

Côte d'Ivoire: Dedicated Grant Mechanism
Concept note on the DGM process

I. Introduction

1. Côte d'Ivoire was selected in May 2015 as a participant in the Forest Investment Program and prepared an investment plan which was approved in June 2016 by the FIP Sub-Committee. The country will receive US\$28.5 million of which US\$24 million will co-finance its investment plan and UD\$4.5 million from the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for its local communities. The DGM is a global initiative that was conceived and developed as a special window under the FIP to provide grants to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities intended to enhance their capacity and support initiatives to strengthen their participation in FIP and other REDD+ processes at the local, national and global levels.

2. This note presents the process of setting up DGM sub-committees at the local level and the National DGM Steering Committee.

II. Background of RCI's local communities and their involvement with Forests

3. Three different communities live in the FIP targeted zones: (i) indigenous people native to the area (local), (ii) non-native, Ivorian immigrants and (iii) non-native, non-Ivorian immigrants. These communities differ in their approach to and interest in forests and their management. Those of the first group have a deep social, cultural, emotional and spiritual connection to the land and are often considered as landowners. Those of the second and third groups are primarily interested in the economic benefits of the land given their coming to the area in search of farmland for subsistence and economic growth.

4. Forest governance in Côte d'Ivoire is marked by the limited involvement of these communities, which is recognized as being among the causes of deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, there is a lack of incentive mechanisms designed to preserve trees in plantations and develop woodlands. Also, profits from the management of gazetted forests are poorly allocated to local populations and traditional authorities. In this context, local communities face increasing poverty and feel less concerned with the problem of forest cover destruction and the need for GHG reductions.

5. To address these issues, a forest co-management approach that empowers local communities to play an active role in forests management and benefit from profits generated from sustainable management of these forests should be adopted. Hence, the organization of

forest adjacent communities will be the first step of both the development of FIP and DGM projects in Côte d'Ivoire, the two being intertwined.

III. Setting up of DGM sub-committees and of the DGM National Steering Committee

6. Step 1: Selection of FIP priority intervention sites: The World Bank in close coordination with the Government (Ministry in charge of Forests and the Ministry of Environment) will select priority gazetted forests for FIP interventions in the two regions covered by the Investment Plan: (i) the southwest region which covers an area of approximately 4 million ha (or about 12.5% of the country's land area) and 17 gazetted forests and includes the five administrative sub-regions of San-Pedro, Gboklè, Guémon, Cavally, and Nawa; and (ii) The central region covers some 3.5 million ha (or about 11% of the country's land area) and includes the administrative regions of Gbéké, Bélier, Iffou, and N'Zi. The region contains 42 relatively small gazetted forests with a total area of about 0.23 million ha.

7. Step 2: Organization of forests Communities into Community-Based Organizations for Forests co-Management and DGM local committees: The Communities and villages adjacent to each selected forest will be organized into Community-Based Organizations for Forests co-Management (CBOFM) along with the Government Agency responsible for management of gazetted forests (SODEFOR). Setting up of these CBOFM which will also play the role of DGM sub-committee at the local level, will be conducted in a participatory manner with SODEFOR, SEP, the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the REDD+ (SEP-REDD+) and local forestry NGOs. Furthermore, the SEP-REDD+ will conduct awareness raising activities on the REDD+ mechanism in Côte d'Ivoire, linkages with FIP and the DGM as well as benefits for communities' participation in forest governance.

8. Step 3: Registration and formal recognition of the CBOFMs. The members of the each CBOFM will elect its President and an alternate who will in turn nominate the CBOFM management team composed of 10 to 13 members. The team will be representative of the three types of forests communities (indigenous people native to the area (local), Ivorian immigrants and non-Ivorian immigrants).The CBOFM will ensure community participation in the consultations for the elaboration and implementation of forests management plans by SODEFOR agencies at the local level. The CBOFM, as the DGM sub-committee at the village level will participate in the DGM activities. The SEP-REDD+ at the local level will guide the CBOFM in the formal registration process at the decentralized Government level.

9. Step 4: Creation of a Forest Co-Management Union (U-CBOFM): The Union will be composed of presidents of CBOFM. They will elect the Union President and an alternate who will also select their management team among the CBOFM presidents. The Union will liaise with the Government and SODEFOR at the central level to ensure that communities' voice is heard and is fully taken into account in the elaboration and implementation of the Forest Management Plans. The Union will also ensure that profits generated from forests management are shared with the communities in an equitable manner. The U-CBOFM will be the DGM National Steering Committee on a two-year term and will work closely with the World Bank to prepare the Côte d'Ivoire DGM project.

10. Step 5: Registration of the U-CBOFM at the national level: The Headquarters of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the REDD+ based in Abidjan, the capital city of RCI, will guide the U-CBOFM to formally register at the central Government level with the support of a legal adviser as needed.

11. Step 5: Development of the DGM project: Once formally in place, the U-CBOFM/DGM National Steering Committee will work closely with the World Bank to develop the DGM project in line with the DGM procedures, including selecting a National Implementing Agency in a transparent manner.

IV. Action plan for the DGM process in RCI

Actions	Responsible	Timing
Conduct community awareness raising and consultations at the local level	SEP-REDD+ with local Forestry NGOs	November 2016 to March 2017
Creation of Community-Based Organizations for Forests Co-Management as DGM sub-committees at the local level	SEP-REDD+ with local Forestry NGOs	April –July 2017
Election of CBOFM/local DGM management team	Village CBOFM/Local DGM Sub-Committees	July – August 2017
Registration of the CBOFM/local DGM sub-committee	SEP-REDD+ with CBOFM/local DGM sub-committee	September to December 2017
Creation of U-CBOFM/DGM National Steering Committee	CBOFM/DGM local sub-committee presidents	January to March 2018
Registration of U-CBOFM/DGM National Steering Committee	U-CBOFM/National DGM Steering Committee with support of SEP-REDD+	March to June 2018
Start development of DGM project	World Bank	July 2018