

Republic of Congo
Forest Investment Program (FIP)
Terms of Reference for the Joint Mission in Support of the REDD+ National Investment Plan

1. Introduction

A joint mission of the Government of the Republic of Congo (GRC) – through the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment (MEFDDE) – the Multilateral Development Banks¹ (MDBs) and their partners will be held in Congo June 8-14, 2017. The overall objective of the mission is to take stock of the preparation process for the Investment Plan (IP) of the National REDD+ Strategy, review the first draft of the IP, and formulate appropriate proposals for the continuation and timely completion of this process. The mission will report on the diagnostic studies prepared by the national consultants and the related consultation process, review the draft IP, confirm potential investment options, and update the roadmap for submission to the FIP Sub-Committee. The joint mission will produce an aide-mémoire that will describe the process, results, conclusions and recommendations, as well as a detailed plan for the completion of the IP.

The joint mission will provide support to the GRC with the stakeholder consultation process and with prioritizing investment options for the development of the country-led IP. The GRC has prepared a diagnosis / progress report in preparation for the mission and has consulted with key stakeholders as part of the REDD+ readiness process. The National REDD+ Strategy, Stakeholder Consultation Plan, Strategic Environmental and Social Analysis (SESA), and other REDD+ technical studies will serve as the basis for the development of the IP.

2. Context

The GRC initiated the IP preparation process in close collaboration with the two multilateral banks (WB and AfDB), and in consultation with local communities, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. This investment planning process builds on the Expression of Interest (EoI) submitted by the GRC to the FIP, and on the country's broader REDD+ preparation process (supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, FCPF, and UN-REDD).

Context and challenges for the forest sector in Congo. In March 2015, the Congo submitted its EoI to the FIP Sub-Committee. The document provided a description of the country and forest sector context, described the mitigation potential of forests for climate change, the drivers of deforestation and potential investments to counter their effects, and the potential for co-benefits, as required by the FIP. The information presented in the EoI was endorsed by the FIP Expert Group and is included in Annex 1 to provide additional context for the investment planning process. In addition, the GRC has joined the Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI) and assigned the responsibility of preparing an EoI for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Concept Notes have been developed to that effect. In this context, the investment planning process will identify priority measures to address the causes of

¹ World Bank (WB) and African Development Bank (AfDB), while the International Finance Corporation (IFC) was unable to actively participate in the Investment Plan development process.

deforestation and forest degradation and to eliminate the barriers that have hampered these efforts in the past.

3. Government of Congo: Vision and institutional arrangements for the FIP

Vision and leadership. The FIP preparation process is consistent with the FIP's orientation with regard to its ownership by the GRC and the leadership role it has to play. This process is equally consistent with FIP's vision to promote strategic and transformative options that would allow attaining more significant results for the climate.

The MEFDDE, whose mandate relates to the sustainable management of the forests and the environment and the promotion of sustainable development, is the agency responsible for the implementation of the FIP. The National REDD+ Committee will represent the orientation and decision-making body in the process of development and implementation of the IP. The GRC has adopted the National Development Plan (NDP) 2012-2016, which has set economic diversification as one of its strategic directions. The advancement of a green economy as a pillar of economic diversification has translated into the implementation of several programs in the forest sector, such as the sustainable management of forest concessions, the promotion of hunting and ecotourism and the launch of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program, ProNAR. The NDP is currently being revised. Thus, through its engagement in the sustainable management of its forests and its efforts to promote REDD+, particularly through the development of a first Emission Reduction (ER) Program in the country's north, the Congo is moving towards green development. The planning process for the REDD+ investments will fall under the objective of sustainable forest management and will allow the identification and prioritization of investment needs in the forestry sector and in other related sectors.

The government has committed to the REDD+ process since 2008, with the financial support of the FCPF and of the UN-REDD, as well as with assistance from other development partners and civil society organizations. With the imminent finalization of its National REDD+ Strategy, its SESA and the advanced preparation of the Sangha-Likouala ER Program, the REDD+ readiness preparation is now in its advanced stages. Based on an assessment of available information resources and of the elements required by the FIP, the GRC has gathered a significant amount of necessary information and the consultation process in support of the IP preparation is already underway.

The GRC would like the FIP resources to support its vision, expressed in its National REDD+ Strategy, to capitalize on sustainable economic development opportunities in the forest area. The FIP will take into account the procedures and plans already developed within the REDD+ framework, which satisfy most contextual information needs required in the FIP documentation. Relying on its REDD+ readiness process, the GRC expects that the main focus of the IP preparation will lie on mapping available investments and developing two project concept notes that will support the implementation of the actions and priorities of its National REDD+ Strategy, with particular focus on the alignment with its Sangha-Likouala ER Program, as stated in its EoI.

Communication with stakeholders regarding the global REDD+ process, including civil society and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP), as well those of the FIP and its associated Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM), will be strengthened and will follow a participative and inclusive approach. The

planning and implementation of the DGM will be fully achieved in parallel with the IP process, to ensure that the LCIPs play an active role in planning the REDD+ investments. In this regard, civil society has already created a National Steering Committee and is in the process of finalizing a first concept note for the DGM investments.

Since the IP is a useful tool in the process of planning investments within the implementation framework of the National REDD+ Strategy, the GRC has decided that this reference framework should be unique for all other processes that contribute to this process, namely the FIP, the CAFI and other mechanisms. This is also applicable to the GCF, for which a set of concept notes are in the process of being developed.

Institutional Arrangements. The CONA-REDD ensures intersectoral coordination of REDD+. Apart from the line ministries directly concerned with REDD+ activities, civil society, and the private sector, it comprises representatives of the presidency, the prime minister's office, the ministry of finance, the ministry of planning, and legislative bodies. It is presided by the advisor to the president on forest and environmental affairs. It provides overall political guidance and decision-making.

The MEFDDE is responsible for the management of forest resources – including protected areas – and sustainable development, as well as for the environment. In addition, its mandate includes the involvement and assurance of the well-being of the LCIPs situated in the forests during their set-up. The National Afforestation and Planting Program (ProNAR) relates to planting trees in the private domains of the state. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) is in charge of promoting agricultural development.

The process of developing the Investment Plan is coordinated by the FIP Focal Point of the MEFDDE, under the supervision of the National REDD+ Coordinator. The monitoring of the ongoing development of the IP will be performed by the FIP-IP Development Monitoring Committee, which brings together the main stakeholders.²

The CN-REDD+ is responsible for the coordination of the REDD+ readiness process. In this capacity, it will offer support to the FIP Focal Point in planning activities. The GRC will be supported by the two MDBs (WB and AfDB) in the development and implementation of the IP. More specifically, the GRC has requested that the WB ensure a leadership role in the development of the IP.

4. Scope of Work

4.1 Preparatory Work for the Joint Mission

Prior to the beginning of the first joint mission, the GRC will undertake the following activities:

1. **Stocktaking:** Prepare chapters 1 to 4, with the assistance of a team of consultants, and carry out an investment opportunity diagnosis for the two strategic options set out in the EoI and selected by the scoping mission (i.e. investments in the cocoa value chain in Sangha/Likouala, and

² Besides the MEFDDE, the Development Monitoring Committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Finances, Budget and Public Portfolio, which is responsible for the country's finances and development planning, as well as from the Ministry of Land Use Planning, Ministry of Mining and Geology, two representatives of the civil society and the private sector association UNI-CONGO.

investments in the sustainable supply of wood-fuel for the city of Brazzaville, including stakeholder consultations on their preoccupations and expectations). The GRC, through the Ministry of Land Use Planning and Public Works (MATGT) will also prepare a first proposal of land planning activities, which would be submitted to CAFI.

2. **Mission Coordination:** Meetings between the GRC and the MDBs will be organized, as required, by audio or video conference to agree on: (i) roles and responsibilities of the MDBs and other partners; (ii) planning and logistics of workshops and meetings for the joint mission; (iii) identifying approaches for stakeholder consultations; and (iv) information sharing procedures for the planning process, technical questions and financing methods.
3. **First Consultations:** Consultations with relevant stakeholders have already been held within the REDD+ readiness framework. Other consultations have been planned and will be integrated by the GRC into the current series of workshops and discussions held for the development of the REDD+ National Strategy.

4.2 Joint Mission Activities and Follow-up

The joint mission activities will rely on the REDD+ readiness process and will consist of the following:

1. Validate the priority investment areas (geographic, sectoral), as stated in the EoI to the FIP submitted by the GRC and the development of the REDD+ National Strategy, as well as by the EoI submitted to the CAFI, and finalize these proposals. In addition, the integration of GCF proposals in the IP will be supported. In this respect, the mission will examine the projects and programs proposed in the first draft of the IP and the priority investment options. These projects and programs will be designed in accordance with the investment criteria of their respective financing sources.
2. Discuss and define the institutional arrangements for implementation of the investment projects, as well as the institutional coordination mechanisms for FIP-related interventions (including those related to the DGM and the collaboration with development partners, the private sector, etc.).
3. Validate the development of chapters 1 to 4, which should rely on existing documents, as defined during the scoping mission.
4. Discuss program management issues (i.e. results framework, monitoring and evaluation approaches and the requirement to share information and lessons learned throughout the Congo FIP Program and with the FIP global community). These elements may be further developed after the joint mission.
5. Review environmental and social issues related to REDD+ and to interventions in the forest area, as well as safeguards issues that may emerge during the preparation and implementation of specific projects or programs (after the approval of the IP). This activity will rely on the SESA.
6. Link the preparation of the DGM to the REDD+ National Strategy and the IP. Civil society will assume the leadership role in this process. The joint mission will meet with representatives of civil society and will review the progress made in the creation of a National Steering Committee.

The FIP preparation process and a timetable will be discussed and opportunities for joint consultations will be identified.

7. Plan the second joint mission, the objective of which will be to review and validate the IP draft, given that the GRC is planning to submit its FIP Investment Plan for consideration to the FIP Steering Committee in November 2017. To that effect, the document must be fully developed between the two joint missions.

4.3 Stakeholder Consultations

The development of the IP requires broad stakeholder participation to ensure an understanding and ownership of the program, and implementation support from the government, national stakeholders and development partners. The FIP process will closely interact with civil society and LCIP representatives before, during and after the joint mission, as stated above. The main groups to be involved in FIP planning discussions – and the development of the DGM – include:

1. Local government representatives from the forest zones hosting important REDD+ programs and/or those targeted by government priority programs.
2. LCIPs and their representatives, particularly from those areas considered for the intervention of priority programs of the GRC.
3. Civil society organizations, including those involved in the development of the DGM.
4. Private sector representatives, especially those located in government priority program intervention zones.

4.4 Coordination among Development Partners

Consultations with development partners aimed at creating investment synergies in support of the FIP will be organized during the joint missions and, if necessary, between the two missions. The IP will include an inventory of projects financed by development partners to identify co-financing and synergy-developing opportunities during implementation.

4.5 Joint Mission Results

Mission results will include: (1) An aide-mémoire of mission progress, results, conclusions and recommendations; (2) Validation of the programs and projects defined in the IP's first draft, as well as of the investment options; (3) Validation of interim versions of chapters 1 to 4 of the IP and formulation of recommendations related to these chapters, as required; (4) Drafting of a roadmap for the development of the remaining chapters of the validated IP, with defined roles and responsibilities for the various stakeholders.

At the conclusion of the joint mission, the mission results will be communicated to the MEFDDE.

5. Joint Mission Composition

The joint mission will meet the needs of the GRC. The joint mission members will include the following persons, subject to their availability and expertise requirements:

Expertise	Institution	Name
GRC		
President CONA-REDD	CONA-REDD	Macaire Nzomono
Cabinet Director	MEFDDE	Pierre Taty
Director General for Forest Economy	MEFDDE	TBD
FIP/CAFI Focal Point	MEFDDE	Grégoire Nkéoua
National REDD+ Coordinator	MEFDDE	Georges Boundzanga
Focal Point for the Green Climate Fund	MEFDDE	Andea Vidalie
Director General for Regional Development	MINAT	Antoine Goma
Representative of the Ministry of Planning, Statistics, and Regional Integration	MPSIR	TBD
Representative of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Public Portfolio	MEFBPP	TBD
Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	MAEP	TBD
Representative of the Ministry of Mines and Geology		TBD
Safeguards Specialist to the CN-REDD	MEFDDE	Henriette Tsoh
Communications Specialist to the CN-REDD	MEFDDE	Hugues Koudimbila
Chief Projects Unit CN-REDD	MEFDDE	Ntiakoulou Loubelo
Two Civil Society Representatives (CACO-REDD/DGM)	TBD	TBD
Secretary General	UNI CONGO	Samba
MDBs		
Task Team Leader	IDA/IBRD	Julian Lee
Natural Resources Management Specialist	IDA/IBRD	Aurelie Rossignol
Land Use Management Specialist	IDA/IBRD	Erik Reed
Environmental Safeguards Specialist	IDA/IBRD	Claude Lobo
Social Safeguards Specialist	IDA/IBRD	Lucienne M'Baipor
Assistant	IDA/IBRD	Josiane Maloueki
Senior Environmental Specialist	AfDB	Laouali GARBA
Natural Resources Management Specialist	AfDB	Bakach D.J.B KADIATA
Social Development and Gender Expert	AfDB	Nathalie GARUNGA
Forestry and Wood Energy Expert	AfDB	DJOGBENOU Coovi Paul
TFPs		
Environmental and Rural Development Officer	AFD	Lucile Broussolle
	Europ. Commission	Alessandra Cucchi
	USFS	TBD

Chief, Environment and Forests Program	UNDP/UN-REDD	Marius Issanga
	UNEP/UN-REDD	TBD
	FAO/UN-REDD	Philippe Crête

6. Provisional Agenda

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS
June 8	9:30 – 10:30	Consultation with the Investment Plan (IP) Monitoring Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the development progress of the REDD+ National Investment Plan (IP) 	World Bank (WB) African Development Bank (AfDB) Members of the IP Development Monitoring Committee (including civil society) National REDD+ Coordination (CN REDD+) FIP/CAFI Focal Point GCF Focal Point
	10:45 – 13:00	Consultation with the Monitoring Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the first draft of the IP and results of the first consultations, validation of Chapters 1 to 4 draft versions 	WB, AfDB, Members of the IP Development Monitoring Committee, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point
	14:00 – 14:45	Courtesy Call to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment	WB, AfDB, Members of the IP Development Monitoring Committee, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point
	15:00 – 17:00	Consultation with the Monitoring Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of first draft of the IP (general discussions) • Review of the investment proposals identified in the first draft of the IP 	WB, AfDB, Members of the IP Development Monitoring Committee (including civil society), CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point
June 9	9:00 – 10:00	Meeting with the Minister of Land Use Planning and Public Works on the potential activities to be carried out on the land use planning framework	WB, AfDB, CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point
	10:00 – 13:30	Consultation with the Monitoring Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the actions/projects submitted to the GCF for integration in the IP 	WB, AfDB, CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point

	12:30 – 13:30	<p>Consultation with the private sector and civil society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of first draft of the IP 	WB, AfDB, CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, Representatives of relevant stakeholders including RENAPAC
	15:00 – 16:30	<p>Discussion on coordination of IP planning with the DGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentation and exchanges on first draft of the IP • Brief presentation and discussions on the DGM preparation process 	WB, AfDB, CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, Civil Society
June 10	09:30 – 11:30	<p>Consultation with development partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the FIP Process • Short presentation and exchanges on first draft of the IP • Status of the process of submission of mitigation and adaptation projects to the GCF 	WB, AfDB, CN-REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point, FAO, AFD, UNDP, European Commission, US Forest Service, WCS, WWF
	14:00 – 16:00	Analysis of the results of exchanges with civil society and the development partners	WB, AfDB, Members of the IP Development Monitoring Committee, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point
June 11	09:30 – 11:00	Consultation on institutional arrangements for the implementation of environmental and social safeguards	WB, AfDB, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point, FAO, UNDP, AFD etc.
	11:15 – 12:30	Discussions related to program management (result framework, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, communications/information dissemination, allocation of resources, etc.)	WB, AfDB, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point, FAO, UNDP, AFD
	14:30 - 15h30	Revision of the timetable for IP preparation	WB, AfDB, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point
June 12	8:00 - 11:00	Preparation of the Aide-Memoire	WB, AfDB, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point
	12:00 – 13:00	Communication of the results of the mission to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment	WB, AfDB, CN REDD+, FIP/CAFI Focal Point, GCF Focal Point

7. Contacts

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8. Support budget for MDBs for the preparation phase:

MDB	Percentage of Budget
World Bank (Lead)	59.6%
AfDB	40.4%