhanced enabling environment for sustainable forest management through policy dialogue within the forest sector and across other relevant sectors (i.e. agriculture, mining, infrastructure, etc.)
* Increased partnerships and coordination for SFM at all levels, but particularly at the regional level, thus providing opportunities for strategic impact, multiplier effects, and harmonization of country positions.
* Regionally relevant guidance on the social dimension of REDD particularly as it relates to forest-dependent and indigenous peoples (i.e. fair and equitable benefit distribution, land tenure aspects, etc.)
* Increased South-South Cooperation on REDD issues between the countries of the three major global forest ecosystems (i.e. Amazonia, East Asia, and Congo Basin).
* Contribution to the establishment of a scientifically credible, consistent and accurate methodology for measuring and monitoring carbon stocks through the elaboration of allometric equations specific to the tropical forest of the Congo Basin. Further strengthened technical capacities for measuring and monitoring forest carbon stocks.
* Development of a regional approach to establish Monitoring Reporting and Verification systems for forest carbon stocks and fluxes across the Congo Basin, reflecting the transboundary nature of Congo Basin forest ecosystem (dependent on financing from the Congo Basin Forest Fund).
* A strengthened network of practitioners developing and implementing REDD pilot project on the ground, thus accelerating learning, knowledge exchange, scaling up of successful SFM approaches.
* Improved feedback mechanisms between local initiatives and national REDD Strategy development efforts, thus ensuring policy makers take into considerations valuable feedback and knowledge from practitioners on the ground.

***Global environmental benefits that will be generated by the project:***

A key benefit resulting from this Project will be the enhanced accuracy of carbon measurements for the 162 million ha of Congo Basin forests based on the development and use of allometric equations that are customized to the tree-species representative of the Congo Basin forests. At present, carbon stored in above-ground vegetation of the Congo Basin forests are estimated at 24-39 Gt. However, the current use of default allometric equations (i.e. equations calibrated to forests in Amazonia and South-East Asia) results in up to 40% variation of carbon estimates.

Since it would be difficult to measure increased accuracy without having a definite baseline of the lack accuracy at Project start, the Project will instead track key milestones that need to be achieved in order to define allometric equations. By the end of the Project, we will be able to provide a more rigorous, scientifically justified result on the level of accuracy of the carbon estimated for the Congo Basin. The allometric equations will then be used to measure more accurately the carbon stocks in the Congo Basin.

For the purpose of the GEF’s SFM tracking tool, the table below provides an overview of the different types of forest (in ha) in each of the 6 Congo Basin countries (Source: State of the Forest, 2008). Increased accuracy of carbon measurements is expected for all 162 million ha dense forest.



A second key benefit resulting from this Project will be the technical guidance developed and disseminated on best social and environmental practices for REDD projects. Guidelines will target both, sub-national as well as national REDD approaches. e.g. consultations guidelines will be applicable to both, while guidance on the establishment of benefit sharing mechanisms from potential future forest carbon revenue will focus primarily on national-level REDD approaches. We will be able to provide the area (in ha) for those sub-national REDD pilot projects that have applied technical guidelines as part of mid-term and completion reporting. However, technical guidelines will also be designed to guide national-level REDD approaches at the policy level. Consequently, no ha of application on the ground will be possible to measure by the end of the Project, since national application would be expected beyond the Project timeframe and would not be 100% attributable to this GEF project only. Nonetheless, the capacity building effort supported by the Project is a critical step towards achieving a shared, long-term vision for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin and will support countries to make informed policy choices on land use and finding ways to reconcile long-perceived conflicting uses of lands.

Overall, the Project will result in an enhanced enabling environment and incentive framework for REDD+ with increased institutional capacity of Congo Basin countries as well as availability of technical guidance on REDD. Consequently, global environmental benefits are expected to materialize beyond the timeframe of the project as countries take action to curb deforestation and forest degradation within the future REDD+ mechansim. Reduced deforestation and forest degradation will result in the conservation of global environmental goods, such as conservation of biodiversity found only in the tropical forests habitats of the Congo Basin, protection of vital water service functions provided by healthy forest ecosystems, soil stabilization, as well as climate regulation at local, regional as well as global levels.

However, the materialization of global environmental benefits, such as biodiversity conservation, water services and climate regulation is a second-generation result of this Project and not expected to be measurable during the lifetime of the Project. As such, the measurement of global environmental benefits will focus on the enabling environment that will be put in place by this Project, which by nature of its design and approach is a capacity building effort.

1. Describe the consistency of the project with national and/or regional priorities/plans:

The six Congo Basin countries are committed to regional coordination efforts on forestry issues in sub-region, which is spearheaded by the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). COMIFAC was established in 2005 as the regional political and technical authority in charge of guiding, monitoring and coordinating conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. A 10 pillar *Plan de Convergence* (Convergence Plan) was adopted by the Central African Heads of State during the Brazzaville Summit in February 2005and provides a joint vision and implementation plan for sustainable forest management in the region.

The proposed project builds on the 10 pillars of the Plan de Convergence with a particular emphasis on the following axes: 2. Resource knowledge, 7. Capacity Building, Participation and Information, 8. Research Development.

All six Congo Basin countries have further clearly indicated their interest to develop national REDD mechanisms. All of them are participating in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, with some countries (e.g. DRC) having made remarkable progress in terms of leading the readiness process for REDD on the African continent. All six countries have demonstrated strong interest in regional cohesion and have recognized the importance of joint coordination on REDD issues to maximize impact and synergetic effects as well as increasing the leverage they can jointly have in international UNFCCC negotiations.

Yet, countries also fully understand that the REDD mechanism does not represent a complete response to the problem of forest degradation and deforestation. They are aware of the importance to engage in cross-sectoral land use planning and a landscape-based approach to natural resource management to be able to conserve and sustainable manage the Congo Basin forest ecosystem. In this context, the Project will also be aligned with the priorities of national action plans related to biodiversity conservation and land degradation. The National Environment Action Plans (NEAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies (NBS) for Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, and CAR especially highlight the necessity to integrate sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation under a comprehensive regional approach and thus fully support the joint efforts of the Congo Basin countries.

1. **Describe the consistency of the project with** [**gef strategies**](http://gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Projects/Templates_and_Guidelines/C31-10%20Revised%20Focal%20Area%20Strategies-07-23-07_Final.pdf) **and strategic programs:**

The proposed Project fits within the Sustainable Forest Management Framework Strategy, developed for the GEF to run through the course of GEF-4 and aimed to achieve objectives related to biodiversity, climate and land degradation in regions where investments would have the greatest impact.

The Project specifically meets the Strategic Objectives (SO) on Conservation and Sustainable use of forest biodiversity of the SFM Framework Strategy for GEF-4. Under SO-1, it supports the new cross-cutting Strategic Program on Biodiversity/Climate Change/Land Degradation: Management of LULUCF as a means to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions. The Project is further aligned with the new GEF-5 Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management/REDD+ presented in October 2010. The Project is also consistent with the Strategic Objective 6 of the Climate Change Strategy for GEF-4, more specifically: Management of LULUCF to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions. It is also consistent with a comparable CC objective for GEF-5: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry.

The Project aims to address key barriers to sustainable management of forest ecosystems, specifically as they relate to the enabling environment, i.e. policy context, institutional and technical capacities, and good practice development. As such, the project aims to support the Congo Basin countries in the development of a shared, long-term vision for sustainable forest management that will help to sustain the multiple ecosystem services (biodiversity, climate change mitigation, adaptation, water services) as well as socio-economic benefits (livelihoods and production) that forest provide. The Project supports knowledge creation, information sharing, and capacity building at the regional level that can help feed into National REDD+ Strategy development processes.

As per project design, the Project has adopted a landscape approach which embraces ecosystem principles and recognizes the connectivity between the ecosystems across national boundaries. The Project will build technical capacities to measure and monitor carbon stocks in the Congo Basin forests following a regional ecosystem wide approach and methodology.

The project further seeks to address a major shortcoming in the area of forest carbon management in the Congo Basin by contributing to scientifically accurate measurement of forest carbon stocks in the Congo Basin with the elaboration of allometric equations. Currently, Congo Basin countries have to apply allometric equations calibrated to the tropical forests of Asia or South America, thus leading to variances of carbon emission of up to 40%. By elaboration allometric equations using a regional approach, significant cost-efficiencies can be achieved, and the accuracy of the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification systems that are being established for the Congo Basin with the support of the Congo Basin Forest Fund will be significantly increased.

By means of enhancing capacities for addressing REDD+ issues in the Congo Basin, this project will strengthen the whole SFM agenda and over the longer term contribute to creation of other environmental and social benefits. With the REDD mechanism properly articulated within the wider SFM framework, sustainable financing flows can be generated that will help to remove threats to high conservation value forest, and promote sustainable use of forest resources, thus protecting biodiversity and reducing land degradation.

With a strong emphasis on an inclusive REDD+ policy dialogue as well as a focus on the social dimension of REDD+, the Project further recognizes the importance of forest-dependent people’s livelihood objectives in the management of forest ecosystems. The Project specifically aims to promote inclusive participation of key stakeholder groups in REDD+ debates and to provide knowledge and guidance on how to better achieve social co-benefits in REDD+ approaches.

The project falls under the umbrella of the GEF Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the Congo Basin (CBSP). The CBSP presents a programmatic approach aiming to deliver multiple global environmental benefits across the Congo Basin forest ecosystem and adding value and multiplier effects to a proposed portfolio of 13 projects implemented with the support of various GEF implementing agencies (World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, and FAO).

1. **justify the type of financing support provided with the gef resources.**

The GEF funding through both technical assistance and investments will support activities that will help Congo Basin countries to address existing challenges and constraints in their readiness for a future REDD+ mechanism, i.e. the compensation for achievements made in slowing deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD mechanism, if adequately articulated in a broader sustainable forest management regime, will provide incentives for countries to make strategic choices in competing land use options, and thus provide opportunities for multiple global environmental benefits, including climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and reduced land degradation.

1. **Outline the Coordination with other related initiatives:**

By design, the Project will support regional coordination with a wide range of partners and initiatives working on SFM and REDD+ in the Congo Basin. A detailed overview on linkages and synergies with ongoing and planned activities in the Congo Basin is provided in Annex F to this memo.

Close collaboration arrangements have been established particularly with the following partners:

*Forest Carbon Partnership Fund: National REDD+ Readiness:*

All six Congo Basin countries participate in the FCPF and are supported with the development of their National REDD Strategies and their broader “readiness for REDD”, including the establishment of a REDD+ implementation framework, elaboration of reference scenarios, development of MRV systems. This Project is directly linked to FCPF activities, as it provides the regional umbrella and coordination for REDD readiness complementary to the national-level efforts supported by the FCPF. In addition to the regional coordination aspects on REDD readiness, the GEF-financing for this Project will also provide incremental capacity building support to national REDD coordination teams to help maintain regional cohesion. As per the subsidiarity principle of the Project, GEF financing will not duplicate or substitute national level activities that have already been earmarked for FCPF financing.

*German Technical Cooperation and French Development Cooperation: Support to the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC):*

Both bilateral agencies are supporting the COMIFAC and its Executive Secretariat with the coordination of activities to implement the Convergence Plan. More specifically, France is focusing on Technical Assistance related to institutional and organizational strengthening of COMIFAC, as well as the improvement of forest governance in the COMIFAC member countries (FLEGT). Amongst other, Germany is focusing on long-term financial sustainability of COMIFAC and furthering an inclusive dialogue that involves all stakeholders in the regional dialogue. The support provided by Germany and France will directly complement GEF-financed activities related to strengthening regional coordination on REDD, specifically through the Regional Climate Change Working Group, as well as activities related to supporting national representative networks of indigenous people (REPALEAC), of women (REFAAD), of youth (REJEFAC), local parliamentarians (REPA), and of forest training institutes (RIFFEAC) under the CEFDAHC umbrella.

*African Development Bank managed Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF): National MRV Systems with a Regional Approach for the Congo Basin Countries:*

The African Development Bank managed Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) will support the development of MRV systems for all ten COMIFAC countries and thus for the six countries participating in the GEF Regional REDD Project. Clear synergies exist for the activities planned under Component 2b) of this GEF Project as allometric equations will serve as an important element to establish accurate carbon stock baselines and later carbon fluxes. Capacity building activities for the benefit of national institutions responsible for forest monitoring financed under the GEF Project will be closely coordinated with the CBFF’s program for MRV under a regional approach. Cost savings are further anticipated through possible sharing of operational, travel and equipment cost for field activities. Similar cost sharing arrangements were already achieved during the preparation phase for regional workshops for project design of both Projects.

*Congo Basin Forest Fund: REDD+ Pilot Projects;*

The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), which has received major funding from the governments of the United Kingdom and Norway, is administered by the African Development Bank. The CBFF aims to reduce poverty and fight climate change through reduction, mitigation and possibly reversing the rate of deforestation in the Congo Basin. It supports early action in the region, such as pilot payments for ecosystem services, community forest initiatives, and other innovative pilot projects. Synergies exist between CBFF-financed pilot projects at the local and sub-national level, and GEF-financed activities to support knowledge sharing and learning amongst REDD pilot project practitioners as well as GEF-support to feed experiences from the field into national REDD Strategy development.

1. **Discuss the value-added of GEF involvement in the project demonstrated through** [**incremental reasoning**](http://gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Documents/Council_Documents__%28PDF_DOC%29/GEF_31/C.31.12%20Operational%20Guidelines%20for%20Incremental%20Costs.pdf):

Please refer to Annex 7 of the Project Document for a detailed Incremental Cost Analysis.

1. **Indicate risks, including climate change risks, that might prevent the project objective(s) from being achieved and outline risk management measures:**

At the international level, the Project will be operating in a high risk environment as regards the establishment of the future REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC and in terms of the foreseeable economic and demographic driving forces that are likely to increase pressure on Congo Basin forests. While potential benefits from future REDD markets and funds may be considerable for the Congo Basin countries, today’s investments in institutional and technical readiness remain of “high risk/high reward” nature. However, actual project-level risks, i.e. those risks that could jeopardize project implementation or affect achievement of the project objective, are considered at medium level.

The three key risks that have been considered during preparation and design, and that will be monitored closely during implementation, are:

1. the risk that Congo Basin countries could withdraw their commitment for engaging in a joint regional approach for capacity building and realization of economies of scale due to disagreement and/or power struggles among the countries or between regional institutions and countries;
2. the risk that COMIFAC, by definition a sectoral sub-regional organization, may not have sufficient convening power to lead the cross-sectoral dialogue necessary for mainstreaming REDD and for addressing driving forces beyond the forestry sector.
3. the risk posed by the low implementation capacity of COMIFAC and national entities *vis-à-vis* the highly technical and academically complex nature of this regional Project; and
4. the risk that the proposed approach for Safeguards, i.e. conducting a Regional Environmental and Social Assessment (RESA) at the inception of the project implementation, does not allow to entirely capture and properly address the indirect potential environmental and social risks of the Regional REDD Project.

To mitigate the first risk related to country commitment to a regional process, the national Climate Change Focal Points have been assigned a significant role in the decision-making process of the Project by means of their deliberate representation on the Project Steering Committee. This will ensure that countries will jointly be in the driving seat on all critical project decisions. Through the Project’s support to the Climate Change Working Group, the Project is further establishing a framework for permanent dialogue and consultations between key Project stakeholders. In addition, during the preparation phase, it also became evident that a share of financial resources of the Project needed to be earmarked to respond to country-specific needs in order to maintain regional cohesion.

To formalize country commitment to the objectives of the Project and ensure regional collaboration on REDD+ for purposes of the Project, each country will further enter into a legally binding Implementation Agreement with the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat. The Implementation Agreements will regulate the participation of countries in Project implementation and their collaboration with COMIFAC to achieve the objectives of the Project and ensure a timely implementation of the activities. They will further ensure that countries will collaborate on the development of the Regional Environmental and Social Assessment (RESA) and that the countries will apply the provisions of the RESA for the purposes of the project implementation.

To mitigate the second risk, CEEAC has been assigned chairmanship of the Project Steering Committee. CEEAC will further facilitate high-level, cross-sectoral dialogue and provide general guidance on regional policy matters. CEEAC is better positioned to facilitate such cross-sectoral dialogue with the relevant line Ministries, including Ministries of Finance.

To mitigate the third risk, considerable Project funds will be invested in technical assistance to advice on technical aspects, strengthen capacities at national and regional level and support knowledge transfer within the region. In addition, some sub-components (1.b on “*Inclusive Approach on REDD*”, 2.b on “*Establishment of allometric equations*”, and 3.a on “*Promotion of REDD+ Pilot projects*”) will be implemented through large contracts with specialized firms or consortia of firms, research institutions, and NGOs. Capacity building will be an integral part of these contracts.

To mitigate the fourth risk related to perceived inadequate social safeguard considerations of this regional Project, the Regional Environmental and Social Assessment (RESA) will serve to prevent and mitigate potential downstream social impacts that may result from policy changes that may have been influenced indirectly by the Project. Further, substantial emphasis had been placed on explicitly addressing social aspects as part of Project design and planned Project activities. As such, substantial investment will be made available for strengthening local stakeholder participation (sub Component 1.b.) as well as supporting analytical work addressing critical challenges for a fair and equitable future REDD+ mechanism (sub-Component 3.b).

In terms of climate change risks, the project is designed to address these risks through the project design. The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable forest management through the REDD incentive mechanism. Sustainable forest management will help to maintain ecosystem resilience to climate variability and further counteract global climate change through reduced GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

1. **explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design**:

Cost effectiveness is one of the key underlying principles that guided project design. By applying a regional approach, particular with view to technical aspects, knowledge generation, and regional information sharing, this project will be able to achieve significant economies of scale. Cost effectiveness is particularly significant for Component 2, i.e. the joint definition of allometric equations specific to the Cong Basin that will help to define carbon stocks. Countries are joining forces to invest in a single methodology to be applied across all the Congo Basin countries, rather than trying to individually invest in multiple national-level methodologies. A regionally applied methodology will allow for a reduced number of field samplings as well as for joint training sessions. This regional approach is anticipated to cut cost by approximately one third in comparison to a country-by-country approach. A regional approach further allows better comparison of results across the different Congo Basin countries. Similar cost efficiencies will be achieved with analytical work of regional importance, i.e. on social and pro-poor aspects of REDD that are relevant and applicable to all six countries. Improved information and knowledge sharing across the region will further ensure that knowledge and experiences from front-runners are shared with slower advancing countries in the region, thus helping slower countries to move up faster on the learning curve thereby ensuring regional cohesion.

**part iii: institutional coordination and support**

1. **Institutional arrangement:**

The Project falls under the responsibility of the COMIFAC in charge of guiding, monitoring and coordinating conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. The COMIFAC Ministerial Council will delegate the responsibility to oversee and coordinate the project implementation to the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat and will be regularly updated on the progress made by the Project (during the COMIFAC Ministerial sessions that occur on a yearly basis), which will ensure an appropriate political ownership of the Project at the regional level. In addition, the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat will enter into Implementation Agreements with each of the participating countries. The Implementation Agreement lays out the legally binding responsibilities of the countries *vis-à-vis* the Project implementation and ensures their full commitment to the Project objectives.

**B. Project Implementation Arrangement**:

The institutional structure for the implementation of the Project will comprise: (i) the Project Steering Committee; and (ii) the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat which will delegate the day-to-day management of the Project to a Project Management Unit.

*Project Steering Committee (PSC):* The Project Steering Committee will be the governance body for the Project and will guide all policy and institutional aspects. It will review and endorse workplans and corresponding budgets on a semi-annual basis[[3]](#footnote-3). The PSC will be chaired by a representative of the CEEAC (*Communauté Economique des Etats d’Afrique Centrale*) Secretariat and composed of the National Climate Change Focal Points representing the six Congo Basin countries and two representatives of the civil society. The COMIFAC Secretariat, with the support of the PMU, will act as the Secretary of the PSC. The PSC was purposefully kept lean and its composition not elevated to the ministerial level to ensure pro-active involvement and participation of Project Steering Committee members, in particular National Climate Change Focal Points, in critical Project management decisions.

*Project Management Unit (PMU)*: The PMU will be housed by the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat. It will be responsible for the day-to-day project supervision and will implement the annual workplans approved by the PSC. It will hold overall fiduciary responsibility for the Project. The PMU will be headed by a Project Manager and will further include a Deputy Project Manager/M&E Specialist, Procurement Specialist, a Financial Management Specialist and an Accountant, all to be selected on an open competitive basis.

The COMIFAC Executive Secretariat, through the PMU, will have the overall responsibility to oversee and coordinate the Project implementation, including the monitoring and reporting. Cognizant of the mandate of the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat for regional coordination, yet not project implementation, the PMU will be set up to function with appropriate levels of independence for day-to-day management decisions.

*Implementation Agreements*: The engagement of the six Congo Basin countries will be governed by Implementation Agreements entered into between the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat and the Countries, more specifically the respective Ministries responsible for REDD+ in the countries[[4]](#footnote-4). Implementation Agreements will regulate implementation support and collaboration of the countries with COMIFAC to achieve the objectives of the project and ensure timely implementation of project activities. They will further ensure that countries will collaborate on the development of the Regional Environmental and Social Assessment (RESA) and that countries will apply the provisions of the RESA for purposes of project implementation.

Sub-component 1.b on “Inclusive participation and representation of stakeholder groups”, sub-component 2.b on “Elaboration of allometric equations”, and sub-component 3.a on “Setting up an Incubator to promote REDD+ pilot projects” will be implemented through large contracts with specialized firms or consortia of firms, research institutions, and NGOs.

Under Sub-component 1.c on “*Incremental capacity building needs for National REDD Coordination*”, the relevant National REDD Coordination Unit will be responsible for identifying, implementing and monitoring country-specific activities, in close coordination with the PMU. However, the fiduciary responsibility for Component 1.c. will fully remain with the PMU.

A detailed description of the Implementation Arrangements can be found in Annex 3 of the Project Document.

**part iv: explain the alignment of project design with the original PIF**:

1. **Project Title:**

The Project title remains as originally proposed at the PIF stage.

**(b) Project Objective**:

*At the PIF stage, the Project Objective was:* To strengthen national institutional capacities to develop sound polices and incentive frameworks to efficiently reduce pressure on forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin and reliably measure carbon stored and emitted.

*At the CEO stage, the Project Objective is:* To strengthen the capacities of the Congo Basin countries on REDD+ issues and on forest carbon stock measurements, in particular.

The main rationale of the slightly reformulated Project Objective was the simplification of the wording. In adjusting the project objective, the team also took into account internal feedback from the World Bank’s quality control team. The adjustment was intended to ensure that the proposed project objective is achievable within the 5-year project timeframe and does not refer to second-generation impact that would result from the strengthened capacities and an enhanced enabling environment for REDD over the longer term (i.e. beyond the project timeframe). Instead, the project objective is now focused on the direct impacts of the project within the project implementation period only. The adjustments made to the Project Objective do not change the anticipated outcomes of the project as originally designed.

**(c) Components:**

Component Titles:

Component Titles have largely remained as originally proposed at the PIF stage. However, a few small adjustments have been made to the component titles to better align them with the Results Framework. Component Title 1 has been shortened for practical purposes and Component Title 3 has been slightly reworded to better reflect the planned activities under this component as per communication to the GEFSEC as part of the PPG application approved on July 6, 2009. All revisions are listed below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Component Title at PIF Stage** | **Component Title at CEO Stage** |
| 1. Strengthening knowledge on REDD issues at the local, national and regtional levels and mainstreaming in policy and regulatory frameworks for Sustainable Forest Management.  | 1. Improving Knowledge and Coordination on REDD+ in the Congo Basin |
| 2. Building Technical Capacities for Measurement and Monitoring of Carbon Stocks in the Congo Basin Forests | *No changes* |
| 3. Implementing SFM Pilot Projects in Hot Spots of Deforestation | 3. Mainstreaming REDD Concepts in SFM Projects |
| 4. Project Management | *No changes* |

Component Design:

Overall component design has not changed significantly compared to what was originally proposed in the PIF. Some small adjustments have been made to Component 2 and 3. In addition smaller adjustment to component allocations have been made to reflect the more realistic costs estimated during preparation.

*Component 2:* In terms of content and planned activities, activities described in the project document now focus on the GEF financed activities, while activities and outputs resulting from associated co-funding have been toned down. This adjustment was made in response to World Bank’s internal operational guidance that the project document should emphasize activities that the World Bank can legally be held accountable for, while co-financed activities implemented by project partners are still explained and referred to in the Project Document as well as in the Project Framework (Section A of this memo), but have received less emphasis in the Results Framework. These adjustments relate mainly to the development of a methodology for the measuring and monitoring carbon stocks and fluxes in the Congo Basin compliant with the IPCC guidelines (i.e. MRV systems), which will be financed by the African Development Bank managed CBFF ($35 million) with FAO leading implementation. Throughout the preparation period, a close partnership has been established and maintained with AfDB/CBFF on the coordination of Component 2. Preparation missions and stakeholder workshops have been organized and carried out jointly with the CBFF and FAO. This close coordination and collaboration is expected to be maintained throughout project implementation. For example, field work to be undertaken for the establishment of allometric equations (GEF financed) will be carried out hand in hand with field work to be undertaken for the development of MRV systems under a regional approach (CBFF financed).

*Component 3:* Further, some adjustments have been made to the design of Component 3 compared to the PIF. These adjustments were discussed upstream with GEFSEC at the time of the PPG request. As noted to the GEFSEC at the time, no new pilot projects would be developed or entirely financed by the GEF under Component 3, but instead the project would build on existing SFM projects or REDD+ pilot projects that already exist or are being developed at the local/sub-national level. During the project preparation phase, a detailed inventory of potential REDD pilot projects in Central Africa[[5]](#footnote-5) was carried out and identified more than 50 pilot REDD+ projects at different stages of development (i.e. Project Idea formulated, ongoing SFM activity with REDD potential, REDD pilot project under implementation). GEF support will focus on providing technical guidance and training to support REDD+ pilot projects to comply with high standards, in particular with view to the social and environmental dimensions of REDD (i.e. application of social and environment standards, local stakeholder participation, generation of community benefits, generation of biodiversity and other co-benefits, measurement of social and environmental benefits) and with the assessment of carbon benefits. GEF support will further support a learning and knowledge exchange process from the local field level to the national strategy level as feedback mechanisms have been identified as very weak.

Three major reasons underline this adjustment of the Component 3: (a) the timeframe of the project (5 years) is unsuitable to establish new pilot projects and get scientifically reliable data on potential carbon benefits and/or other co-benefits, (b) there is already a significant number of ongoing SFM projects and REDD pilot projects in the region, which need support with the assessment of carbon benefits and application of social and environmental standards, and (c) the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF of about US$200 million), as well as other initiatives (including WB projects) will support further SFM projects in the Congo Basin, which provides an opportunity to instill a more strategic approach to integration of REDD concept into forest management activities. Further, feedback received during project preparation suggested that improved feedback mechanism are needed to ensure that experiences made in REDD+ pilot projects at the local level can feed into the development of National REDD+ Strategies.

1. **Financing Plan:**

At the PIF stage the GEF contribution of US$13 million was complemented with co- financing of US$13,180,000. At the CEO stage, the co-financing has increased to US$ 60,300,000 hence from a ratio of 1:1 to now 1:4.5. Key partners financing associated cost of complementary activities are the Carbon Forest Partnership Facility for Component 1 and 3, the African Development Bank managed Congo Basin Forest Fund for Component 2, World Bank funds for Economic and Sector Work for Component 3, and counterpart funding for Component 4.

At the PIF stage, indicative co- financing covered diverse funding sources from NGOs, multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, etc. While most of this co- funding is not included in the current financial scenario, the project is still linked to the partners and initiatives as outlined in the PIF. Significant efforts have been made during the preparation process to ensure buy-in, collaboration, and coordination with a wide range or partners. Preparation workshops and individual follow-up with various partners were very inclusive and represented a wide range of stakeholders active in forest management and conservation in Central Africa. A complete list of parallel and complementary initiatives to this Project is provided in Annex F to this memo.

**part v: Agency(ies) certification**

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| This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency Coordinator, Agency name | Signature | Date  | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
| Karin Shephardson, GEF Agency Executive Coordinator | KarinSignature | 02/17/2011 | Paola Agostini, Regional Coordinator Africa Region | 202-473-7620 | pagostini@worldbank.org |

**Annex A: Project Results Framework**

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|  | **Project Development Objective (PDO):** The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the capacities of the Congo Basin countries on REDD+ issues and on forest carbon stocks measurements, in particular. |
| **PDO Level Results Indicators\*** | **Core** | **Unit of Measure** | **Baseline** | **Cumulative Target Values\*\*** | **Frequency** | **Data Source/****Methodology** | **Responsibility for Data Collection** | **Description (indicator definition etc.)** |
| **YR 1** | **YR 2** | **YR3** | **YR 4** | **YR 5** |
| **Indicator One**:Coordinated submissions on a future REDD mechanism to the international UNFCCC negotiations  | [ ]  | Number  | Last major joint proposal was in Bali (2007) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Annual | GTC activity report | Technical assistance to GTC | The Congo Basin countries demonstrate their strengthened capacity on REDD issues and their joint negotiating power within the UNFCCC negotiations with a number of well-prepared, coordinated submissions on a future REDD mechanism.  |
| **Indicator Two**:Milestones for the elaboration of allometric equations specific to the Congo Basin achieved. | [ ]  | Defined Milestones | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Annual | Component 2 activity report | Technical assistant | Reaching the different milestones in the process of defining allometric equations for the Congo Basin serves as a proxy for increased technical capacity for forest carbon measurements. The defined milestones are: 1= Methodology defined; 2=National teams operational and Field works initiated; 3=Field work completed by national teams; 4= Analysis completed, data available in publically accessible database, and scientific publication prepared for submission. |
| **Indicator Three**: Technical guidelines on prioritized REDD+ issues have been developed and approved by the PSC. | [ ]  | Number  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | Annual | Published guidelines | Technical assistant | Technical guidelines will be developed building on the findings of analytical works conducted under the Project. Focus of analytical works will be on the social and environmental dimensions of REDD+. Resulting technical guidelines to be issued during project implementation are anticipated to cover amongst other: social standards for REDD+, consultation approaches for REDD+, and methodologies for participatory mapping. |

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|  | **INTERMEDIATE RESULTS** |
|  | **Intermediate Results (Component One): Improve knowledge and coordination on REDD+ in the Congo Basin** |
| GTC meetings for strengthened policy-level coordination of REDD at regional level | [ ]  | Number  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | Annual | GTC activity report | Technical assistant | The number of GTC meetings serves as a proxy for joint planning, agenda setting and coordination of National Climate Change Focal Points through the GTC. Regular GTC meetings would require a defined workplan and follow-up action of the GTC between semiannual meetings.  |
| South-South exchanges for strengthened knowledge exchange with other regions | [ ]  | Number  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | Annual | Reports on South-South Cooperation | Technical assistant | South-South exchanges serve as a proxy for readiness of the technical experts in the region to exchange with other international experts on prioritized, thematic issues (e.g. such as MRV, cross-sectoral aspects of REDD, social dimensions of REDD, etc.).  |
| Consultative meetings on REDD under the CEFDHAC umbrella | [ ]  | Number  | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | Annual | Technical Assistance activity report | Technical Assistance | Consultative meetings will be facilitated by the Project and ensure a stronger engagement of of stakeholders in REDD debates.  |
| Project Beneficiaries, % of which is female (estimated) | **[ ]**  | Number  | 0 | 50 (10%) | 150 (30%) | 300 (30%) | 500 (30%) | 600 (30%) | Annual | TA reports and attendance lists of community training and outreach activities | Technical Assistance | Project Beneficiaries includes ministerial staff at the policy-making level, technical staff and scientists at the technical level, and civil society groups. While it is estimated that the majority of beneficiaries at the policy-making and technical level will be male, the project will pro-actively reach out to female beneficiaries at the local level. |
|  | **Intermediate Results (Component Two): Build technical capacities for measurement and monitoring of carbon stocks in the Congo Basin forests**  |
| A scientific platform is operational and supporting knowledge exchange amongst scientists.  | [ ]  | yes/no | 0 | 0 | yes | yes | yes | yes | Annual | Scientific proceedings posted on OFAC website | OFAC / Technical assistant supervising Component 2 | The scientific platform is considered operational if regular meetings are held with resulting scientific proceedings and knowledge exchange processes.  |
| Countries, in which national teams that have been trained and deployed to the field for data collection as per agreed methodology for definition of allometric equations. | [ ]  | Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 6 | Annual upon start of field work. | Activity report from Technical Assistance/firm | OFAC / Technical assistant supervising Component 2 | Ongoing field work and data collection indicates that national teams have been identified and mobilized, technical capacity of national institutions has been built and results are being recorded and processed as per methodology.  |
| Scientific reports on defined allometric equations for the Congo Basin have been produced.  | [ ]  | Number  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | End of project | Publication on COMIFAC/OFAC website | OFAC / Technical assistant supervising Component 2 | The preparation of scientific reports by the technical assistance/consortium together with national institutions confirms that the process of defining allometric equations is advancing and that technical capacity is being built in national teams working on forest carbon monitoring. In Year 2 a report on the proposed methodology is expected, in year 4 six country-specific reports on the fieldwork undertaken is expected to be completed, and in year 5 a comprehensive report on all findings is expected. |

**Annex B: Responses to Project Reviews** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF)

**STAP Comments Received at the PIF Stage:**

*Comment 1:* The title needs to change if the focus of the GEF project is to build capacity and promote implementation of pilot REDD projects. The potential title could be “*Building Institutions and Capacity and Implementing the Pilot REDD project in Congo Basin countries*.”

 *Response*: The Project title has been maintained as the focus is on enhancing institutional capacity, but not on building new institutions as the suggested title may imply. Further, the Project will not implement REDD pilot projects, but instead support the immense capacity building needs of existing and emerging pilot project and project ideas. Further, the project focus is on supporting pilot projects with the adoption of environmental and social standards. Implementation of new pilot projects would not be feasible during the 5 year time frame of the project. Further a meaningful grant facility to support implementation of new pilot project ideas would go beyond the scope of this GEF grant unless other important components would be dropped.

*Comment 2:* The outcome “Congo Basin countries have reinforced their negotiation capacities and their contributions are better reflected in international debates” is a bit late, since most negotiations on REDD will be completed by December, 2008 and latest by June 2009. By the time the proposal is approved through the GEF project cycle all negotiations would be complete.

*Response*: As the last couple years have shown, REDD negotiations will be a longer process and UNFCCC negotiators are not expecting negotiations on REDD to be completed within the short-term. No significant progress was made on REDD negotiations in 2008 and 2009. However, a lot of attention was placed on REDD during the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun, Mexico. We strongly believe that the above project outcome is relevant within the project’s timeframe. Further, countries have also confirmed this outcome as one of their own priorities.

*Comment 3:* One of the key outputs required from this project for mainstreaming REDD is to convince the policy makers about the benefits of REDD at local and national level. The project should develop methods and quantify the social, economic and environmental benefits at local and national level.

*Response:*

*At national level:* As part of co-funding to this project a regional study on “Modeling drivers of deforestation in the Congo Basin” is being carried out. This study includes a model developed by IIASA (Institute for Applied System Analysis based in Austria) that allows to explore the local and national impact of a REDD mechanism and helps decision makers to optimize competing land use options. However, estimating the benefits of REDD continues to be premature as long as carbon prices, and implementation cost, remain variables.

*At local level:* In addition, the project will provide training and technical guidance to enhance the capacity of project developers with a specific focus on social and environment aspects. Among others, the project will provide support for the measurement and monitoring of local social and environmental co-benefits and the application of available environmental and social standards.

*Comment 4:* The output related to south-south cooperation particularly with the Latin American countries may need a rethink since the focus is on Congo Basin countries and most negotiations on REDD may be complete before this project is approved.

*Response:*  Please see the response to Comment 2 regarding the progress on REDD negotiations. Regardless, we feel that south-south cooperation with other countries is critical and can significantly support Congo Basin countries in their REDD readiness process. Beyond capacity building for UNFCCC negotiations, there are numerous other aspects of REDD readiness where experiences from Latin America and East Asia can provide helpful for the Congo Basin countries (e.g. establishment of MRV systems, community participation in the REDD dialogue, etc.). In fact, Congo Basin countries prioritized south-south cooperation as a means of capacity building during the project preparation phase.

*Comment 5:* “Linking REDD related carbon stock estimates with national GHG inventories (national communications) may be a controversial outcome. The developing countries do not accept under convention any review of the national inventories.”

 *Response:* This outcome has been removed from the Project Framework. The Project will support the elaboration of allometric equations, a prerequisite for the establishment and implementation of MRV systems. The latter are fully in line with the latest outcomes of the COP discussions that resulted out of Cancun (COP16): “A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for monitoring and reporting of the activities …with, if appropriate sub national monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision……”

*Comment 6:* There must be a clear output highlighting the institutional needs for planning, implementation and monitoring of potential REDD project.

 *Response:* See response to Comment 1 regarding the scope of the Project activities. REDD project implementation on the ground is not part of the Project scope.

*Comment 7:* Bali Action Plan mentions IPCC Inventory methods for REDD. Further, GEF has funded a large project for LULUCF measurements, modeling and monitoring of carbon stock changes. We have to take note of this existing project.

*Response:*  The Project team has been in contact with GEF-funded Carbon Benefits Project (CBP) during the project preparation phase. The CBP team has also made presentations on their progress of the different components of the CBP at the World Bank, which our team attended. However, the guidance from the CBP have not yet been completed and published and was not available during the preparation phase of this Project. Further, the CBP methodology as developed by the Michigan State University is based on allometric equations and therefore only provide accurate results in regions, for where allometric equations are actually available. However, for the Congo Basin no such equations are available and this GEF Project will help fill this gap. Once the methodology from the CBP is fully available, the allometric equations resulting from this GEF project will enhance the accuracy of the results that can be attained from the proposed CBP methodology. However, use of the CBP methodology in the Congo Basin may still be difficult once allometric equations are defined, as the methodology as developed by the Michigan State University, is crown-based and mainly tested in forests, where crowns (or changes in crowns) can be detected through satellite imagery. However, crown recognition it is not fully applicable to very dense tropical forest as found in the Congo Basin, where forest degradation plays a more important role than deforestation.

 *Comment 8:* Outcome for Component 3 [at PIF stage] is not clear. Should it not focus on lessons learned from implementation pilot projects for scaling up REDD projects and programmes as well as mainstream REDD concepts at national level.

*Response:* The Project team agrees with the above comment and the Project design at CEO stage reflects the above.

**GEFSEC Comments Received at the CEO Stage:**

*Comment 1:* The proper tracking tools must be completed but we understand we need to ensure the tools make sense for this project.

 *Response:* As indicated in earlier communication to the GEFSEC, the current climate change tracking tool does not have an indicator that is applicable to the Project. The draft SFM tracking tool that is currently being developed by GEFSEC for GEF-5 could be applied once completed and provided an indicator for measurement of capacity building for REDD readiness is included. The team would appreciate specific guidance on the tracking tool indicators to be completed.

*Comment 2:* Component 1 appears as series of events and workshops. Any additional dialogue is necessary for such complex and innovative issue. However, with the cofinancing, $26 million are programmed for such meetings and events. We are not sure to catch much concrete output other than meetings and people attending them. Maybe the cofinancing part is over-estimated.

*Response:* Component1 includes much more than just a series of events and workshops. However it must be noted that given the nature of this project these activities are essential and will allow laying the groundwork for actual investments to happen. A series of workshops and coordination meetings is primarily planned under sub-component 1a (US$1.3m) and serves to achieve the objectives of the Project. Regular meetings of the GTC (i.e. the six National Climate Change Focal Points) will be key for regional discussions on REDD+ policy aspects, harmonization of REDD strategy approaches, as well as cross-fertilization from countries with advanced REDD+ readiness to countries who are just beginning to define their REDD strategies. Moreover these meetings are critical to help the Congo Basin countries define common negotiating positions and strategies under the current UNFCCC debates on the future REDD+ mechanism. In addition to GTC meetings, the project will finance thematic workshops. These will allow presentation and discussion of results from analytical work (carried out under Component 3b) and ensure that findings are translated into the policy discussions. Thematic workshops will also cover a series of highly technical workshops related to the methodological aspects of carbon stock measurements. Finally, about 3-4 high-level policy workshops are planned at the level of ECCAS to ensure that cross-sectoral aspects of REDD are debated beyond the forestry sector. Lastly, semi-annual Project Steering Committee meetings will be financed. Under sub-component 1b), financing will not only provide for workshops, but instead provide for training efforts of civil society groups at different levels on REDD. Sub-component 1c) provides for national envelopes to cover critical financing gaps experienced by National REDD Coordination in each of the participating countries. National REDD Coordination teams are currently drawing up their annual workplans and preliminary feedback shows very different financing needs per country. For example, some National REDD coordination teams have no proper access to internet thus undermining their ability to fully engage in regional coordination efforts. Other National REDD coordination teams are seeking expert input to certain aspects of REDD strategy development, etc.

The co-financing presented (i.e. FCPF financing) does not provide for regional meetings and workshops to ensure avoiding duplication. The amount has now been readjusted. Instead FCPF financing very much focuses on the national-level dimension of REDD+ readiness. However, FCPF financing usually only provides for a portion of the total financing needs for national REDD+ readiness. Thus far, FCPF financing is focusing mainly on the cost of REDD strategy development, stakeholder consultations, as well as development of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments. While other aspects of REDD+ readiness, including support to civil society, diagnostic work on drivers of deforestation, pilot projects, development of reference levels, national forest and GHG inventories, development of MRV systems, etc. are primarily financed by other partners. Since some the FCPF financing more closely complements the analytical work carried out under Component 3 (i.e. analytical work on the social dimension of REDD), part of the FCPF co-financing was attributed to Component 3 instead.

*Comment 3:* Please clarify the use of GEF grants to finance national REDD coordination (component 1). In our understanding, these activities are covered by other partners (FCPF, UN-REDD, bilateral), the added value of the GEF should only be to complete on specific issues as indigenous people, vulnerable groups, and help government to develop strategic environment and social assessment tools.

*Response:* As also described above, available financing from FCPF, UNREDD, and other sources only covers a portion of the total financing needs for REDD readiness and in most countries a financing gap for REDD readiness currently remains. Further, not all countries in the Congo Basin are yet at a stage where they can access the $3.4 million grant funding that is made available by the FCPF upon presentation of a country’s R-PP. Thus far, only DRC has signed the $3.4m grant agreement, while the remaining countries are still in the process of completing their R-PP. As such, some countries are anticipated to access the $3.4 m grant funding within the next few months while others are likely to need further time. The incremental funding from GEF, which is a small to moderate national envelope of 350k for each country is intended to ensure that all countries are enabled to fully participate in regional activities, prepare their input properly (i.e. through procuring expert input). The provision of national envelopes was further critically important to ensure national ownership of the Regional Project and followed a longer dialogue between the Bank and National Climate Change Focal Points. Lastly, a set of criteria has been prepared that guides the use of the national envelopes to ensure that funds are not used for activities that are already covered by other financing sources or for unsustainable equipment purchases. Please refer to the detailed component description in Annex 2 of the Project Document for further information.

As rightly pointed out in your comment, the team is also convinced that the GEF added value lies on environmental and social issues related to REDD. This is why substantial investments will be made available for strengthening local stakeholder participation (sub Component 1.b.) as well as supporting analytical work addressing critical challenges for a fair and equitable future REDD+ mechanism (sub-Component 3.b). Under the latter component, analytical works will be conducted on the social and environmental dimensions of REDD+ and resulting technical guidelines to be issued during project implementation are anticipated to cover amongst other: social standards for REDD+, consultation approaches for REDD+, and methodologies for participatory mapping. These technical guidelines are anticipated to be critically useful to the Congo Basin countries as they prepare their REDD strategy.

*Comment 4:* Please clarify the role of the GEF in MRV activities, and the coherence with FCPF support

*Response:* GEF funding will not directly provide for the establishment of an MRV system as this will be co-financed through a grant from the AfDB-managed Congo Basin Forest Fund with implementation support from FAO. However, GEF will finance a critical knowledge gap for the development of any future MRV system, i.e. the development of allometric equations for the Congo Basin forest. Please refer to the detailed presentation of Component 2 in Annex 2 of the Project Document for the rationale for focusing GEF support on allometric equations. The figure presented in the respective text also clarifies the role allometric equations play as one of many components needed for establishing a MRV system.

*Comment 5:* The REPALEAC is mentioned, but the way to involve local communities, vulnerable groups would need to be clarified. The CSO/NGOs do not seem very committed, while they should have a major role on the ground. Please, clarify.

*Response:*  It is not clear to the Project team as to why the GEFSEC assumes that none of the CSO/NGOs are committed to better involve local communities? This project component was designed in consultation with previous initiatives supporting local community and stakeholder involvement in policy discussions. Forest communities in particular have not been adequately consulted on REDD issues in the past. Given the complexity of the REDD concept, it is important not to underestimate the additional training and awareness building needs that are necessary before consultations allow for an effective dialogue with local communities. The Project will build on successful approaches to involve communities that have been piloted and tested by others, including WRI and IUCN.

The project has been designed to support the CSO/NGOs in a manner that is consistent with the regional framework set up under CEFDHAC that has been established as the overall umbrella for the different CSO/NGOs organization in the sub-region. As such, the implementation of the Component 1b will be co-managed by a representative of the CEFDHAC with facilitation support of an experienced NGO or agency.

In addition, during the preparation of the Project, the CSO/NGOs were largely represented during the three consultation workshop and fruitfully participated to the discussions on the design of the Project. As an example, during the recent Project appraisal, at the request of the CSO/NGO representative, the total envelope for the sub-component 1b dedicated to the facilitation of the inclusive approach on REDD, was further increased to also include representative networks for youth and women, respectively, as well as potentially, the network for forest training institutes.

*Comment 6:* Is it imaginable to propose more tangible outputs? (related to key issues mentioned as, land tenure reform, customary rights, and benefits sharing mechanisms for forest/carbon revenues?).

*Response:* The outputs and outcomes have been better clarified, though it is to be noted that outputs specifically related to sub-component 1b have been purposefully kept low and realistic. To achieve concrete outputs related to land tenure reform, establishment of benefit sharing mechanisms, etc., substantial policy dialogue at the level of each country will be necessary. Given its regional anchorage, the Regional REDD Project cannot be expected to have leverage on high-profile legal reform processes that would require substantial country dialogue – it does not fall within the scope of the project. Nevertheless, the Regional REDD Project is expected to have concrete outputs related to land reform, customary rights, benefit sharing mechanisms, etc. in that practical guidelines will be developed (i.e. under component 3b)) providing the necessary guidance to policy makers from the different countries and enabling them to start the policy discussions needed to drive such a reform processes in the future. The workshops and policy meetings planned for under Component 1a) are intended to further stir the discussion and dialogue on these issues.

A key performance indicator accounting for the development of technical guidelines has further been added to the Project Results Framework.

*Comment 7:* One of the major outputs of component 2 is allometric equations (AE) established for forest types to "support forest carbon stock" estimates. Please clarify the exact content of this activity and the purpose of those equations.

*Response:* Technical questions related to the allometric equations were discussed in bilateral meetings between the GEFSEC and the World Bank. A summary of the main clarifications provided to GEFSEC follows:

* It is correct that allometric equations (AE) are usually developed for forest tree species not forest types. Under the project we will develop AE’s for groups of tree species representative of forest types.
* We confirm that the AEs will contribute to the carbon stock of trees (above and below ground), but not to the other pools of carbon (i.e. soil carbon, carbon in dead wood, etc.). The carbon stored in trees forms the majority of the total carbon pool in tropical forests and is further more cost-efficient to measure than the other carbon pools. Approximations are possible for the below-ground carbon stored in biomass (i.e. the roots of the trees).
* The AEs will be developed based on ground measurements (i.e. diameter based). However, in addition, crown-based data may be recorded through prior identification of the measured trees on satellite imagery. Consequently, crown-based data/remote information could be recorded and stored as part of the overall database of tree measurements that will be developed. As such, the remote data would be available to allow future correlation with any future statellite-based MRV systems that will be established.

*Comment 8:* The PIF had stated that "The CBP tools and methodologies on carbon measurement and monitoring developed under the Carbon Benefits Project (CBP) are calibrated to the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin countries." We interpret this to mean that at the PIF stage, part of the funding was to go to calibrate the CBP tools and methodologies from the GEF-CBP to the forest ecosystems of the CB countries. This has disappeared from the document for CEO endorsement.

*Response:* Further to the earlier clarifications provided under Comment 7 in response to earlier STAP comments (see above), the CBP tool is still in beta version and UNEP confirmed to us again on March 8th, 2011 that the tool is not yet available for sharing. As also discussed during the bilateral meeting with GEFSEC, there continue to be some doubts on the technical applicability of the CBP tool/methodology. The CBP tool aims at defining tree carbon content based on physical parameters that can be measured remotely, i.e. such as tree crowns. However, the software is not (yet) able to recognize individual tree crowns on the remote imagery for dense, multilayered, tropical forest canopy. Given these technical limitations, the Congo Basin countries are currently developing MRV systems based on ground measurements (diameter-based measurements) and allometric equations will hence initially cater towards such MRV systems.

Nevertheless, we agree that future MRV systems are likely to be based on earth observation and/or radar technology, especially given the cost-effectiveness of remote observation. Therefore, the Project will not only record diameter-based data, but also log the location of the measured trees in remote imagery to the extent possible. This will provide the necessary data (biomass, carbon content) for later correlation with crown diameters. The elaboration of allometric equations will generally improve the quality and accuracy of biomass estimates for the Congo Basin. In order to calibrate a model based on remote measurements, such as the one that is being developed under the CBP, the crown diameter will need to be correlated to the most accurate biomass assumptions (which would be provided by the allometric equations). Therefore, the GEF project with its support to the elaboration of Congo Basin –specific allometric equations will also benefit the CBP initiative in the long term.

To ensure that the appropriate data necessary for later correlation is recorded during field work planned under the Project, we suggest inviting Prof. Skole from the Michigan State University to be one of the independent reviewers that will be contracted to review the proposed methodologies that will be proposed for the implementation of Component 2b by the different competing firms/research institutions/consortiums.

*Comment 9:* There seems to be a missing link between the Component 1 work on national/local dialogue and Component 3 coming up what all the examples of what works well. Component 3's outputs do not appear to be linked back into the higher level discussions. Guidance for decision makers is noted in the framework but that element seems to have been lost in the narrative. If they are developing 'environmental standards' in this Component shouldn't they be attempting to get them further developed and eventually endorsed or acknowledged through Component 1's national and regional discussions.

*Response:* Component 1 and 3 are closely linked and the presentation of the two components in the Project Document has been revised to better reflect this linkage, both in the main text as well as the detailed project description in Annex 2 of the Project Document. It is correct, that Component 3 will provide for a series of analytical work to generate technical and policy guidance. Such knowledge generation and compilation will be essential to feed substance to the discussions supported under Component 1. More specifically, technical guidelines developed under Component 3b) will provide a framework of recommendations that could then be adjusted to county-specific contexts as countries advance with their REDD readiness process. Similarly, Component 3a aims at close the current information gap at the level of national policy makers on the existing portfolio of REDD pilot projects, on the respective potential of different project approaches, and on the potential applicability within the context of a national REDD Strategy.

*Comment 10:*  We understand that sub-contracts will be given to the OFAC to develop a REDD+ Project incubator. We are not sure to catch the meaning of the outcomes and the nature of the work that will be done under this component. What means “strategic analytical work helps to better define social, economic, and environmental dimensions of REDD”? What is going to be financed under this outcome?

*Response:*  As per the discussions and explanations provided during the bilateral meeting with the GEFSEC, the presentation of Component 3a on the incubator has been substantially revised. The incubator is essentially a helpdesk for REDD+ pilot project developers, but at the same time a mechanism to ensure experiences made at the ground level back are fed back to the policy level. Please see revisions made in the more detailed Annex 2 of the Project Document. OFAC will not be sub-contracted for this purpose, but instead a specialialized firm with the relevant experience will be contracted for implementation of this component. Note that OFAC has been officially adopted as a specialized agency responsible for forest monitoring under COMIFAC by the Council of Ministers during their meeting in November 2010. As such, OFAC will provide technical guidance based on its role as an agency under COMIFAC, but will not need to be contracted for this purpose.

The presentation of “strategic analytical work” has also been improved in the Project Document. Please refer to the detailed project description in Annex 2 of the Project Document. For the initial years of implementation the following analytical work has been identified: i) Regional Environmental and Social Assessment to identify potential negative down-stream impact of REDD policies and activities. Resulting from the RESA will be best practice guidelines to address key issues defined (how to carry out meaningful stakeholder consultations, guidance on benefit sharing aspects, etc., ii) Positioning REDD+ as a planned approach and instrument for SFM that is integrated into the broader economic growth agenda, and iii) Development of technical guidelines on carrying out participatory mapping of customary and other land tenure rights.

Please also note that a Key Performance Indicator has been added to account for the technical guidelines developed.

*Comment 11:* Please inform us on the status of REDD activities in Equatorial Guinea. It is not clear how this GEF project is going to fit with other REDD activities in Equatorial Guinea. - Please check if REDD activities by other partners are still active (AFD?).

*Response:* REDD activities supported by AFD in Equatorial Guinea are still active (or active again). An update provided by the National Climate Change Focal Point for Equatorial Guinea during the recent appraisal mission confirmed that a larger planning workshop involving all key stakeholders was planned for later this month and would be facilitated by Conservation International. REDD activities in Equatorial Guinea, although thus far not directly financed by the FCPF are closely aligned with the overall FCPF approach and guidelines.

*Comment 12:* While we agree that a communication between the GEFSEC and the IA was very helpful to figure out the evolution of the context, the preliminary outputs of the PPG, and the potential changes in the final project, it is not a way to report in the project document that we agreed upon X or Y - which it is untrue. It is not the role of the GEFSEC to interfere with the preparation of the project, and we will be pleased you to remove this part. Just explain the results of the PPG, and why some components or outcomes have evolved. Thanks.

*Response:* Comment taken into consideration in the text. Language in the Part IV of the CEO memo has been revised accordingly.

*Comment 13*: Some amounts are given in lumpsum. We understand that the Agency includes activities dealt with sub-contractors. We thank the agency for transparency and clarifications. Please confirm that no agency staff costs are included in these sub-contracts.

*Response:* Figures have been reviewed and clarified in the appropriate tables. We confirm that no agency staff costs are included in these sub-contracts. In fact, by nature of our Administrative Guidelines, no World Bank staff can be simultaneously engaged in contracts financed with World Bank administered grant (or loan) resources.

*Comment 14:*  Please explain why some key REDD partners are not included in the co-financing (UN-REDD). We understand that FAO will be involved in the CBFF program. During preparation, some bilateral partners (AFD/FFEM) were interested to develop synergies with the GEF/WB project, and proposed for instance to merge the different project steering committees. We understand with the information provided in the Annex F, that the AFD project is not active anymore. Please confirm.

*Response:*  The Project team decided to only include in the ICA those sources of co-financing, with which very close coordination and direct complementarity of activities has been planned. All other REDD activities and partners that are linked to the project, but with which no directly coordinated implementation arrangements have been defined, are only presented in Annex F to the CEO memo. The administrative burden of obtaining co-financing letters from each of the less closely coordinated initiatives certainly contributed to this narrow definition of co-financing.

We confirm that the AFD project is still active. Annex F referred only to the initial period of the Project (now revised). While the Project team has collaborated very closely with AFD on various of their initiatives (including the planned establishment of a satellite reception station in Libreville), the limited GEF financing envelope did not allow for further complementary activities to AFD related to earth observation for the Congo Basin.

*Comment 15*: Please include the tracking tools related to LULUCF.

*Response:* Based on a review of available tracking tools for LULUCF (i.e. CC and draft SFM tracking tool), neither tools provides for indicators that would be applicable to the Project. Once adjusted and applicable, the Project team will apply the tracking tools.

*Comment 16:*  Please confirm if only meetings and travels are going to be spent under the Component 1. We understand the huge needs in the region, but it is difficult to justify $4,4million for meetings and travels.

 *Response*: Please refer to the response to Comment 1.

***Additional comments received from GEFSEC on April 21, 2010:***

*Comment 17:*  Please provide a summary of the GEB in the appropriate sections of the GEF memo and the PAD. In both documents there is a description of the project framework and a breakdown of outcomes.

The way to measure the GEB are however not very clear in the document. The Monitoring Plan is mainly linked to the activity framework and reflects activities and not outcomes. First, explain on which measure the project is going to improve the accuracy of measurements (inventory, MRV), and if possible the area where these tools will be applied (xxx ha of current forest equivalent of YY t of C). Second, the implementation of social and environmental tools will improve the REDD processing in a number of areas. At the end of the project, you should be able to measure the progress and the number of ha.

 *Response*: The section on GEB in the PAD and in the GEF CEO memo have been revised as requested. It should be noted that this Project was always intended to address enhancement of institutional capacity, knowledge transfer, and regional coordination, and was not designed for concrete investments on the ground, and accordingly, the project was not designed to directly generate GHG reduction resulting from investments.

One key GEB of the Project will be an increased accuracy of the carbon measurement stored in the forests of the Congo Basin. The project, by nature of being a capacity building project, will not directly invest in activities that directly reduce GHG emissions on the ground, but instead the project will build the capacity and invest in the analytical and field work necessary for a more accurate figure of the carbon content for the 162 million ha of dense forest in the Congo Basin.

*Comment 18:*  The PAD mentions that the project is considered technical assistance, however in the logical framework, it is mentioned Technical Assistance and Investments. Please make both documents consistent.

 *Response:* In line with the PAD, the GEF CEO memo has been revised to show TA only.

*Comment 19:*  The CC allocations under LULUCF are not supposed to finance low-carbon development. Please confirm that the study included in the budget is eligible under LULUCF/CC-6, or please use cofinancing for it.

*Response:* The study proposed under the Project will specifically look at low-carbon development related to the forestry sector while taking into account drivers of deforestation resulting from other sectors. As such, the study is assumed eligible under LULUCF/CC-6.

*Comment 20:* We understand that the $4,000 per week is for the reimbursement of review by a independent Scientific Expert, and is not a week rate for a single consultant. Please confirm.

*Response:* These figures were estimated cost of Scientific Experts when assuming highest rates possible. Figures in the CEO memo have now been adjusted to expected rates that will be paid to different experts on the panel: e.g. approximately $3,000 per week \* 30 staff weeks for a total of $90,000 currently earmarked for scientific panel expenses.

*Comment 21:*  Please, be sure that the executive partner (COMIFAC) will use the brand guidelines with the sub-contractors.

*Response:* We confirm that COMIFAC has been instructed during project negotiations to conform to the brand guidelines for all publications that will be financed with GEF funds. As soon as updated GEF brand guidelines are available in May, they will be provided to the COMIFAC.

*Comment 22:*  The GEF-5 SFM TT have to be applied before project implementation, at mid-term review, and at project completion. Please confirm.

*Response:* The GEF-5 SFM TT will be applied before project implementation, at mid-term review, and at project completion. This was confirmed during recent project negotiations. Only those fields that are applicable to the Project will be reported on. We would appreciate if the GEFSEC could make available the updated/final GEF-5 SFM tracking tool as soon as it becomes available.

**Annex c: consultants to be hired for the project using gef resources**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Position Titles*** | ***$/******person week\**** | ***Estimated person weeks\*\**** | ***Tasks to be performed*** |
| **For Project Management** |  |  |  |
| *Local* |
| Financial Management Specialist | 638 | 235 | Financial management and auditing |
| Procurement Specialist | 1021 | 235 | Procurement and contract management |
| Accountant | 532 | 235 | Accounting and financial records management for country level activities |
| *International* |
| Project Manager | 2128 | 235 | Overall project coordination |
| Justification for Travel, if any: Daily subsistence allowance will be provided when PMU staff travel to local sites or regionally. Internationally recruited staff will travel to Cameroon and be expected to resident for the duration of the project.  |
| **For Technical Assistance** |  |  |  |
| *Local* |  |  |  |
| Facilitation of inclusive participation of stakeholder groups1 | 800 | 225 | Coordinate and facilitate inclusive participation of stakeholder groups (implementation of Component 1b) – Approximately estimated TA cost that are included in a competitively awarded contract (NGO/consortium).  |
| TA- Support to National REDD Coordination across the 6 countries | 1489 | 235 | Support National REDD Coordination and provide capacity building support |
| *International* |  |  |  |
| TA – REDD Policy Specialist  | 2128 | 211.5 | Facilitate regional coordination activities, provide policy guidance, ensure systematic flow of information across the region, responsible for M&E for Component 1& 3 |
| TA- REDD Technical Specialist  | 2128 | 211.5 | Facilitate Component 2, animate scientific partnership through OFAC, organization and planning of scientific workshops, responsible for M&E for Component 2  |
| Elaboration of allometric equations 2 | 2000 | 225  | Define methodology for the elaboration of allometric equations for the Congo Basin forests, build partnership with national research institutions and line ministries, supervise and coordinate data collection, field work, and data analysis in close coordination with local teams, ensure capacity transfer. Approximately estimated TA cost that are included in a competitively awarded firm/consortium contract. |
| Reimbursement of Independent Scientific Review Panel of Experts | 3000 | 30 | Review and improve proposed methodology for the elaboration of allometric equations based on international scientific standards and IPCC standards.  |
| REDD+ pilot project incubator 2 | 2000 | 450  | Establish REDD+ pilot project incubator: animation of practitioner network, provide trainings to project developers and involved line ministries, compile and disseminate lessons learned. Approximately estimated TA cost that are included in a competitively awarded firm contract. |
| Justification for Travel, if any: Local experts will be paid daily subsistence if they travel within to project sites or within the region. International experts will travel to the region and be resident for the period of the assignment. For short assignments, daily subsistence will be paid.  |

\* Provide dollar rate per person week. \*\* Total person weeks needed to carry out the tasks.

1 This firm contract will include both local and international staff , but likely predominately local staff. 2 This firm/consortium contract will include both local and international staff, but likely predominantly international staff.

**Annex d: status of implementation of project preparation activities and the use of funds**

1. **explain if the ppg objective has been achieved through the ppg activities undertaken.**

PPG implementation has not yet been fully completed. To date, US$286,620 (72%) has been disbursed. From the total undisbursed balance, US$96,996 (24%) are committed for activities that have been realized and the payment is pending. US$17,210 (4%) are provisioned for the final Audit that will account for the proper use of funds. Only US$7,224 currently remain uncommitted. These funds correspond to actual positive gains due a highly volatile exchange rate and are therefore not technically funds remaining from the PPG grant.

All key technical studies have been completed and comprehensive reports are available on request (in French only). These reports will also soon be made available on the COMIFAC website. Some activities were merged into one contract as they were closely related and as larger contracts proofed to attract higher quality technical proposals during the procurement process. Still underway is the preparation of the Project Implementation Manual. A draft PIM is already available and the final version is anticipated for mid-April, 2011, upon completion of negotiations.

Overall, the objectives of the PPG have been achieved and relevant input for project preparation and design was provided. Significant cost sharing was achieved for regional consultation meetings through close coordination and collaboration with the African Development Bank and the FAO and shared logistical cost.

1. **describe findings that might affect the project design or any concerns on project implementation, if any:**

Findings of the preparation process have influenced project design, in particular the input received from country representatives during the consultation meetings and project preparation workshops. However, no particular concerns that affect project design or implementation remain at this time. Aide Memoires summarizing findings of preparation missions are available on request and have been shared with the GEF Secretariat.

1. **provide detailed funding amount of the ppg activities and their implementation status in the table below:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Project Preparation Activities Approved*** | ***Implementation Status*** | ***GEF Amount ($)*** | ***Co-financing******($)*** |
| ***Amount Approved*** | ***Amount Spent To date*** | ***Amount Committed*** | ***Uncommitted Amount\**** |
| * 1. Policy & Institutional review
 | Completed | 26,750 | 32,344 | 0 | 0 | 60,000 |
| 2.1. Diagnosis of land tenure schemes and existing benefit sharing mechanisms | Completed | 30,000 | 28,654 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.2. Carbon Measurement/Monitoring Methodology, 1.2. Forest Monitoring / Carbon data (*these two activities were combined into one contract)* | Completed | 58,250 | 77,393 | 0 | 0 | 750,000 |
| 2.3. Identification of SFM projects, respective carbon baselines, and supplemental project-level activities | Completed | 58,500 | 61,729 | 3,713 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.2. Project Implementation Manual and Sub-manuals, 2.4. M&E key indicators and system parameters, 4.1.Technical input to Institutional Arrangements / Project design (*these three activities were combined into one contract)* | Yet to complete | 78,500 | 31,603 | 33,196 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.1-3.4.Consultative Participatory Process (various workshops) | Yet to complete | 90,000 | 27,480 | 32,849 |  | 300,000 |
| 4.3. Training sessions for implementation readiness | Yet to complete | 14,400 | 7,042 | 5,215 | 0 |  |
| 4.4. Supplemental operating cost for project preparation | Yet to complete | 5,000 | 5,047 | 43,024 | 0 |  |
| Audit of the funds | Yet to complete |  |  |  | 17,210 |  |
| 5. Technical support for PPG implementation  | Yet to complete | 39,200 | 15,327 | 5,215 | 0 | 154,000 |
| **Total** |  | 399,000 | 286,620 | 96,996 | 17,210 | 1,264,000\*\* |

\* Any uncommitted amounts should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. This is not a physical transfer of money, but achieved through reporting and netting out from disbursement request to Trustee. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee.

\*\* The amount of cofinancing actually received was higher than what was proposed in the PPG application.

**annex e: calendar of expected reflows**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

Not applicable.

**annex F: Overview on linkages and synergies with ongoing and planned initiatives in the congo basin**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Partner Program**  |  **Description** | **Financier, Budget, Duration** | **Linkages and Synergies with the WB/GEF Regional REDD Project** | **C.1** | **C.2** | **C.3** |
| **AFD-WWF-WCS -CI Partnership** | **AFD-WWF-WCS -CI Partnership***•Executing Agency*: WWF (lead), WCS, CI •*Objectives***:** -Support the six Congo Basin countries to actively participate in international negotiations on REDD under the UNFCCC processes;-Reinforce institutional and technical capacities at regional, national, and local level for preparation of national REDD strategies, in particular, forest carbon measurement and monitoring;-Contribute to knowledge & communication on REDD processes in the region, -Contribute to the identification, formulation and development of REDD pilot projects (“early action projects”) at local level. | *•Financier*: French Development Cooperation (AFD) *•Budget*: EUR 1.4 million (AFD), EUR 1.2 million (NGO co-financing)*•Duration of initial period*: 1.5 years (April 2009-December 2010*), currently ongoing.* | Synergies exist between Component 1 and NGO partnership activities aimed at enforcing regional capacities on REDD and supporting communication/knowledge on REDD mechanisms throughout the region. Synergies further exist between Component 3a) and development of REDD pilot projects as supported by the NGO partnership.  | √ |  | √ |
| **ICRAF-ASB/ ITTA/IRAD** | Under the global umbrella of ICRAF, the regional umbrella of IITA, and the national coordination of IRAD, the following two projects are implemented: Proposed Project REDD-ALERT: •*Duration*: 3 years duration•*Financier*: EU*•Implementation*: Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI), Scotland in partnership with EU institutions, universities, CGIAR centers (IITA, IRAD through ASB). •*Objectives*: -Enhancing knowledge on drivers of deforestation and the influence of international and national policies on local land uses choices (including assessment of opportunity cost of land conversion).-Quantifying forest conversion and carbon stock changes resulting from agricultural expansion in mosaic landscapes. ---Mapping changes in forest cover (approx. 2 million ha)-Improving methods for measuring GHGe resulting from deforestation Project REALU•*Financier*: NORAD•*Implementation:* IITA, IRAD and ICRAF regional (coordinated under ASB)•*Objectives:*-Knowledge on drivers of deforestation / degradation and conversion of land use -Better understanding of land use processes in different land tenure scenarios -Value chain assessment related to REDD -Identification of high-potential carbon sequestration (e.g. on-farm timber production)  | *•Financier*: EU, Norway*•Budget*: tbd*•Duration*: 3 years (2010-2013) | Synergies with ASB are expected for implementation of analytical work under Component 3b with view to extensive research carried out on dynamics on the agricultural-forest frontier related to opportunity cost for different land use, policy implications, and the influence of land tenure on land use choices.  |  |  | √ |
| **CIFOR** | **CIFOR** carrying out various research initiatives in the sub-region: Global REDD: Lessons Learned on REDD •*Research Objective*: Informing the future REDD+ projects by providing options for 3E.•*Geographic scope*: Brazil, Bolivia, Cameroon, Indonesia, Tanzania, Vietnam.FORAFAMA: Support for the sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin and the Amazon basin of Brazil. •O*bjective*: Preserving the biodiversity of the two major forest ecosystems (Brazilian Amazon Basin and Congo Basin) and to limit GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.*•Activities:* - South-South Exchange on promoting the integration of policies for sustainable forest management in the future REDD mechanism - Promoting sustainable management and use of forest to preserve environmental services, including carbon stocks COBAM: Climate Change and Forests in the Congo Basin: Synergies between Adaptation and Mitigation : (part of PACEBCo Project)•*Objective*: Develop response to climate change vulnerability of the Congo Basin landscape by providing decision makers, practitioners and local communities with information, analysis and tools to address climate change vulnerability. Outputs developed will help decision makers to design and implement appropriate policies and develop climate change adaptation projects in forests, with impacts on reducing poverty, improving ecosystem services beyond carbon, and protection of livelihoods and local rights. ACP-FORENET / Strengthening of forestry research in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific •*Objective*: South-South cooperation in forestry research: Congo Basin / Plateau of Guyana + Surinam / Asia-Pacific Basin (PNG + Pacific Islands). • *Activity:*As part of this broader research initiative, allometric equations for assessing carbon stocks will be developed.COFFCA: Congo Basin Forests & Climate Change Adaptation •*Objectives***:** To contribute to national processes of adaptation to climate change through the development of policy-oriented adaptation strategies that also ensure sustainable use of forest resources in the Congo Basin Forests.• *Implementation*: This project has a focus on research and capacity building on the role of forests for climate change adaptation and is part of the global TroFFCA project, also implemented in Southeast Asia and Central America. CoFFCA is implemented in Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Central African Republic. *•Project Activities:** Training on regional climate simulations (PRECIS modeling)
* Annual TroFCCA graduate fellowship awards for selected regional students, field research, etc.
* Contributions to scientific knowledge-base on adaptation & policy briefs.
 | *•Financier*: EU, International Development Research Center (IDRC)  | Synergies with CIFOR are expected for implementation of analytical work under Component 3b with view to CIFORs extensive research program on sustainable management of Congo Basin Forests. CIFOR’s current flagship research program in the region is CoFFCCA(Congo Basin Forests & Climate Change Adaptation). |  |  | √ |
| **CIRAD Research Program** | **CIRAD Research Program**CIRAD has a broad research program on forest conservation and sustainable management. CIRAD further leads a scientific consortium including JRC (EC’s Joint Research Centre), University of Gembloux, FRM, and ONFi, for the implementation of the FORAF program. *•Scope of research program:* Ongoing research activities in all six Congo Basin countries relevant to the Regional REDD Project.*•Research topics:* Improvement of tree crop-based agroforestry systems , Rational management of planted and natural forest socio-ecosystems in the Congo Basin, Cotton cropping systems and agro-ecosystem sustainability in grassland zones, Improvement of banana and plantain cropping systems, Ecological intensification of terrestrial aquaculture systems, Food security and safety (horticulture), Animal health. | *•Financier*: various*•Duration*: ongoing | Synergies of current CIRAD research activities (i.e. MAKALA UE Project on bio-energy) and Component 3b.  CIRAD is further supporting OFAC, which will play a role under Component 2a for establishing a scientific platform in support of regional MRV approach for the Congo Basin |  |  | √ |
| **Congo Basin Forest Fund** **(CBFF)** | **Congo Basin Forest Fund** *•Executing Agency*: various on an application basis•*Objectives*: To reduce poverty and fight against climate change through the reduction, mitigation and possibly reversing of the rate of deforestation.• *Implementation*: *Management bodies*: * Governing Council : 2 Co-Chairmen and 10 members, 5 ex officio members and five non-voting members
* CBFF Secretariat: housed by the AfDB, with satellite offices in Kinshasa and Yaounde.

*Levels of intervention:*  - Large grants > EUR 2.5 million - Medium grants <EUR 800,000  - Small grants < EUR 80,000*Eligibility & Selection Criteria for Projects:* * Demonstrate Innovation & Transformation Potential (with regard to livelihoods in compliance with SFM principles)
* Compliance with CBFF Objectives (reducing the rate of deforestation & reducing poverty amongst forest communities)
* Compliance with the Convergence Plan of COMIFAC, in particular axes 2 - Knowledge of the resource, 6 - Poverty reduction, 9 - New funding mechanisms
 | *•Financier*: Great Britain, Norway, and other donors*•Budget*: $ 200 million*•Duration*: 10 years ( | Synergies to be build between projects supported under the CBFF and activities supported under Component *[See separate line on proposed CBFF/FAO Project on National MRV Systems under a Regional Approach]* |  |  | √ |
| **Congo Basin Forest Partnership** **(CBFP)** | **Congo Basin Forest Partnership** •*Objectives***:** The improvement of the effectiveness of technical and financial contributions for the conservation, sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and alleviation of poverty in Central African countries.*•Implementation:* The CBFP is a non-binding partnership between Central African states, industrialized countries, international and bilateral development institutions as well as international environmental organizations that was launched in 2002. CBFP offers a communication and coordination platform for around forty partners engaged in countries in the Congo Basin. • *Facilitation*: CBFP facilitation is lead on a rotation basis by different partners: 2008 to 2010: Germany, 2010-2010: Canada. The CBFP is steered by a regional Advisory Committee comprised of 6 active members, including a representative of a donor agency other than the CBFP facilitator, the current Chairmanship of COMIFAC, a representative of an international NGO, of a development NGOs of the sub-region, of the private sector , of a International Organization. | *•Duration*: since 2002 | Synergies in terms of common objective to improve effective coordination between all partners (donors, International NGOs, national/local NGOs, private sector, and academia) under the COMIFAC umbrella | √ |  |  |
| **FCPF** | *•Objective*: The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility assists developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by providing value to standing forests. The FCPF is designed to set the stage for a large-scale system of incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. •*Scope of program*: The FCPF currently has 37 participant countries, 14 of which are in Africa (including all six countries of the Congo Basin). *•Activities*: FCPF provides support in stages. Countries are currently supported to develop their National REDD strategies and broader “readiness for REDD”, including establishment of a REDD+ implementation framework, elaboration of reference scenarios, development of MRV systems, and clarification and support to National REDD+ management arrangements.  | *•Financier*: Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Germany, Finland, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, EC, etc.*•Budget*: $115 million (Readiness Fund) + $55 million (Carbon Fund)*•Duration*: since 2007 | Clear linkages exist with FCPF financed country level activities supporting REDD readiness. As per the subsidiary principle of the regional REDD project, Component 1 and Component 2 will provide a regional context to the FCPF financed policy dialogue on REDD, national level capacity building, as well as support to national MRV activities.  | √ | √ |  |
| **GAF AG** | •*Scope of program*: GAF has initiated and supported pilot projects in Cameroon and Bolivia, including south-south-cooperation and technology transfer. Similar pilots are being launched in Gabon and the Republic of Congo. *•Objective*: To integrate the application of Earth Observation technologies in policy formulation, to establish baseline projections of emissions caused by deforestation, combined with regional projections of degradation nested in a wall-to-wall approach.*•Activities*: Key methodological issues that are being addressed in the pilots include estimation and monitoring of forest areas (using remote sensing methods and in-situ data), establishing reference emission levels, and assessing both national and sub/national approaches.  | *•Financier*: KfW, European Space Agency (ESA)*•Duration*: since 2007 | Synergies between Component 2b) with GAF’s ongoing support to Cameroon and emerging support to RoC and Gabon for forest cover monitoring, carbon stock measurements, and capacity building for analysis of EO data. |  | √ |  |
| **IUCN** |  |  | Synergies exist between analytic social and IP studies planned under Component 3b) as well as support to extended MRV as planned under Component 1b) with IUCN’s activities supporting participation of indigenous peoples and other forest dwelling peoples in the REDD dialogue at national and regional levels.  | √ | √ |  |
| **National MRV Systems with a Regional Approach (CBFF/FAO)** | **National MRV Systems with a Regional Approach for the Congo Basin Countries***•Executing Agency*: FAO/UN-REDD, INPE•*Objectives***:** Develop full MRV systems for all 10 COMIFAC countries (that choose to participate) with a regional methodological approach and with integration of the three regional structures for technical support. This will facilitate countries to prepare and participate in REDD+ mitigation activities under the UNFCCC. • *Implementation*: 10 national projects lead by national institutions and 1 regional project under the coordination of COMIFAC (OFAC for operational aspects). *•Main outputs:** Set up of MRV basic elements in each of the ten countries (Satellite Land Monitoring Systems, National Forest Inventory, National GHG Inventory)
* Establishment of three regional centers for training and capacity building of the three basic MRV elements
* Capacity building and training to strengthen the technical capacities of countries’ national institutions.
 | *•Financier*: CBFF*•Budget*: $ 34 million*•Duration*: 6-10 years (2010-16/20) | Allometric equations that will be elaborated under Component 2b) of the Regional REDD Project will serve as an important element on which national MRV systems under a regional approach will build. Capacity building activities for the benefits of national institutions responsible for forest monitoring will be closely coordinated with FAO’s emerging program for MRV under a regional approach. |  | √ |  |
| **OFAC**  | *•Objective*: OFAC’s overall goal is to data collection and knowledge sharing in support of forest monitoring in the Congo Basin, including improved morning of social, economic and ecologic aspects of forest management. *•Activities*: Specific goals are to support SFM in the Congo Basin tropical forest ecosystem, to fight illegal forest harvesting, to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity, to improve forest governance, and to support institutional capacity building for government as well as civil society organization.FORAF Project*Donor*: European Union in partnership with: CIFOR, CIRAD, FRM, Université Catholique de Louvain*Duration* : 3 years*Objectives* : FORAF aims to reinforce forest data collection and analysis as well as setting up of OFAC, and launching a sustainable regional observation framework. Key outputs: the « Etat des lieux des forêts d’Afrique » surveys, monitoring system using ecosystem and socio-economic data for SFM. | *•Financier*: EU, French Cooperation, Development Cooperation of Belgium, World Bank, USAID, DFID, GTZ, FORAF Project,   | OFAC will be an executing partner for Component 2a) Scientific platform on REDD. The project will build on OFAC’s existing academic network to ensure coordination and exchange amongst different partners working on scientific aspects of REDD (related to MRV, GHG methodologies, etc.).  |  | √ | √ |
| **PACEBCO (AfDB)** | **Support Programme for the Conservation of Congo Basin Ecosystem** •*Objectives***:** Ensure the regeneration of ecosystems and improve the living conditions of populations and the capacity of institutions in charge. • *Implementation*: PMU based in Yaounde and operating under the technical supervision of COMIFAC ES; PMU includes: Coordinator, thematic specialists, support personnel). Partnership agreements for implementation entered into with CIFOR (for CC adaptation), RAPAC (for biodiversity conservation), EFG, ERAIFT and planned with OFAC, CEFDHAC (support to networks on youth, parliamentarians, women, indigenous people, etc.) and various NGOs.*•Project Components:*  1. Institutional Strengthening of COMIFAC and its partner institutions;  2. Sustainable management and regeneration of Congo Basin ecosystems (including adaptation to climate change); 3. Promote sustainable livelihoods of people 4. Program Management and Coordination  | *•Financier*: African Development Bank (AfDB), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) *•Budget*: $62 million*•Duration*: 5 years (2009-14) | PACEBCo and the Regional REDD project complement each other. From a technical perspective, PACEBCo places a focus on biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation, while the Regional REDD project places a focus on climate change mitigation. As such, the Regional REDD Project provides a missing piece of the regional response to conserve and sustainably manage the Congo Basin forest ecosystem. -Close coordination is further planned on several regional activities: The institutional assessment of COMIFAC (financed by PACEBCO) will also guide capacity building and institutional strengthening activities to be supported under Component 1a). -Synergies can be built for support to regional CEFDHAC networks for parliamentarians, indigenous people, youth, women. -Potential synergies further exist for analytical studies to be carried out under Component 3b).  | √ |  |  |
| **Support for the Central Africa Forests Commission (GTZ/KfW & French Government)** | **Support for the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)**•*Objectives***:** COMIFAC and its executive secretariat, along with relevant actors from national forest programmes, coordinate implementation of the Convergence Plan and the introduction of sustainable management practices for forest and natural resources, in line with the priorities set jointly for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.• *Implementation*: Technical support to COMIFAC ES is provided through the COMIFAC Support Office (Bureau Franco-Allemand) with several French and German technical assistants based in Yaounde. Support is provided to help coordinate implementation of the Convergence Plan, create operative mechanisms and secure long-term financial sustainability. Focus is on sustainable management practices, including the management of representative protected areas, and encouragement of dialogue between all relevant actors in the sub-region, capacity building of national and regional frameworks, and support to the work program of the GTC. | *•Financier*: BMZ/GTZ and French Cooperation/AFD*•Duration*: ongoing  | - Technical assistance that is provided through the Bureau Franco-Allemand directly complements capacity building and institutional strengthening activities under Component 1a) and 1b). More specifically, synergies can be realized related to: -Support to harmonization of national policies under the framework of the regional Convergence Plan.-Support to institutional strengthening, including financial sustainability. -Support to framework for civil society participation in regional decision-making processes. -Encouragement of debate and dialogue on forest governance issues. -South-South Cooperation between regional organizations for the Amazon Basin, Congo Basin, and South East Asian countries | √ |  |  |
| **UN REDD** | *• Implementing Agencies*: UN-REDD is a collaborative effort between three UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, and UNEP. *• Global Scope*: UN-REDD Programme has nine pilot countries, including DRC. There are 15 observer countries that will benefit from full engagement into the program once funding becomes available.*• Objective*: The UN-REDD Programme supports REDD readiness process at national level, including the development and implementation of REDD strategies. It provides technical advice to address deforestation and forest degradation and offers methods and tools for MRV. The program encourages informed participation of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities. It further provides support to countries to access further financial and technical support.  | *•Financier*: Norway (main contributor), Denmark, Spain*•Budget*: $ 82+ million (for 2009-10)*•Duration*: ongoing  | - Clear synergies exist with UN REDD financed country level activities supporting REDD readiness. As per the subsidiary principle of the regional REDD project, Component 1 and Component 2 will provide a regional context to the UN REDD financed policy dialogue on REDD, national level capacity building, as well as support to national MRV activities. | √ | √ |  |

1. Regional networks representing different fractions of civil society are organized under the regional umbrella of CEFDHAC. Networks under CEFDHAC comprise amongst other: REPALEAC (Indigenous Peoples), REFAD (Women), REJEFAC (Youth), REPAR (Local Parliamentarians), and RIFFEAC (Training Institutes for Forestry). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The REDD+ project inventory was established as part of the preparation activities of the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The PMU will compile annual workplans which will be updated and reviewed again during the midyear. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The responsible agency for signature of the Implementation Agreement will vary from country to country. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Report available on request: « Inventaire des projets de gestion durable des forets dans le bassin du Congo et analyse de projet REDD+ potentiels a 3 ans » [↑](#footnote-ref-5)