

The World Bank

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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July 30, 2009

H.E. Anacle Bissielo
Minister of Development, Public Performance,
Forecasting and Statistics
Ministry of Development, Public Performance,
Forecasting and Statistics
Libreville
Republic of Gabon

Excellency:

**Re: Grant Agreement for the Readiness Preparation Proposal
Readiness Fund of the FCPF
Grant No. TF093915**

I wish to refer to Resolution PC2008-2 of the Participants Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) regarding Selection of REDD Country Participants ("Resolution PC2008-2"). REDD refers to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Resolution PC2008-2 provides that subject to the availability of funds, a REDD Country Participant may receive the grants up to three million six hundred thousand United States Dollars (US\$3,600,000) ("Total Grant") for formulating and executing a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

Resolution PC2008-3 of the Participants Committee regarding Grant Allocation for REDD Country Participants (Resolution PC2008-3) further provides that the Total Grant may be made available in two or three installments, with the first installment in the amount of US\$200,000 (First Installment) available to the Eligible REDD Country upon its selection as a Participant in the FCPF for the purpose of formulating a R-PP.

The Gabonese Republic ("Recipient") was selected as a REDD Country Participant and wishes to receive the First Installment of the Total Grant to prepare its R-PP. In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Recipient, I am pleased to inform you that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("World Bank"), acting as Trustee of the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility ("Trustee"), agrees to extend to the Recipient a grant in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand United States Dollars (U.S.\$200,000) ("Grant") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in the financing of the project described in the Annex ("Project").

The Trustee may enter into one or more than one supplementary agreement to this grant agreement with the Recipient for the purpose of extending the balance of the Total Grant, subject to the availability of funds, terms and conditions set forth in attachment II to Resolution PC2008-3 and a decision by the Participants Committee.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement.

Please confirm the Recipient's agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and returning it to the World Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the countersignature.

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
Acting as Trustee of the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

By: /s/ Mary Barton - Dock
Country Director for Gabon
Africa Region

AGREED:

GABONESE REPUBLIC

By: /s/ Anaclé Bissielo
Authorized Representative

Date: September 02, 2009

Enclosures:

(1) Standard Conditions for Grants Made by the World Bank Out of Various Funds, dated July 1, 2008.

(2) Disbursement Letter of even date herewith, together with World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects, dated May 1, 2006.

Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions

1.01. **Standard Conditions.**

(a) The Standard Conditions for Grants Made by the World Bank Out of Various Funds dated July 1, 2008 (“Standard Conditions”), with the modification set forth in paragraph (b) below, constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

(b) The following term shall be inserted as paragraph 6 (bis) in the Appendix to the Standard Conditions:

6bis. “Charter” means the Charter Establishing the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, as may be amended from time to time;”

1.02. **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions, the Charter, or in this Agreement.

Article II
Project Execution

2.01. **Project Objectives and Description.** The objective of the Project is to assist the Recipient to develop a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), on the basis of the Readiness Plan Idea Note following the FCPF template for the R-PP. The Project consists of the following parts:

- (a) Preparation of an assessment of the Recipient’s land use and forest policies and its governance structure in the forest sector.
- (b) Setting-up of a multi-stakeholder national REDD working group responsible for following up on REDD activities.
- (c) Preparation of a consultation and outreach plan to be implemented during the implementation phase of the Readiness Plan, including conduct of consultations among key stakeholders.
- (d) Preparation of terms of reference for the development of the national REDD strategy.
- (e) Preparation of terms of reference for the design of a national REDD implementation framework.
- (f) Preparation of a social and environmental analysis methodology and terms of reference for carrying out the analysis.
- (g) Assessment of the investment and capacity building needs for the implementation of the national REDD strategy.

- (h) Preparation of terms of reference for the development of a reference scenario for emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- (i) Preparation of terms of reference for establishing the monitoring, reporting and verification system for changes in forest cover and changes in carbon stocks at the national level.

2.02. **Project Execution Generally.** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Project. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project through the Ministry of Environment in accordance with the provisions of (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions, (b) the "Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants", dated October 15, 2006 ("Anti-Corruption Guidelines"), and (c) this Article II.

2.03. **Institutional Arrangements.** Without limitation upon the provision of paragraph 2.02, the Recipient shall ensure that the General Directory of Environment (DGE) shall maintain until completion of the Project, appropriate and qualified staff to carry out the implementation of the Project.

2.04. **Project Report and Completion Report.** The Recipient shall prepare the Project Report and Completion Report in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.06 of the Standard Conditions. The Project Report shall cover the period of one calendar semester and shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than one month after the end of the period covered by such report. The Completion Report shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six months after the Closing Date.

2.05. **Financial Management.**

(a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 of the Standard Conditions.

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim unaudited financial reports for the Project are prepared and furnished to the World Bank not later than 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter, covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.07 (b) of the Standard Conditions. Such audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the entire period during which withdrawals from the Grant Account were made provided that the latter is no more than two years. The audited Financial Statements for such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six months after the end of such period.

(d) For the purposes of carrying out paragraphs (a) to (c) above, the Recipient shall recruit, by not later than 6 months after effectiveness of this Agreement, an external auditor under terms of reference and with qualifications satisfactory to the World Bank.

2.06. **Procurement**

(a) General. All goods and services required for the Project and to be financed out

of the proceeds of the Grant shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in:

(i) Section I (excluding paragraph 1.16) of the "Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits" published by the World Bank in May 2004 and revised in October 2006 ("Procurement Guidelines"), in the case of goods;

(ii) Sections I (excluding paragraph 1.24) and IV of the "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers" published by the World Bank in May 2004 and revised in October 2006 ("Consultant Guidelines") in the case of consultants' services.

(b) Definitions. The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in the Procurement Guidelines, or the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

(c) Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods

Goods and non-consultant services will be procured on the basis of Shopping.

(d) Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in item (ii) below, consultants' services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

(ii) The following methods may be used for the procurement of consultants' services for those assignments which the Bank agrees meet the requirements set forth in the Consultant Guidelines for their use: (A) Least Cost Selection; (B) Selection based on Consultants' Qualifications; (C) Single Source Selection; and (D) Selection of Individual Consultants..

(e) Review by the World Bank of Procurement Decisions. Except as the World Bank shall otherwise determine by notice to the Recipient, the following contracts shall be subject to Prior Review by the World Bank: (a) each contract for consultants' services provided by a firm estimated to cost more than \$100,000; (b) all contracts for individual consultants exceeding \$50,000; (c) all contracts under Single Source Selection; and (d) all terms of reference for consulting contracts and workshop programs. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the World Bank.

Article III Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds

3.01. **Eligible Expenditures.** The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with the provisions of (a) Article III of the Standard Conditions, (b) this Section, and (c) such additional instructions as the World Bank may specify by notice to the Recipient (including the "World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects" dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the World Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such

instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the following table. The table specifies the categories of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant ("Category"), the allocations of the amounts of the Grant to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount of the Grant Allocated (Expressed in USD)</u>	<u>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (Inclusive of Taxes)</u>
(1) Consultants' Services	120,000	100%
(2) Workshops and Training	65,000	100%
(3) Goods	5,000	100%
(4) Operating Costs	10,000	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	200,000	

For the purpose of Section 3.01: (i) the term "Training and Workshops" means the costs associated with training and workshop participation of personnel involved in the implementation of the Project including travel and subsistence costs for training and workshop participants, costs associated with securing the services of trainers and workshop speakers, rental of training and workshop facilities, preparation and reproduction of training and workshop materials, and other costs directly related to training courses and workshop preparation and implementation; and (ii) the term "Operating Costs" means the operating costs incurred on account of the implementation of the Project including office rental and utilities, office supplies and consumables, communications costs, charges for the opening and operation of bank accounts required for the Project, transport, and support staff local salaries, but excluding salaries of officials of the Recipient's civil service.

3.02. *Withdrawal Conditions.* Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of countersignature of this Agreement by the Recipient.

3.03. *Withdrawal Period.* The Closing Date referred to in Section 3.06 (c) of the Standard Conditions is July 31, 2010.

Article IV Additional Remedies

4.01 *Additional Event of Suspension.* The Additional Event of Suspension referred to in Section 4.02 (k) of the Standard Conditions consists of the Default in Implementation set forth in Section 6.5 (a) (i) of the Charter.

Article V
Recipient's Representative; Addresses

5.01. **Recipient's Representative.** The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 7.02 of the Standard Conditions is the Minister responsible of development.

5.02. **Recipient's Address.** The Recipient's Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Minister of Development, Public Performance,
Forecasting and Statistics
Ministry of Development, Public Performance,
Forecasting and Statistics
Libreville
Gabonese Republic

5.03. **World Bank's Address.** The World Bank's Address referred to in Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Cable:	Telex:	Facsimile:
INTBAFRAD	248423 (MCI) or	1-202-477-6391
Washington, D.C.	64145 (MCI)	