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Report No.

READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT NOTE

ON A

PROPOSED GRANT
FROM THE
FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

IN THE AMOUNT US\$3.8 MILLION

TO THE

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FOR

REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION SUPPORT

AUGUST 19, 2016

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES GLOBAL PRACTICE
AFRICA REGION

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DATA SHEET

*Central African Republic
REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support*

READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL (R-PP) ASSESSMENT NOTE

GENDR

Basic Information		
Date:	July 18, 2016	Sectors: Environment and Natural Resources
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Project ID:	P156721	
Lending Instrument:	TF Grant	
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Date of country selection into FCPF: March 13, 2009		
Date of Participation Agreement signed by Country: April 7, 2009		
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Project Financing Data		
<input type="checkbox"/> Loan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	
For Loans/Credits/Others (US\$M):		
Total Project Cost :	3.8	Total Bank Financing :
Total Cofinancing :	N/A	Financing Gap : N/A
Financing Source	Amount	
BORROWER/RECIPIENT		
IBRD		
IDA:		
Others: FCPF	3.8	
Financing Gap		
Total	3.8	

Regional FCPF Trust Fund Number:

TF080736

FCPF Country Child Trust Fund Number:

TF0A0561

Recipient: Ministry of Finance

Responsible Agency: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries

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PURPOSE OF THE READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT NOTE

As part of its responsibilities for the FCPF, the World Bank has been asked to ensure that the FCPF's activities comply with the relevant World Bank Operational Policies and Procedures, in particular the Safeguard Policies, and the policies on Procurement and Financial Management.

The World Bank has also been asked to assist REDD Country Participants to formulate and implement their Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs).

The purpose of this Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note (R-PP Assessment Note), therefore, is for the Bank to assess if and how the proposed REDD+ Readiness Support Activity, as presented in the R-PP, complies with Safeguard Policies, and the Bank's policies on Procurement and Financial Management, discuss the technical quality of the R-PP, record the assistance it has provided to the REDD+ Country Participant in the formulation of its R-PP, and describe the assistance it might potentially provide to the REDD+ Country Participant in the implementation of its R-PP.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFDB	African Development Bank
AGDRF	Autonomous Support Agency for the Sustainable Development of Forest Resources / <i>Agence autonome d'appui à la Gestion Durable des Ressources Forestières</i>
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CES	Economic and Social Council / Co
CAR	Central African Republic
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT REDD+	REDD+ Technical Coordination Agency/ <i>Coordination Technique pour la REDD+</i>
DA	Designated Account
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLEGT-VPA	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement
FM	Financial Management
FMS	Financial Management Specialist
FMT	Facility Management Team
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICRA	Central African Republic Institute for agronomical research
IDA	International Development Association

IGF	General inspectorate of finance / <i>Inspection Générale des Finances</i>
ISA	International Standards on Auditing
ISDR	Institute for rural development
ISN	Interim Strategy Note
m ³	Cubic meters
MEDDEFCP	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries
MEPCI	Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification
Mt	Megaton (million metric tonnes)
NA	National Assembly
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIF	National Investment Framework
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PARPA	Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty
PC	Participants Committee
PDO	Project Development Objective
PURD	Emergency and Sustainable Recovery Program / <i>Programme d'Urgence et de Relèvement Durable</i>
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
REL	Reference Emissions Level
RPBA	Recovery and Peace Building Assessment
R-PIN	Readiness Preparation Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

REDD+ Readiness Support

I. Introduction and Context

A. Country Context

1. **The purpose of this Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Assessment Note is to describe the technical and fiduciary aspects of World Bank assistance to the REDD+¹ readiness process in the Central African Republic (CAR).** In particular, the purpose of the note is to: (i) discuss the technical quality of the R-PP activities, assessed by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Participants Committee (PC) in May 2013; (ii) describe the assistance the Bank will provide to the government of the Central African Republic in the implementation of its R-PP; and (iii) assess if and how the proposed REDD+ Readiness Support activity complies with Safeguard Policies, and the Bank’s policies on Procurement and Financial Management.

2. **The World Bank became the delivery partner** after a request from the CAR Government, in March 2015. For the preparation of its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), CAR was financially and technically supported by the French Development Agency. The R-PP was submitted for assessment by the FCPF PC at its 10th meeting held in October 2011 in Berlin, Germany. Following revisions to the R-PP, requested by the FCPF PC CAR was allocated financial resources with UNDP as the delivery partner. UNDP took the decision that their engagement in CAR would focus more on post-crisis recovery and that it was acceptable to them for the World Bank to be the delivery partner for the REDD+ readiness grant in CAR. After consultation with FCPF and UNDP, as well as other development partners, the Bank confirmed its acceptance in July 2015 and the WB started internal due diligence process, reflected in this document. The activities identified were based on the R-PP and consultations with stakeholders in CAR particular attention paid to avoiding duplication of activities supported by other partners.

3. **Pernicious history of instability.** Poverty in the CAR was already widespread and severe before the 2013 crisis, when a combination of economic and social upheaval drove poverty levels even higher. The poverty rate was estimated at 62 percent in 2008, the year of the last nationally representative household survey, with 50 percent of the urban population and 69 percent of the rural population living in poverty.² Gross national income (GNI) per capita fell by 37 percent between 2012 and 2013, from US\$917.4 to US\$574.5, and by 2014 GNI per capita of US\$569.3 was the lowest in the world.³ Recent estimates based on these trends indicate that the poverty rate in the CAR—at the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in 2011

¹ REDD+ stands for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation”, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

² ECASEB, 2008. The poverty rate is based on household consumption per adult equivalent, adjusted using regional deflators with Bangui as the reference; the 2008 poverty line for Bangui was FCFA 259,256 per adult equivalent per year. Although more recent surveys such as World Bank (2012) have included consumption modules, it is not possible to compare poverty estimates due to significant differences with the 2008 ECASEB survey methodology.

³ GNI per capita is measured in constant 2011 US dollars expressed in purchasing-power parity terms.

purchasing-power parity terms—surged from 66 percent in 2008 to more than 76 percent in 2013.

4. **Conflicts are exacerbated by poverty and lack of governance.** The recent conflict in the CAR is the result of several unresolved and overlooked structural problems including, but not limited to: (a) unequal geographic distribution of public investment; (b) very limited state presence outside of the capital; (c) chronic poverty and high unemployment; and (d) weak institutions, both formal and informal. For the people of the CAR, this situation translates into political instability, decreasing socio-economic indicators, limited or no access to basic services, marginalization of most rural areas, loss of investments and livelihoods, and dramatic violence. Rural, mostly poor, populations continue to rely largely on natural resources to meet basic livelihood needs.

5. **An improving political context.** The Transitional Government’s priorities are outlined in the Libreville Roadmap (August 2014) and focus on: (i) local and national reconciliation; (ii) cessation of hostilities and demobilization of armed groups; (iii) restoration of state authority and redeployment to rural areas; and (iv) rebuilding the economy. Building upon the Roadmap, and also drawing from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Government has established a two-year emergency strategic plan: the *Programme d’Urgence et de Relèvement Durable* (PURD). The PURD aims at restoring peace, security, constitutional order, and governance in the CAR, while putting the country back on a trajectory for sustainable development. To this end, it outlines a strategy that aims to combine humanitarian assistance and early recovery, in order to reinforce the fight against poverty by restoring the capacities of national institutions and communities. As part of the efforts to resolve the crisis the Transitional Authorities organized a process of national dialogue and reconciliation that was formalized during a national Forum in August 2015. Subsequently, Presidential and parliamentary elections took place on December 30, 2015 and an ensuing runoff election for President occurred in March 2016. The selection of a President through a democratic process was an important step in the emergence from crisis. Despite the positive progress however, the country remains unstable.

6. **The Forest sector is uniquely placed to support growth in the delicate post-crisis circumstances,** through the ability to contribute to national revenues as well provide local livelihood benefits. Years of conflict have left the newly elected government with a hindered national economy and few prospects for enhancing revenues rapidly; at the same time there are significant expectations from the population to improve living conditions. The forest sector is well positioned to provide a relatively rapid source of revenue through commercial exploitation that was stalled during the crisis and through the provision of non-commercial uses to local beneficiaries. The extent to which this potential can be rapidly harnessed will depend largely on the ability to provide adequate stability and security and institutional arrangements that support stability and transparency.

7. **Local, often isolated, rural populations depend heavily upon the country’s natural resources to ensure basic livelihoods.** While the spatial distribution of poverty varies by region, poor households are overwhelmingly located in rural areas. In 2008 nearly two-thirds of the population in the CAR lived in rural areas including about 70 percent of the country’s poor. Overall, 58 percent of the CAR’s poor population was concentrated in the three predominantly

rural regions of Yadé, Kagas and Plateaux. Livelihoods are heavily dependent on agriculture and other income-generating activities that are poorly connected to markets, if at all, and often in direct or indirect relationship with forests (non-timber forest products, small-scale mining, charcoal, fisheries). Population growth, estimated at 2.8 percent per annum, has increased demand for agricultural land both for subsistence production and for cash crops and has consequently increased the pressure on forests. Poor soil management in areas outside of forests reinforces expansive land clearing and incursions into forest areas where the soil is more fertile.

8. **Focusing on strengthening the Central African Republic's institutions for forest landscape management will promote more effective natural resource usage with the aim of ensuring future livelihoods.** REDD+ in the CAR promotes a broad and dynamic approach to forest landscape management by focusing on strengthening institutions at the national as well as regional levels. Previous efforts to conserve natural resources have focused largely on defining well-managed and financially sustainable timber exploitation businesses; the REDD+ approach extends the approach to producing an integrated vision of natural resource management that is inclusive of local populations and their livelihoods.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

Forest Sector and Drivers of Deforestation

9. **In the Central African Republic forest cover comprises approximately 28.3 million hectares, representing approximately 45 percent of the national territory.** Forest cover is generally categorized by dense and semi-deciduous forests (roughly one-third of the territory) and forest-savanna mosaics (roughly two-thirds of the territory). Forest cover is very diverse and varies widely according to climatic zones. Humid dense forests are found in the Southwest, and are commercially logged, and in the Southeast where they are not commercially logged. The central part of the country is covered by dry forests and the northern part of the country is characterized by savannahs. Net annual deforestation between 1990 and 2005 is estimated at 0.14 percent nationally and 0.13 percent for the southwestern dense forests⁴.

10. **Forests make an important contribution to the national economy and to local livelihoods.** Prior to the 2013 crisis the forestry sector represented over 6 percent of GDP, roughly half of total exports and about 10 percent of state revenues and estimated with 4,000 directly employed and 6,000 indirectly employed by the sector. The formal forestry sector in the CAR is characterized by 11 large concessions from which 99.8 percent of the formal forest production come. In 2011, 424,447 m³ were produced. The majority of products for export in the formal sector were rough lumber or rough lumber equivalent (147,893 and 239,536 m³ per annum in 2010) with some sawn wood (54,176 m³ in 2011), indicating a potential for increasing added value through increased capacity for processing. The European Union (EU) and Asia are the primary export destinations and the CAR has a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA) signed with the EU. Artisanal annual

⁴ As identified in the CAR RPP submitted to the FCPF: Duveiller et al, 2008. *Deforestation in Central Africa: Estimates at regional, national and landscape levels by advanced processing of systematically-distributed Landsat extracts*, Remote Sensing of Environment 112, pp. 1969-1981 and FAO country forest assessment 2005.

sawn wood production is around 67,000 m³ on which 33-34,000 m³ are consumed in Bangui and at least 6,000 m³ are intended for Chad⁵.

11. **The global financial crisis led to a diminished demand for forest resources** nationally and internationally which has had an impact on the economy, and livelihoods, in the CAR although accurate data is lacking. The main constraints of the formal forest sector include:

- Insecurity resulting in the reduction of forestry logging activity;
- Deficit of production tools resulting in weak production yield;
- Weak forestry administration resulting in reduction of forestry oversight;
- Higher transportation costs, averaging US\$ 180 to US\$ 250 per m³.

12. **As the security situation stabilizes and economic growth resumes, CAR's forestry sector has considerable potential to attract private investment and contribute to economic development.** The productive capacity of CAR's forests is well known and sustainable management plans are in place, and the forestry sector still offers a wealth of harvestable species. The forestry sector's legal and regulatory framework is strong, both by the standards of comparable countries and relative to other economic sectors in CAR. The country has actively participated in international certification systems and multilateral efforts to combat climate change. However, the crisis largely halted activity in the forestry sector. Nearly all forestry companies suspended operations, and most suffered a significant degree of property damage and looting. The forestry road network has for example deteriorated significantly and the forestry firms do not always have the necessary means to rehabilitate it. The Government of the CAR has accumulated significant tax arrears owed by the forestry firms and no settlement has yet been found making firms hesitant to invest further in the sector. Only six of eleven logging companies are currently active. Finding solutions concerning tax arrears and the reattribution under transparent conditions of passive concessions to new investors will consequently be determinant for the positive evolution of the sector in the future.

13. **Sustainably managing the Central African Republic's forests will contribute to the country's crisis response and early recovery.** Managing and addressing the principal drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which are currently predominantly linked to anthropogenic activities, are important to developing a successful REDD+ program. Also critically important is supporting sustainable forest management practices that contribute to successful recovery of the state as well as a contribution to supporting basic livelihoods of the population. In this spirit the REDD+ readiness activities will seek to align with the Country Engagement Note that outlines a priority focus on reestablishing basic fiscal management and supporting economic recovery through targeted support to key sectors of growth. The readiness grant will support capacity building for institutions and civil society, seek to improve governance and investment climate and support the design of a grievance redress mechanism, and identify and design investments that will contribute to environmentally and socially sound forest resource management. (See Annex F for more information about the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation in Central African Republic).

⁵ *The Forests of the Congo Basin—State of the Forest 2013*. Eds: de Wasseige C., Flynn J., Hiol Hiol F., Mayaux Ph.—2014. Weyrich. Belgium. 328 p.

14. **Strategic policy priorities for addressing the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation will be developed as part of a national REDD+ strategy.** The national strategy will seek to address drivers through different activities related to the differentiated pressures in the different areas of the country. According to broad consultations and in depth analysis of the causes of deforestation in the CAR there is a mix of governance and technical dimensions that lead to deforestation and forest degradation. The strategic priorities identified for REDD+, as defined in the CAR's R-PP, are: (i) Finalization of the zoning process; (ii) Technical improvements and increased agricultural, silvicultural and livestock productivity; (iii) Promotion of sustainable forest management; and (iv) Strengthening institutions and governance. In the emergence from the crisis a renewed emphasis has been placed on taking steps towards improving the conditions for a return to economic performance of the forestry sector. Furthermore, it will be incumbent to understand how a more stable and resilient context will lead to different challenges and pressures on forest resources in the future in order to promote strategic sustainable development opportunities.

15. **Forest resources are of crucial importance to a majority of rural household as sources of fuel, food, materials, medicine and income.** Ensuring the sustainable management of these resources for rural livelihoods will be a central aspect of REDD+ activities in CAR. Forest linked activities such as harvesting and trading non-timber forest products and bushmeat hunting are part of traditional culture and are generally widespread and/or profitable or life-sustaining. These activities are nevertheless poorly managed and often unsustainably practiced. Enhancing the sustainability of these activities is an opportunity to enhance livelihoods, increase well-being economically and environmentally and provide opportunities for future generations.

16. **Local communities are important stakeholders in natural resource management but links have not been adequately made between national objectives and implementation of natural resources management.** While communities living near forests and National Parks have been recognized as key actors in the management of the natural resources they have access to, the link has not been extensively put into practice. Additionally, fiscal mechanisms to deliver benefits from commercial forestry to municipalities and village communities have not translated into local benefits as the funds did not materialize or the structures in place were not adequate to ensure delivery of the resources to the intended beneficiaries. The REDD+ program is seeking to consolidate the link between sustainable natural resources and the well-being of communities as part of a more integrated approach to improving livelihoods and sustainable natural resources management.

Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ Implementation

17. **The REDD+ Technical Coordinating body (*Coordination Technique REDD+*, or CT REDD+) is the operational entity in charge of implementing REDD+ Readiness activities, as part of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries (MEDDEFCP).** The institutional arrangements include three main bodies: (i) National REDD+ Steering Committee (CN-REDD+), presided by the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation; (ii) Inter Prefectural Committees (CIP), numbering three in total (Southwest, Southeast, and North) and: (iii) CT REDD+ that includes a secretariat as well as technical groups that will be responsible for the different components of the REDD+ Readiness process such as Monitoring and Evaluation, development of the National REDD+

Strategy and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the legal framework, and reference emissions level (REL) among others. The CT REDD+ will be responsible for coordinating with other agencies as well organizing consultations. Civil Society Platforms will also play a critical role in ensuring a participatory process for engaging different members of civil society at national and sub-national levels. Fiduciary Management will be handled by the Project Implementation Unit for the Transportation Facilitation Project in CEMAC under the Ministry of Public Works. The CT REDD+ will work with the fiduciary to implement the activities in technical sound and operationally effective and efficient manner.

18. **The Central African Republic will use FCPF resources to implement key activities that will contribute to building a robust REDD+ program. This includes reinforcing institutional capacity, developing a national strategy and a national reference level for emissions from deforestation, and forest degradation and other aspects necessary for implementing REDD+ at a national scale.** The strategic options mentioned above will be developed based on each one's effectiveness at addressing the drivers of deforestation as well as potential for modification and/or scaling up. Additionally, the grant will be used to build institutional capacity at the national level as well as in inter-sectoral planning and more integrated planning around forest landscape management at the sub-national levels. Specific capacities related to forest and deforestation monitoring and the development of safeguards mechanisms for the national strategy will be addressed in the form of a SESA. The analytical work under the REDD+ readiness grant will be carried out in a way that is synergistic with promoting enhanced governance and sustainable revenue generation as part of the country's economic development emerging from the political crisis.

C. Relationship to Interim Strategy Note

19. Due to the political situation in the country since December 2012, the Central African Republic was under OP 7.30 (Dealing with De Facto Governments). The Country Partnership Strategy which covered the period from 2008 to 2012 was prepared jointly by the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank (AFDB), and contained a clear message that, following a protracted absence from the country, the two institutions are ready to support the country's efforts to achieve sustainable development results. Prior to the time of the political instability, the Bank was preparing a new country interim strategy note (ISN). In July 2015, the Country Engagement Note for FY2016-2017 was prepared and highlighted the need for the country team to undertake some analytical work on the priorities for the forestry sector. The Turnaround Engagement Note (TEN) outlines the strategic program that the WB will support between FY17 and FY19 including a thematic focus on governance which includes natural resource management. The present FCPF/REDD+ grant is consistent with the forest related activities identified in the TEN and medium-term goals including institutional strengthening and capacity building that will contribute to sustainable economic growth in the forestry sector.

A. Proposed Development Objective(s)

20. The development objective is the design of a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to inform the development of a national reference emission level for REDD+.

B. Key Results

21. **The key results of this preparation grant are specifically related to key aspects of readiness for implementing REDD+ at a national level.** The grant is not supporting direct investments and is more specifically focused on technical assistance. Indicators have been proposed by the FCPF to measure key results related to progress in achieving strategic areas of REDD+. These indicators align with different aspects outlined in the Central African Republic's R-PP and are used throughout the REDD+ Readiness process—corresponding to the implementation of the R-PP. This preparation grant will not be used to address all of the areas and indicators of REDD+ readiness. Nevertheless, the preparation grant will help the Government in the monitoring of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework Results Indicators (Annex I). The results indicators for the PDO are related to the measures defined by the FCPF that are indicative of substantive progress towards REDD+ Readiness and are areas where the World Bank has a comparative advantage in providing support:

- National REDD+ Strategy designed through a consultative process (Yes/No);
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) validated through a broad consultation process (Yes/No);
- Feedback and Grievance Mechanism designed and operational (Yes/No);
- Multi-sector coordination mechanism and cross-collaboration in place (Yes/No).

II. Project Context

A. Concept

1. Description

22. **This REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant will provide financing for several of the major components of the R-PP to ensure a basic level of REDD+ Readiness.** The R-PP approved by the FCPF in May 2013 is organized into six sections: 1) Organization and Consultation; 2) Development of the national REDD+ strategy; 3) Development of a baseline scenario; 4) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems; 5) Budget and Timeline, and; 6) Monitoring Plan and Productive Measurement Framework. Other partners are supporting key aspects of these elements (notably the EU and FAO on MRV and assessment of strategic options), however some budget is allocated to each aspect of REDD+ readiness to complement planned activities. Table 1 presents a consolidated view of funding under this grant for activities across the main sections as outlined in the R-PP. Activities to be financed by the proposed grant are explained in more detail below.

23. **The evolution of REDD+ in the Central African Republic has been informed by past experience,** including development and conservation projects, the development of the protected areas, the development of the R-PP, and the evolution of international dialogue about REDD+ over the past years. While the FCPF financing is not enough to cover all of the activities envisaged in the R-PP, it will be used to implement key components which represent strategic entry points to building capacity in certain areas. Other sources of funding from bilateral donors are being identified and will be used to enhance the ongoing activities. Particular attention will

be given to the development of the institutional and governance framework for REDD+ readiness.

24. **Resources from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) will be used to develop a National Investment Framework for the implementation of activities that address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the CAR.** Preparation resources of US\$ 1 million were agreed upon by CAFI's Executive Board on February 22 2016, and will be used complementarily to the readiness resources of this grant to identify strategic investments that are consistent with the national REDD+ strategy. Maximum effort will be used to harmonize the different resources so as not to duplicate work, while at the same time being consistent with the particular objectives of each funding source. Appropriate fiduciary mechanisms will be established in order to allow for clear and effective monitoring of the different resources. More details on the activities for CAFI preparation resources for the CAR are found in Annexes C and D.

Table 1. REDD+ Readiness activities by R-PP component and estimated cost		
Component in the proposed grant	Corresponding component in the R-PP	Amount allocated (US\$)
Component 1 Institutional arrangements for REDD+ readiness		1,300,000
Sub-Component 1.1 Support for governance structures for national REDD+ strategy development.	1a	600,000
Sub-component 1.2 Support for consultation and participation processes	1c	500,000
Sub-Component 1.3 Support for the development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism	1a	200,000
Component 2 Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy		2,500,000
Sub-component 2.1: Analysis of strategic options to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	2a	1,300,000
Sub-component 2.2: Development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework adapted to REDD+	2b	700,000
Sub-component 2.3: Support for the development of a national Reference Emission Level (REL)	2d	500,000
Total	/	3,800,000

Table 2. Activities supported by other development partners related to REDD+		
Partner	Partner engagements	Link with component of the R-PP
Agence Française de Développement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloting strategic options for addressing deforestation and forest degradation - REDD+ Methodology - Studies on the drivers of deforestation - Engagement in International Dialogue - Contribution to the SESA 	Component 2b
Central African Forest Initiative	- Identification and definition of investments related to reducing deforestation and forest degradation	Components 1a,1c, 2b

(CAFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-sector consultations and coordination - Analytical studies on the drivers of deforestation - Reinforcing institutional arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ related investment 	
FAO/AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MRV Action Plan - Support for the elaboration and harmonization of land use and agro-pastoral codes - GHG emissions inventory - System for remote sensing - Reporting - Reference Level - Capacity building 	Components 3, 4
GEF/WB (regional project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution institutional arrangements - Capacity building for SESA development - Capacity building for MRV - Capacity building for civil society 	Components 1a, 1c, 2d, 4a
IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studies on the drivers of deforestation - Support for GDRN platform - Study on benefit sharing mechanisms - Technical Support 	
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for civil society platform on VPA-FLEGT - Governance 	
WRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of technical applications for forest monitoring - Technical training and capacity building - Mapping forest cover 	Component 4
WWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for implementation of the consultation and communication activities - Support for stakeholder engagement 	Component 1c

Readiness Preparation Activity Components

25. **Component 1: Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ Readiness (US\$ 1.3M).** This activity corresponds to *sections 1a* and *1c* of the R-PP. This component will support the structures that will lead the coordination and implementation of the REDD+ Readiness process in CAR. Notably this will include support for the operationalization and functioning of the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency (CT REDD+), including the hiring of staff and technical specialists; operational and travel costs; personnel management tools and training; office supplies (including computers), furniture and maintenance; technical trainings and other capacity building; communications. Support for institutional arrangements of the national strategy preparation process aims to complete the operationalization of the proposed entities responsible for REDD+ readiness process and also enable the implementation of the process of consultation and stakeholder participation. Component 1 activities are grouped into two sub-components.

26. Sub-component 1.1 - Support for governance structures for national REDD+ strategy development. This activity will provide resources for holding regular sessions of the National REDD+ Committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International

Cooperation, (MEPCI) Inter Prefectural Committees at the sub-national level, and strengthening financial and technical functions of the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency. This activity will support the recruitment of technical consultants, fiduciary management consultants and the procurement of goods and materials to enable proper functioning of the CT REDD+. This activity will also support audits and monitoring and evaluation of the grant.

27. Sub-component 1.2 - Support for consultation and participation processes. This activity will support the implementation of consultation and participation processes for REDD+ readiness. Resources will be used to strengthen the inclusive and participatory nature of the REDD + process in the CAR by funding the consultation and communication plans and the plan for capacity building of stakeholders (National Committee, Technical Coordination, Platform of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and private sector). Specific actions will be funded to strengthen the integration of the gender approach and also ensure greater engagement of vulnerable groups and the private sector involved in REDD+ issues as a key partner in the implementation of development actions.

28. Sub-component 1.3 - Support for the design of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism. During the Readiness preparation phase, numerous questions, inquiries, and grievances may arise about the REDD+ Readiness strategy and the process of developing it (i.e. process of consultation and participation processes). The consultative part of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) should help to identify issues and stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion. Nevertheless it is deemed important that during the Readiness preparation phase, effective mechanisms and capacity will need to be put in place to address grievances that may arise, and build the base for future forest investments. This will be done in alignment with the objectives identified in the RPBA under *Pillar 1: Support peace, reconciliation and security*, notably on the implementation of national mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of civil conflicts.

29. **Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy** (US\$ 2.5M), this activity corresponds to sections 2a, 2b and 3 of the R-PP. This component aims to supplement the actions already undertaken by the CAR and its partners in the process of building the national REDD+ strategy. Resources will be used to finance additional studies to deepen the understanding of strategic options for addressing the deforestation and forest degradation and conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the proposed policy options including the development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework. This component will also support and supplement, in synergy with the other technical and financial partners, the activities leading up to the proposal of a reference emissions level compliant with international requirements in this area. It is organized into three sub-components. To the extent possible these activities will be bundled into one or several large contracts to reduce the transaction costs of multiple procurement processes and to maintain consistent between the different outputs.

30. Sub-component 2.1 - Analysis of strategic options to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This activity will finance analytical studies on addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in order to inform the national REDD+ strategy. This will improve the understanding of the dynamics of developing agricultural and livestock activities at

national level, to better understand the pressures such as the issues associated with fuelwood as well as the development of the mining sector. Additionally, analysis will be conducted to better understand how to increase the economic performance of the forestry sector so that it can contribute to sustainable economic growth and development that provides local and national benefits in line with recommendations from the Forest Sector Policy Note. A full list of the studies to be carried out can be found in Annex D.

31. Sub-component 2.2 - Development of an environmental and social management framework adapted to REDD+-This activity will finance the preparation of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the strategic options of the national REDD+ strategy with all the instruments that will be used in the implementation of this strategy. The activity will also finance analyses and studies for the establishment of benefit sharing mechanism for potential revenues from REDD+ and will also be used to develop a feedback and grievance redress mechanism to handle complaints that might arise from the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country.

32. Sub-component 2.3 - Support for the development of a national Reference Emissions Level (REL) – This activity will be used to complement actions already undertaken by the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency as well as all technical and financial partners for the development of a REL.

2. Key Risks and Issues (SORT)

Risk Categories	Rating (H, S, M or L)
1. Political and governance	H
2. Macroeconomic	S
3. Sector strategies and policies	M
4. Technical design of project or program	S
5. Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	S
6. Fiduciary	S
7. Environment and social	S
8. Stakeholders	M
9. Other (Inter-Sectoral Cooperation)	M
Overall	H

33. *The overall risk rating for the project is High.* The REDD+ Readiness process tackles issues that are sensitive in nature and will address inter-sectoral dynamics that can be challenging. For this reason, the financing is largely targeting technical assistance, capacity building and institutional support, and the activities do not carry some of the potentially higher risks associated with investments. In the Central African Republic many of the processes related to forest and natural resources management have been ongoing for many years, and while there are issues that are contentious such as land tenure and revenue sharing, they have largely been discussed in a participatory manner. The program maintains a relatively high degree of international visibility, due to the high stakes of REDD+ for various stakeholders including vulnerable forest-dependent communities. However, ample attention is paid to appropriately and

adequately deal with sensitive issues in the Readiness process. Frequent and consistent implementation support including frequent support missions are part of the strategy to ensure that risks are properly mitigated

B. Implementing Agency Assessment

34. The CT REDD+ will be responsible for implementing REDD+ Readiness activities for FCPF financing in this grant as well as guiding the future development of REDD+ activities in the country. The CT REDD+ was established by decree in 2011 as a unit that will assume responsibility for the REDD+ activities.

35. Fiduciary management for the grant will be carried out by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the Transportation Facilitation Project (TFP) in CEMAC as part of the Road Maintenance Fund under the Ministry of Public Works. This arrangement is consistent with the approach taken for all WB-financed investments in the CAR and reinforces competent, transparent and efficient management within the government through established financial management (FM) capacity. The grant will support the cost of additional personnel, such as an FM specialist, and/or accountant and procurement specialist within this unit to handle the additional workload if needed (see FM and Procurement assessment sections below for more details). The CT-REDD+ will be responsible for the technical aspects, including the development of terms of reference and will establish an MOU with the PIU of the Transportation Project accordingly unit.

36. CT REDD+ is part of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries and will be responsible for:

- Ensuring daily management of the national REDD+ coordination functions and monitoring activities;
- Ensuring overall coordination of the REDD+ Readiness process in Central African Republic, including engagement with other government and non-governmental agencies, organizations and stakeholders, including donor partners;
- Facilitating the operation of the National REDD+ Coordination Platform;
- Ensuring multi-stakeholder participation in the REDD+ Readiness process.

37. The CT REDD+ is expected to become truly operational through the resources provided by this grant. A REDD+ coordinator has been appointed to lead the CT REDD+. The CT REDD+ is currently not well equipped with national and international expertise necessary for effectively coordinating the REDD+ Readiness process. While it is broadly acknowledged that it is important for the Government to take a leading role in the implementation of REDD+, most technical expertise today, and thus the capacity to design a solid strategy, still lies within the broader conservation community. A continued challenge will be to make sure that the CT REDD+ becomes a knowledge hub and the new knowledge being generated within the CT REDD+ is shared with other stakeholders, In addition, CT REDD+ will need to develop a process for working outside of a single ministry, so as to make forest management more effective.

C. Project Stakeholder Assessment

38. REDD+ is a multi-stakeholder process, since it involves the interests of a multitude of actors. During the implementation of REDD+ Readiness activities, stakeholders shall continue to participate and provide inputs into the CAR REDD+ Strategy. The Government of Central African Republic has acknowledged the important role that relevant stakeholders must play in ensuring the effective delivery of REDD+ readiness in an inclusive and participatory manner. The R-PP formulation process emphasized multi-stakeholder consultation and participation that aimed at sensitizing various stakeholders and promoting understanding of the different platforms. The views of the key stakeholders, especially forest-dependent communities and national level CSOs engaged in natural resource management and environmental governance, are of critical importance for the effectiveness of the REDD+ readiness process. Additionally, the private sector in agriculture, mining and forestry are key partners which should be involved in REDD+ planning.

V. Proposed Team Composition and Resources, including Technical Assistance Provided by Bank Staff to Date

Name	Title	Unit
Emeran Serge Menang	Sr. Environmental Specialist-TTL	GEN07
Erik Winter Reed	Environmental Specialist	GEN07
Haoussia Tchaoussala	Sr. Procurement Specialist	GGO07
Tahirou Kalam	Financial Management Specialist	GGO26
Siobhan McInerney-Lankford	Senior Counsel	LEGAM
Albert Francis Atangana	Consultant	GEN07
Cheikh Sagna	Sr Social Safeguards Specialist	GSU01
Michel Rogy	Program Leader	AFCW3
Evelyne Huguette Madozein	Team Assistant	AFMCF

VI. Assessment Summary

A. Technical

39. **The REDD+ program is setting up an institutional context that is long lasting and the basis for future investments.** The organizational framework for REDD+ governance seeks to build dynamic structures that can be integrated into climate change, environmental or other multisectoral dialogues and planning processes. The institutional structure has some minor differences from the one proposed in the R-PP reflecting the evolution of the institutional landscape in the wake of emerging from the political crisis. The national system for managing REDD+ has several strategic responsibilities: (i) ensure the integration of REDD+ strategies in sectoral policies and strategies; (ii) implement REDD+ strategies in general, and (iii) manage the process and coordinate actions related to REDD+ in the Central African Republic.

Institutions

40. **Strategic and operational direction for the REDD+ is guided by the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries (MEDDEFCP)** which will maintain the key role of validating and implementing REDD+ policies. The Secretary General (SG) of the MEDDEFCP will provide operational oversight for the REDD+ program and the operational body for delivering REDD+ Readiness, the CT REDD+.

41. **To accomplish its multidimensional missions, the REDD+ Readiness management structure seeks to enhance several mechanisms for intersectoral engagement.** The National REDD+ Coordination Platform will include representatives from various ministries as well as civil society, as described in the RPP. The body will provide technical and strategic guidance and recommendations to the CT REDD+ on technical and operational outputs such as the National REDD+ Strategy and on annual work plans, and provide an overarching view of how REDD+ will be complementary and supportive of sectoral development plans. The CN REDD+ will be responsible for deciding on higher level issues, including the validation of the National REDD+ Strategy, and for raising, and resolving if/when necessary, conflicting priorities.

Operational implementation

42. **The CT REDD+ will be the lead operational agency responsible for delivering the REDD+ Readiness process nationally and will liaise with the PIU of the TFP project for administering the FCPF Grant.** The CT REDD+ will be led by a Coordinator who ensures the implementation of activities under the work plan and the preparation of technical aspects of REDD+. The CT REDD+ will consist of administrative staff and technical staff that will be part of technical working groups responsible for different aspects of REDD+ Readiness such as developing the national REDD+ Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation systems, etc. These groups will be focal points at the national level for ensuring consistency with a national strategy among the various actors working on different elements of REDD+ throughout the country. The CT REDD+ will work collaboratively with other institutions, where efficiencies can be gained or where strategic competencies lie. The CT REDD+ will report directly to the SG, however may receive support for daily operations from other agencies under the SG, such as the DGF to facilitate daily functioning and reduce the creation of parallel administrative systems.

B. Financial Management

43. In accordance with the Financial Management Manual for World Bank-Financed Investment Operations that became effective on March 1, 2010, the Financial Management arrangements of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support Project have been reviewed to determine whether it is acceptable to the Bank. It was agreed that FM aspects of the new project will be handled by the PIU for the FTP project under the Ministry of Public Works. An Annex to the existing Operations Manual will be developed to provide clear procedures for the processing of this grant. The Coordination Unit includes a Coordinator, a procurement specialist and an Assistant to the Coordinator, who manage the day to day project activities. The Coordinator and procurement specialist are supported through the the project's resources, which is not the case of the Assistant.

44. The FTP project is institutionally anchored in the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF), which acts as the trustee body. The RMF is headed by a Director General assisted by the Chief Financial Officer (DAF by its acronym in French). As leaders of the trustee body of the Project, the responsibility for signing of payment orders lies with them. There is an existing accounting unit dedicated to the project and managed by an accountant hired and paid for by the project and is responsible for financial management and project accounting.

45. The relationship between the CT REDD+ and the PIU for FTP will not be of a hierarchical nature but rather a transactional relationship. The PIU for FTP has confirmed that there is adequate capacity to handle the additional workload and will provide adequate notification if extra personnel, or other resources are needed to fulfill the obligations of the grant. Compensation will be needed for the additional personnel and time and an MOU will be signed between the two units accordingly. The resources from the grant will be used to cover these costs.

46. In order to mitigate fraud and corruption risks inherent to the public sector in the CAR and to reinforce the governance of the project, the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support Project will benefit from regular internal audit missions from World Bank fiduciary Team. The conclusion of the financial management assessment is that financial management arrangements for the project satisfy the World Bank’s minimum requirements under OP/BP10.00 (Investment Project Financing), and are adequate to provide, with reasonable assurance, accurate and timely information on the status of the project as required by the Bank.

47. *The overall financial management risk rating is assessed as High.*

Accounting

48. The project will acquire a well functional multi-project accounting software. This software will be customized to fit the new project needs.

Funds Flow and Disbursement arrangements

49. One Designated Account (DA) will be opened at a commercial bank acceptable to IDA. Its ceiling will be determined in the disbursement letter based on the disbursement forecast for the first four months. The signatories will be jointly the project coordinator and FM officer. The account is set up to fund eligible expenditures based on the approved annual activity plans.

50. The table below sets out the expenditure category to be financed out of the grant.

Category	Amount of the Preparation Installment Allocated (expressed in US\$)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed
(1) Consultants’ Services, including audits, Goods, Workshops, Training and Operating Costs	3,800,000	100%

51. Disbursements under the project would be transaction-based. In addition to making advances to the Designated Account, other disbursement methods (reimbursement, direct payment and special commitment) will be available for use under the project, for example, direct, reimbursement, and special commitment methods. Further instructions on the withdrawal of proceeds will be outlined in the disbursement letter and details on the operation of the DA will be provided in the Project Financial and Accounting Manual.

52. Funds will flow from the Grant Account through the Designated Account. Withdrawal Application requests will be prepared by the FM Specialist, signed by a designated signatory or signatories (the signature authorization letter is signed by the Minister of Finance), and sent to the Bank for processing. The project will submit applications using the electronic delivery tool, “e-Disbursements”, available at the Bank’s Client Connection website. The Authorized Signatory Letter signed by the government will include authorization for the designated signatories to receive the electronic authentication devices (“Tokens”) from the World Bank.

Reporting and accounting

53. Quarterly Interim audited Financial Reports (IFRs) would be prepared by the project Financial Management Specialist. The project will submit copies of the IFRs to the Bank within 45 days following the end the quarter.

54. Financial Statements for the project will comply with the accounting standards. Project accounts will be maintained on a cash basis, supported with appropriate records and procedures to track commitments and to safeguard assets.

Audit arrangements

Internal audit

55. The internal audit function will be assumed by the General inspectorate of finance (IGF) which is responsible for the internal audit of use of public fund at national level. During the course of the IDML project, the newly recruited internal auditor for the project under technical supervision of the IGF will cover the new project activities.

External audit

56. An external independent and qualified private sector auditor will be recruited to carry out the audit of the project’s financial statements. Therefore, annual audits will be conducted based on Terms of Reference (TOR) that are in agreement with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and that are satisfactory to the Bank.

57. The Auditor will express an opinion on the Annual Financial Statements, and perform his audit in compliance with ISA. S/he will be required to prepare a Management Letter detailing any observations and comments, providing recommendations for improvements in the accounting system and the internal control environment. The audit report on the annual project financial statements and activities will be submitted to IDA within six months after the end of each project fiscal year.

FM implementation Support

58. The project will be supervised on a risk-based approach. Supervision will focus on the status of financial management system to verify whether the system continues to operate well

and provide support where needed. It will comprise inter alia, the review of audit reports and IFRs, advice to task team on all FM issues, review of annual audited financial statements and management letters. Based on the current risk assessment which is **High** there will be one on-site visit supervision per year during the implementation and a review of transactions will be performed on these occasions.

C. Procurement

59. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness preparation will be implemented technically by the Coordination Unit in the MEDDEFPCP with Procurement and FM arrangements handled by the PIU for the FTP project under the Ministry of Public Works. An Annex to the existing Operations Manual will be developed to provide clear procedures for the processing of this grant. A procurement specialist will be hired under the grant to support the technical coordination team and if additional resources (financial, personnel or material) are needed by the FTP project to handle the additional burden of processing the activities for this grant, resources will be allocated accordingly. The technical aspects of procurement, such as terms of reference and technical evaluations, will be ensured by the implementing unit under the direction of the Coordinator, and processing handled by the FTP team.

60. Taking into consideration the lack of experience of WB procedures by the REDD+ technical coordination unit on procurement, even considering the experience of the FTP, the overall project procurement risk has been rated **High**. Specific actions to be implemented to strengthen the procurement process are: (i) the recruitment of a Procurement Specialist; and (ii) the preparation of project's procurement plan.

61. Guidelines: Procurement for the proposed Project will be carried out in accordance with: (a) the Bank "Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits" dated January 2011, revised in July 2014; (b) the Bank "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011, revised in July 2014; (c) The Bank "Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants", dated October 15, 2006 and revised in January 2011 ("Anti-Corruption Guidelines"); and (d) the provisions of the Grant Agreement.

62. Procurement Documents: Procurement will be carried out using the Bank's Standard Bidding Documents or Standard Request for Proposal (RFP), respectively, for all International Competition Bidding (ICB) and selection of consultants. For National Competitive Bidding (NCB), the Borrower could use the national Standard Bidding Documents, provided that the first one of each type document has been submitted to the Bank for prior review. The Sample Form of Evaluation Reports published by the Bank will be used.

63. The Bank's preliminary and post reviews will be carried out on the basis of thresholds that will be agreed on project procurement plan approved by the Bank. The Bank will conduct bi-annual supervision missions and annual Post Procurement Reviews (PPR); the ratio of post reviews will be at least one out of five contracts. The Bank could also conduct an Independent Procurement Review (IPR) at any time until two years after the closing date of the Project.

D. Social and Environmental (including Consultation, Participation, Disclosure and Safeguards)

64. The FCPF Readiness Preparation grant must comply with World Bank safeguard policies regarding the management of environmental and social impacts. This grant will, in part, support the country's activities to identify the potential risks associated with REDD+ and mitigation options. In order to do this, the FCPF is using a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to integrate key environmental and social considerations into REDD+ Readiness by combining analytical and participatory approaches. The SESA allows: (i) social and environmental considerations to be integrated into the REDD+ Readiness process, in particular the REDD+ strategy; (ii) stakeholder participation in identifying and prioritizing key issues, assessment of policy, institutional and capacity gaps to manage these priorities and recommendations, and disclosure of findings in the Country's progress reports on Readiness preparation; and (iii) an Environmental and Social Management Framework to be put in place to manage environmental and social risks and to mitigate potential adverse impacts. The SESA guidelines have been integrated into the R-PP template.

1. Social (including Safeguards)

65. The social dimensions of REDD+ in Central African Republic include a number of complex and conflictive issues around natural resources access and management. Policies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation that lead to more stringent conservation without clearly promoting alternatives to forest-dependent communities may lead to loss of livelihood sources. Adding value to standing forests through REDD+ may lead to new pressures on forest lands from outside groups, which risks not respecting customary rights to forest resources by local communities. Sharing the benefits of REDD+ will face risks of elite capture, corruption, and lack of transparency.

66. The SESA will include an ESMF, which incorporates other relevant safeguards instruments such as RPF and PF, as a distinct output that will provide a framework for managing and mitigating social and environmental risks associated with REDD+ investments and transactions. The development of the ESMF and the other safeguards instruments will ensure compliance of proposed REDD+ activities with Bank Safeguard policies – RPF and PF on Operational Policy 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement. The RPF and PF will address issues related to the restriction of access or use of resources or land acquisition and related involuntary resettlement. Overall, the safeguards instruments will identify ways to maximize benefits with regard to social, cultural and economic well-being of particularly forest dependent populations and other vulnerable and marginalized groups within these populations; and prevent or mitigate any negative impacts on the forest biodiversity and wider ecosystem. The ESMF will also pay particular attention to integrating the gender dimension of REDD+ in ensuring that any social mitigation actions will have gender differential positive impacts.

2. Environmental (including Safeguards)

67. No significant negative environmental impacts are expected from this project as the objective is to promote sound natural resources management and improve animal and vegetal biodiversity. The project will lead to significant positive impacts through increased tree cover and reduced deforestation and forest degradation. Nevertheless it is recognized that despite this

virtuous intention it is necessary for the project to follow a structured assessment process to ensure that no activities will have unintended consequences on the environment.

68. The Grant will fund the preparation of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to ensure that the design of the REDD+ process adheres to the requirements of World Bank safeguard policies. In particular, the SESA will (i) develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will take into account the requirements of the Bank's policies on Environmental Assessment (OP 4.01), Natural Habitats (OP 4.04), Physical Cultural Resources (OP 4.11), and Forests (OP 4.36); (ii) include a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Process Framework (PF) to identify and mitigate any possible restriction of access to newly designated protected areas.

3. Consultation, Participation and Disclosure

69. The REDD+ readiness process described in this R-PP should be transparent, participatory, inclusive, and representative of all opinions. The views of all stakeholders should be gathered and all key players fully involved.

70. Six target groups were identified to participate in consultations during the R-PP preparation process:

- Civil society members: (i) Local communities and indigenous peoples of both sexes and regardless of age, harvesters of NTFP, livestock breeders, farmers, small-scale miners and (ii) formal organizations including international or national NGOs, associations, professional groups, media organizations, syndicates, religious groups, etc.;
- Members of the private sector including logging and mining companies, carriers and traders of wood, NTFP, or agricultural products, etc.;
- Governmental representatives, both at centralized and decentralized levels, in the following sectors: water and forests, energy and mining, urbanization, environment, rural development, planning and cooperation, finance, communication, justice, decentralization, human rights, etc. as well as representatives of the Presidential Office and the Prime Minister's Office;
- Elected representatives at the National Assembly (NA) including from the Commissions on environment and laws and the economic and social Council (CES);
- Researchers and teachers, including from the departments of geography, anthropology, law, economics, and biology at the Bangui University, and from the scientific research community such as the Central African Republic Institute for agronomical research (ICRA) and the Institute for rural development (ISDR); and
- Donors and development partners involved in development actions related to forestry, agriculture, environment, rural development, and infrastructure (roads/trails, mining, housing).

71. Consultations were held between September and July 2011 during the development of the R-PP.

72. During the FCPF identification mission organized in Bangui in August 2015, the main stakeholders were also consulted (CSOs, Financial and technical partners, private sector and public administration).

73. A consultation plan will be prepared and implemented for the purpose of REDD+ national preparation strategy. This consultation plan will take into consideration the CAFI National Investment Plan Framework. Most of the relevant document will subject to public disclosure in the relevant channels.

4. Safeguards Policies Triggered

74. The main safeguard instrument to be applied is the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). The SESA addresses the key environmental and social issues associated with the preparation of REDD+ strategy options as well as REDD+ projects, activities (including investments), policies and regulations. In this manner SESA can ensure compliance with World Bank’s environmental and social policies.

75. The SESA process requires that the selection of REDD+ strategy options should take into account the country’s institutional and capacity constraints for managing environmental and social risks, as well as the potential environmental and social impacts associated with these strategy options. Any identified gaps to manage these risks and potential impacts in relation to applicable World Bank safeguard policies should be identified along with the strategy options to feed into the preparation of the ESMF. The ESMF may evolve and be updated over time when new REDD+ strategy options, projects or activities (including investments) and/or policies or regulations are identified during the implementation of REDD+. The ESMF should provide a framework to manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts related to specific projects and activities (including investments and carbon finance transactions, in the context of the future implementation of REDD+).

76. The ESMF will be structured to contain subject-specific frameworks addressing the relevant requirements of the applicable environmental and social safeguard policies including, but not necessarily limited to, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); Process Framework (PF); and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF).

77. The project falls under safeguards category B – partial assessment.

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to be carried out under the project will serve to identify, avoid, and mitigate the potential negative environmental and social impacts associated with the final REDD+ Strategy. It will also serve to identify and promote potentially positive impacts and benefit sharing opportunities in connection with the Strategy. The SESA will influence the final national REDD+ Strategy, by ensuring that the consideration of social and environmental risks and potential impacts is a factor in its preparation. It will also provide guidance and key elements for the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).			
Any future investments and carbon finance transactions will require specific environmental and social assessments (ESAs) but these will benefit from the strategy context created by the SESA and ESMF. The ESMF will include standing methods and procedures, along with appropriate institutional arrangements for screening, reviewing, implementing, and monitoring specific ESAs to prevent adverse impacts, as			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	
well as cumulative impacts.			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
The application of this policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy take into account the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the numerous environmental services and products that natural habitats provide to human society. Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on natural habitats, as the country puts in place an effective strategy to reduce loss of natural forests. The SESA will address issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts of the National REDD+ Strategy, which will later be included in the ESMF.			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities. Potential impact of the National REDD+ Strategy on natural forests will be assessed through the SESA and included in the ESMF. The SESA and associated ESMF will reflect the requirements of the Bank's Operational Policy regarding forest management, in particular as these relate to the establishment of plantations.			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)	X		
This policy could be triggered depending on the final scope of the National REDD+ Strategy. Agricultural intensification and reforestation activities, for instance, could trigger the policy, depending on the methods employed by concrete activities on the ground to manage pests. The SESA will address critical issues related to pest management, as necessary, and these will also be included in the key elements for the ESMF.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X		
This policy could be triggered if REDD+ activities promote actions in areas containing sites deemed physical cultural resources (e.g. holy sites such as sacred groves, sacred forests, etc.). Though it is not anticipated that the project will have negative impacts on any such sites, the existence of any such sites and the corresponding need to trigger this policy will be determined once the National REDD+ Strategy is completed.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
It is likely that some of the activities to be implemented as part of the National REDD+ Strategy would take place in areas inhabited by Indigenous Peoples (pygmies). This policy underscores the need for the government of the Central African Republic to identify Indigenous Peoples in the project area, consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of project preparation and implementation, and ensure that they participate in, and benefit from, REDD+ activities. CAR is one of the Country that has ratified 161 Convention. Adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be avoided. Drawing on the SESA, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be prepared, and integrated as part of the ESMF package.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
REDD+ activities will trigger OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement in situations involving involuntary land acquisition and/or involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks, protected areas, or forest management / reforestation areas. The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent feasible, or to minimize and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts in cases where resettlement or other involuntary restrictions cannot be avoided. Through the SESA process, any issues related to land acquisition or restriction of access to resources will be identified, and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared as part of the ESMF. To help address and mitigate restriction of access to natural			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	
resources in protected areas, a Process Framework (PF) will also be prepared as part of the ESMF. To help identify and mitigate restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas, a Process Framework will be prepared as part of the ESMF package.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
The REDD+ activities do not involve the construction of new or use of existing dams			
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
The REDD+ activities do not involve international waterways.			
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	
The REDD+ activities under this project do not involve disputed areas.			

VII. ANNEXES

- A. Results Framework and Monitoring
- B. Preparation Schedule and Resources
- C. Preparation Activities for Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)
- D. Consolidated Table of Activities in FCPF and CAFI
- E. SESA Terms of Reference
- F. Primary Direct and Indirect Drivers of Deforestation in CAR
- G. Procurement Plan
- H. Financial Management Assessment
- I. Readiness Package Assessment Framework Results Indicators

A. Results Framework and Monitoring

Central African Republic: REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support

Project Development Objective (PDO): is the design of a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to inform the development of a national reference emissions level for REDD+

Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Target Values				Frequency	Data Source/ Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)
				YR 1	YR 2	YR3	YR4				
Indicator One: REDD+ strategy validated in broad consultation process	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes/No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Annual	Review of REDD+ strategy document and reports of consultation process including direct observation	CT REDD	
Indicator Two: Multi-sector coordination mechanism and cross-collaboration in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes/No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Annual	Review of documents establishing relevant mechanisms and/or functional documents	CT REDD	
Indicator Three: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Framework developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes/No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Annual	Review of SESA and ESMF document and validation workshops	CT REDD	SESA and ESMF will also be subject to WB review
Indicator Four: Feedback and grievance mechanism designed for REDD+	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes/No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Annual	Review of FGR system	CT REDD	This will build on existing systems as much as possible

B. Preparation Schedule and Resources

Preparation Schedule and Resources			
Preparation Schedule			
Milestone	Basic	Forecast	Actual
AIS Release			
Concept Review			
Auth Appr/Negs (in principle)			
Bank Approval		6/25/2016	
Sector Unit Estimate of Resources Required from Preparation through Approval			
Source of Funds	Preparation Expenses to Date (USD)	Estimate of Resource Requirements (USD)	
		Fixed	Variable
Bank Budget	0	0	0
Trust Funds		250,000	250,000
Team Composition			
Bank Staff			
Name	Title	Specialization	Unit
Emeran Serge Menang	Sr. Environmental Specialist	Environmental Specialist	GENDR
Haoussia Tchaoussala	Sr. Procurement Specialist	Procurement Specialist	GGODR
Tahirou Kalam	Financial Management Specialist	Financial Management	GGODR
Siobhan McInerney-Lankford	Sr. Counsel	Senior Counsel	LEGAM
Erik Reed	Environmental Specialist	Env. Specialist	GENDR
Cheickh Sagna	Sr. Social Development Specialist	Social Safeguards Specialist	GSU01
Evelyne Huguette Madozein	Team Assistant	Team Assistant	AFMCF

C. Preparation Activities for Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES COVERED BY THE CAFI PREPARATION FUNDING FOR CAR'S NATIONAL INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK:

The CAFI preparation funds would be used to assist the Government of CAR prepare a National Investment Framework in complement to existing financing that will be used to prepare a National REDD+ Strategy. The CAFI preparation funds would support activities executed by the Government of CAR and by the World Bank, and although complementary to some ongoing activities will be targeted at filling the gaps for specific information, data and capacities need for NIF preparation and eventual implementation, including:

- i. Identifying priority investments and reforms in various sectors identified in the National REDD+ Strategy.
- ii. Facilitating multi-sector coordination and support for a National REDD+ Strategy and National Investment Framework to enable adoption by the government.
- iii. Consolidating and complementing analytical studies on key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and relevant baselines studies.
- iv. Conducting consultations with key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels on REDD+ investment priorities.
- v. Designing and reinforcing institutional arrangements to support the execution, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the National Investment Framework with an emphasis on transparent decision-making and inclusive participation. This includes the design of a NIF Monitoring and evaluation framework that will be designed to allow for tracking progress of the NIF preparation and eventual implementation.
- vi. Strengthening a sustainable consultation framework (including preparation of a consultation methodology and consultation plan) that fosters inclusive dialogue among a broad range of stakeholders, including private sector, national and international civil society organizations, local communities and Indigenous Peoples on issues related to REDD+. The country will take advantage of the work that was done during the FLEGT process including the hiring of local CSOs to lead consultations in most of areas outside of Bangui.
- vii. Promoting knowledge sharing and communication to increase awareness of and support for the National REDD+ Strategy and National Investment Frameworks, including internationally, to share lessons and identify additional financing sources for REDD+ investments.
- viii. Supporting implementation and quality enhancement through the provision of technical and advisory guidance multi-sector donor coordination, knowledge creation and dissemination, fiduciary supervision and financial reporting, fund administration and auditing.

MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CAFI PREPARATION FUNDS:

CAFI preparation funds would be implemented using two modalities:

1. Activities led by the Government of CAR would be implemented through a grant established between the World Bank, as implementing organization, and CAR. The implementing agency for Government would be the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency;
2. Technical support, implementation support and quality enhancement provided by the World Bank would be executed directly by the World Bank.

The arrangements below are indicative. Final arrangements would be decided by the World Bank in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

COUNTRY EXECUTED ACTIVITIES:

USD 700,000

The main activities would include:

- Logistical and coordination support for implementing agency in support of elaborating a National Investment Framework;
- Analytical studies in specific sectors or on specific activities to inform the National Investment Framework;
- Prepare relevant safeguards documents;
- Consultations to ensure broad and inclusive participation of key stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Relevant local CSOs will be hired to lead consultations in some areas;
- Events, communication, and knowledge management;
- Coordination, audits, financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation;
- Other government-led activities as relevant for preparing the National Investment Framework.

BANK EXECUTED ACTIVITIES:

USD 265,000

Main activities to be covered:

- World Bank staff and consultants;
- Operating cost for supervision, including travel;
- Non consulting services, including translation, communication, reporting.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE (5% OF RECIPIENT-EXECUTED PORTION):

USD 35,000

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST:

USD 1,000,000

D. Consolidated Table of Activities for FCPF and CAFE

The table below presents a summary of the different activities to be carried out under the FCPF and CAFE grants in a consolidated table. To the extent possible the studies and analyses under the FCPF grant will be grouped into one, or a few, contracts to reduce transaction costs of multiple procurements and ensure consistency between outputs.

FCPF Funds	CAFI
Component 1 (sub-component)	
Conduct an analysis of legal and political framework for natural resources management (1.1)	
Elaboration of a capacity building plan for CT REDD+ (1.1)	
Elaboration of a stakeholder consultation plan (1.2)	
Development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (1.3)	
Component 2 (sub-component)	
Consolidated analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including current and future scenarios (and lessons from other countries) and strategic options for addressing drivers (2.1)	Feasibility study for community-based plantations for wood fuel production; Feasibility study for 10 MW biomass plant
Analysis of the economic contribution of Protected Areas to the national economy and integrated NRM options (2.1)	Analysis of migration impacts on D+D
Analysis of unsustainable timber and non-timber forest products and value chains and the impacts on D+D (2.1)	Feasibility study for improving NTFP in CAR; Development of appropriate methods for reduced impact logging in CAR
Spatial analysis of sectoral development (agriculture, energy, mining, forests, infrastructure...) (2.1)	
Development of a benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+ (2.1)	
Development of a registry for REDD+ pilot projects (2.1)	
Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Framework (2.2)	
Elaboration of methodology for forest inventory in CAR (2.3)	
Development of a Reference Emissions Level (REL) (2.3)	

E. SESA Terms of Reference

Projet préliminaire de Terme de référence Évaluation Environnementale et Sociale Stratégique pour la Réduction des Émissions dues au Déforestation et à la Dégradation des Forêts (REDD+) en République Centrafricaine

I. Contexte

Avec la soumission de son R-PP au FCPF en mars 2013 et sa validation la République Centrafricaine avait marqué son engagement dans l'élaboration de la stratégie nationale REDD+, pour mettre en place le mécanisme de réduction des émissions dues à la déforestation et à la dégradation des forêts (REDD+) un mécanisme mondial visant à atténuer les changements climatiques causés par la perte ou la dégradation des forêts, tout en mobilisant des ressources financières pour le développement socio-économique dans les pays forestiers. Le Fonds de partenariat pour le carbone forestier (FCPF), avec l'appui de la Banque mondiale, réunit environ 50 participants des pays donateurs dans le but de soutenir les pays forestiers dans la préparation et ensuite la mise en place de leurs stratégies nationales REDD+.

Le Gouvernement Centrafricain a élaboré une stratégie nationale REDD+ comme une mesure à long terme de lutte contre la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts, tout en assurant une gestion durable des forêts, l'amélioration des stocks de carbone et la conservation de la biodiversité forestière. En effet, les options stratégiques de la REDD+ peuvent entraîner des effets sociaux et environnementaux sur les communautés qui dépendent essentiellement des ressources forestières en particulier et de toutes les communautés en général. Comme l'indique le R-PP ces forêts subissent des pressions de toutes sortes et le taux de déforestation serait estimé à environ 0.13 pourcent par an, soit près de trois fois moins que la moyenne mondiale de déforestation des forêts tropicales. Le taux de dégradation serait lui aussi estimé autour de cette valeur.

Les causes sous-jacentes à l'origine de ces phénomènes seraient les suivantes : (i) politiques mal coordonnées et institutions faibles, (ii) Manque de diffusion du progrès technique, (iii) Economie faible et basée sur l'exploitation des ressources naturelles, (iv) fortes augmentations démographiques, (v) Faible notion de bien collectif environnemental et (vi) insécurité et crise politico-militaire.

Les facteurs directs de pression sur les forêts seraient les suivants (i) Elevage extensif non durable, (ii) agriculture sur abattis non durable, (iii) exploitation anarchique du bois et des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL), (iv) développement des infrastructures (routes, mines, uranium, habitat).

L'importance de ces forêts sur le plan écologique et sociale n'est plus à démontrer, quand on sait qu'elles abritent des espèces de flore et de faune riches, et les communautés autochtones Aka et autres qui en dépendent y développent une culture très riche.

La valeur économique et terme de bois d'œuvre reste un potentiel ainsi que les produits forestiers non ligneux qui s'y trouvent.

Le REDD+ est donc considéré en Centrafrique comme un instrument permettant l'atteinte des objectifs de développement, en mobilisant les différents secteurs de production. Toutefois, le gouvernement est également conscient du fait que la REDD+, à travers des activités qui seront

réalisées, peut avoir des effets négatifs non seulement pour les communautés, mais aussi pour l'environnement. Dans cette perspective, il est important de créer des synergies d'une manière inclusive pour répondre à l'avance aux potentiels impacts négatifs de la REDD+ au niveau social et environnemental.

La Centrafrique a signé des dispositions législatives pour assurer une gestion durable de l'environnement et ses ressources naturelles, nous pouvons citer notamment la loi 07.018 du 28 décembre 2007 portant Code de l'Environnement instaure en son article 101 l'Évaluation environnementale stratégique (EESS), définit comme (processus systématique qui consiste à évaluer les possibilités, les capacités et les fonctions des ressources, des systèmes naturels et humains afin de faciliter la planification du développement durable, la prise de décision et de prévoir et de gérer les impacts des propositions d'aménagement).

La loi 09.005 du 29 avril 2009 portant code minier et ses textes subséquents, la loi 96.018 du 4 mai 1996 instituant une procédure générale de réinstallation involontaire.

II. Objectifs

1. Objectif général

L'objectif général de l'élaboration et de la mise en œuvre de l'Évaluation Environnementale et Sociale Stratégique (EESS) vise à assurer la prise en compte des questions environnementales et sociales à travers la proposition de mesures pour l'état de préparation du processus de la REDD+ en Centrafrique, conduisant à des politiques durables REDD+ et en faveur des pauvres. Le SESA sera complété par un Cadre de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale (CGES) qui orientera les investissements potentiels dans les activités de démonstration de la REDD+ conformément aux politiques de sauvegarde.

1.1 Objectifs spécifiques

Les objectifs spécifiques de l'EESS visent à identifier les opportunités suivantes:

- Permettre une compréhension du contexte d'exploitation des programmes REDD+, notamment l'analyse des parties prenantes et les dimensions socio-environnementales du secteur forestier en Centrafrique;
- Examiner et évaluer les impacts sociaux possibles et les questions liées aux programmes REDD+ en Centrafrique conformément aux différentes options stratégiques;
- Identifier les risques et critères éventuels de gestion des risques;
- Elaborer une approche d'engagement des différentes parties prenantes afin de répondre à ces impacts qui feront l'objet d'une plus grande consultation et du processus de participation;
- Proposer des méthodes et des mesures d'atténuation des risques environnementaux et socio-économiques au cours de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie REDD+.

2. Liens entre l'EESS et les options stratégiques de la REDD+

L'EESS contribuera au processus REDD+ en Centrafrique en évaluant comment les options stratégiques de la REDD+ répondent aux priorités environnementales et sociales liées aux modes

actuels d'utilisation des terres et de gestion forestière. En outre, l'EESS évaluera les liens intersectoriels dans le processus de planification concernant l'utilisation des terres, les compromis et les coûts d'opportunité liés aux différentes utilisations des terres. Des écarts observés à travers ces évaluations permettront de renforcer les options stratégiques de la REDD+. Pour toutes les questions potentielles d'ordre environnemental et social en suspens, l'EESS élaborera un Cadre de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale (CGES) qui décrira les procédures à suivre pour la gestion des potentiels impacts environnementaux et sociaux des options spécifiques de la REDD lors de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie REDD+ pour la Centrafrique

III. L'approche du SESA pour la Centrafrique

Le Gouvernement du Centrafricain prévoit de mettre en place des groupements thématiques, dont celui sur l'évaluation socio-environnementale, avec deux experts qui va collaborer avec plusieurs services et du Ministère de l'environnement et surtout de l'institut centrafricain des statistiques des études économiques et sociales. Ils devront réaliser des études analytiques nécessaires pour les options stratégiques de la REDD+ identifiées dans le RPP et qui seront peaufinées lors de sa mise en œuvre (2015-2018).

Tableau 1: Options stratégiques de la REDD+ et problèmes traités

Quatre options stratégiques été retenues, chacune déclinée en plusieurs sous-option, comme suit :

- 1. Compléter le dispositif de Zonage du territoire (1-i) zoner l'ensemble du territoire et (i-ii) cartographier de nouveau et renforcer les aires protégées ;*
- 2. Améliorer les technologies et rendements agro-sylvo-pastoraux (2-i) Rendre plus durables les itinéraires pastoraux et agricole et (2-ii) Promouvoir des technologies efficaces d'exploitation et transformation du bois ;*
- 3. Promouvoir la gestion durable des forêts (3-i) promouvoir l'aménagement forestier légal et durable,(3-ii) Promouvoir le reboisement ;(3-iii)Opérationnaliser le concept de forêt communautaire,(3-iv)impliquer davantage les populations locales dans la gestion forestière durable et (3-v)Développer une stratégie énergie domestique(SED) ;*
- 4. Renforcer les institutions et la gouvernance (4-i) Développer IEC sur la REDD+ à destination du public,(4-ii) Appuyer financièrement, matériellement et technologiquement les administrations,(4-iii)renforcer les capacités de la société civile en matière de gestion durable des ressources forestières, de plaidoyer et de contrôle.*

IV. Méthodologie

Après avoir identifié les options stratégiques de la REDD+ en Centrafrique, il faut de terminer les impacts éventuels sur le plan environnemental que social .Pour les impacts négatifs proposer les mesures d'atténuations et capitaliser les impacts positifs.

Parmi les outils de référence, il faut recourir aux lois et autre dispositions nationales, pour autant qu'elles soient équivalentes à la politique opérationnelle de la Banques mondiales.

Les quatre régions identifiées doivent aussi être concernées pour couvrir la dimension géographique.

V. Qualifications

Le processus SESA devrait être facilité par un consultant national/international qui va travailler avec une équipe d'experts dans les domaines suivants: Ressources naturelles/gestion forestière, développement social, évaluation environnementale, engagement des parties prenantes et SIG, entre autres. L'expertise technique et l'expérience de travail sont requises dans les domaines suivants:

Analyste des politiques/Planificateur (Chef d'Équipe): Avoir une expérience avérée dans le secteur de pointe ou études nationales ou en évaluation des politiques publiques ou en élaboration des stratégies de développement. Justifier d'au moins de 10 ans d'expérience dont cinq ans d'expérience avérée dans les pays en développement. Ledit expert doit avoir au moins deux ans d'expérience sur la connaissance de la région du bassin du Congo. Il/elle doit avoir une formation universitaire en gestion des ressources naturelles, en environnement ou en sciences sociales. L'expérience en EES ou SESA est souhaitable. Une connaissance des procédures de sauvegarde de la Banque mondiale est un atout supplémentaire.

Spécialiste en gouvernance forestière: Justifier d'au moins de cinq ans d'expérience dans les processus de gouvernance et d'évaluations forestières. Avoir une bonne connaissance du cadre juridique, politique et institutionnel des ressources naturelles et du développement durable en RCA. Avoir une bonne connaissance en matière de gestion forestière.

Spécialiste en développement social: Justifier d'au moins de cinq ans d'expérience de travail sur les communautés forestières et les peuples autochtones. Avoir une bonne connaissance des questions sociales portant sur les forêts en RCA et une maîtrise des politiques de sauvegarde sociale de la Banque mondiale. Avoir au moins trois ans d'expérience dans la région, notamment une expérience dans l'application de l'évaluation rurale participative. Une connaissance des questions sociales et économiques et des approches sur le RCA est souhaitable.

Un spécialiste en Engagement des parties prenantes: Justifier d'au moins de cinq ans d'expérience dans la planification et l'engagement participatifs avec un grand nombre de parties prenantes au niveau national, régional et local. Avoir une expérience sur les aspects forestiers et la gestion de l'utilisation des terres dans le bassin du Congo. Avoir la capacité de communiquer dans les principales langues locales est souhaitable.

Spécialiste en environnement: Justifier d'au moins de cinq ans d'expérience en évaluation environnementale dans les pays en développement. Avoir une bonne connaissance des questions environnementales associées aux ressources forestières dans le bassin du Congo et la maîtrise des politiques de sauvegarde de la Banque mondiale. Une expérience en évaluation environnementale est souhaitable.

Spécialiste en cartographie: Etre capable de satisfaire tous les besoins en cartographie du SESA. Avoir au moins 5 ans d'expérience et une expérience avérée sur les techniques de cartographie et de SIG.

Tous les membres de l'équipe doivent parler couramment le français. Avoir particulièrement une bonne connaissance en Développement social et Engagement des parties prenantes. Des éléments techniques spécifiques sur des aspects juridiques, des projets de développement infrastructurels, les questions de genre et l'évaluation des ressources naturelles et environnementales doivent être nécessairement fournis par le consultant.

F. Primary Direct and Indirect Drivers of Deforestation in the Central African Republic

The forests and biodiversity of the Central African Republic, one of the macro ecosystems of the Congo Basin, is characterized by increasing anthropogenic pressure based on population growth and the use of different farming techniques, some of which are harmful to the preservation of forest ecosystems. While it is important to understand the current anthropogenic drivers it is also imperative to understand how to anticipate future pressures in order to plan appropriately.

The principal drivers of present-day anthropogenic deforestation, identified in the R-PP, in Central African Republic include (i) lack of policy coordination and weak institutions, (ii) lack of dissemination of technical progress, (iii) economic weakness and the focus on the exploitation of natural resources, (iv) high population growth, (v) lack of understanding of the notion of environmental common good, and (vi) insecurity and political and military crises.

The primary direct threats to forests include (i) unsustainable extensive livestock farming, (ii) unsustainable slash-and-burn agricultural practices, (iii) uncontrolled logging and harvest of non-timber forest products (NTFP), and (iv) infrastructure development (roads, mining, and housing).

Other direct threats, although to a lesser extent include:

1. unauthorized or illegal logging;
2. The legal logging with a logging permit, but without compliance with the requirements of the environment and sustainable management;
3. Artisanal logging without compliance with operating contract;
4. Anarchic felling for firewood and construction;
5. The cultivation of oil palm in forest areas;
6. Uncontrolled felling of wood for the pyrogenic charcoal;
8. Pastoral livestock;
9. Poaching;
10. The superposition of the forest Exploitation and Management Permits and mining licenses;
11. Former industrial mining operations with a mining license, but non-compliant with environmental requirements;
12. Diamonds and gold exploration;
13. Bush fires;
14. Fishing practices that harmful to the environment.

In addition to threat indirect threats mentioned above others also include:

1. The effects of variability or climate change in forest ecosystems;
2. Changes in hydrological flows and their impacts.

République Centrafricaine
Appuie à la préparation de la REDD+
Coordination Technique REDD+

P156721
TFOA2855

PLAN SIMPLIFIE DE PASSATION DES MARCHES

I. GENERAL

1. Informations sur le Projet

Bénéficiaire : République Centrafricaine

Ministère Responsable: Ministère de l'Environnement, Développement Durable, Eaux, Chasse, et Pêche (MEDDEFPC).

Nom du Projet : Appuie à la préparation de la REDD+

Agence d'exécution du Projet : Coordination Technique REDD+ au sein du MEDDEFPC. Technical Coordination Unit located at MEDDEFPC.

2. Date d'approbation par la Banque du Plan de Passation des Marchés :

3. Date de publication de l'Avis Général de Passation des Marchés: *Non Applicable*

4. Période couverte par le Plan de Passation des Marchés : 1^{er} Juillet 2016 à 31 Décembre 2017

II. TRAVAUX, FOURNITURES ET SERVICES NON INTELLECTUELS

1. Dispositions relatives aux seuils de revue préalable : Seuils requis pour les décisions de marchés soumis à la revue préalable de la Banque, tel que prévu dans l'annexe 1 des "Directives de Passation des Marchés de fournitures, de travaux et de services (autres que les services de consultants) par les Emprunteurs de la Banque mondiale dans le cadre des prêts de la BIRD et des crédits de l'AID"

Catégorie	Cout estimatifs en USD	
Travaux, Clé en main et Montage & Installation des engins et matériels	>=5.000.000	
Fournitures	>= 500.000	
Systèmes d'information et services autres que services de consultant	>= 500.000	
Services de Consultant (firmes)	>=200.000	
Toute entente directe et sélection par entente directe de consultants (firmes)	Travaux, Clé en main et Montage & Installation des engins et matériels	>=100.000

	Fournitures	>=100.000
	Systemes d'information et services autres que services de consultant	>=100.000
	services de consultant	>=100.000
Consultants Individuels (Sélection par entente directe)		>=100.000
Consultants Individuels (Comparaison de CVs)		>=200.000

2. **Pré qualification :** Les soumissionnaires, en cas de pré-qualification, (voir dans le tableau ci-joints) seront pré qualifiées en accord avec les dispositions des paragraphes 2.9 et 2.10 des directives.

3. **Seuils pour les méthodes de passation des marchés :** Les seuils de passation des marchés se présentent comme suit au vu des conditions du marché :

TRAVAUX (US\$ équivalent)			FOURNITURES (US\$ équivalent)		
AOI	AON	CF	AOI	AON	CF
≥5,000.000	<5.000.000	< 200,000	≥ 500.000	<500.000	< 100,000

4. **Dispositions spéciales sur les marchés :** Concernant les acquisitions de véhicules et de carburant, en fonction des circonstances et des besoins spécifiques du pays, le seuil pour la consultation de fournisseurs pourrait être porté à la contre-valeur de USD 500,000 (en prenant soin de consulter tous les principaux concessionnaires de marque ou distributeurs de produits pétroliers).

5. **Liste des marchés avec les méthodes de passation et les dates de mise en œuvre**

Fournitures, Travaux et Services autres que services de consultants

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ref. No.	Description	Coût estimatif (US\$)	Méthode passation des marchés	Pré qualification (oui/non)	Préférence nationale (oui/non)	Revue de la Banque (à priori / à posteriori)	Date prévue de l'ouverture des offres	Commentaires/ Fin de prestations
1	Achat de deux (2) véhicules Tout-Terrain	80.000	CF	No	No	Post		
2	Acquisition des équipements de bureau	30.000	CF	No	No	Post		
3	Acquisition des équipements informatiques	30.000	CF	No	No	Post		
4	Location bureaux	54.000	CF	No	No	Post		
5								
	Coût total en US\$	194.000	-	-	-	-		

III. SELECTION DES CONSULTANTS

Dispositions relatives aux seuils de revue préalable des marchés : Décisions de sélection sujet à la revue préalable de la Banque comme indiqué dans l'annexe 1 du Guide de Sélection et d'Emploi des Consultants par les Emprunteurs de la Banque Mondiale dans le cadre des Prêts de la BIRD et des Crédits et Dons de l'AID

Catégorie	Cout estimatifs en USD
Services de Consultant (firmes)	>=200.000
Sélection par entente directe de consultants (firmes)	>=100.000
Consultants Individuels (Sélection par entente directe)	>=100.000
Consultants Individuels (Comparaison de CVs)	>=200.000

Liste restreinte composée entièrement de firmes nationales: La liste restreinte de consultants pour les prestations d'études d'ingénierie, de contrôle et de surveillance estimées à moins de 300,000 US\$ par contrat, et pour tout autre type de prestations, estimées à moins de 100 000 US\$ par contrat, peut comporter entièrement de consultants nationaux selon les dispositions du paragraphe 2.7 des Directives de Sélection et d'Emploi des Consultants, et l'Emprunteur ne procède pas à une publication dans UNDB.

Autre arrangement spécial de Sélection de consultants : Le seuil pour l'utilisation de la méthode de sélection de consultant fondée sur les qualifications des consultants est déterminé au cas par cas en tenant compte de la nature et de la complexité de la mission; cependant, ce seuil ne devrait pas dépasser la contre-valeur de USD 300,000 sauf dans des cas exceptionnels prévus au paragraphe 3.7 des directives pour la sélection et l'emploi des consultants par les emprunteurs de la Banque Mondiale dans le cadre des Prêts de la BIRD et des Crédits et Dons de l'AID

Liste des Consultations, avec les méthodes de sélection et le calendrier de mise œuvre

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ref. No.	Description des Missions	Coût estimatif (\$EU) 1\$ = 500 FCFA	Méthode de sélection	Revue de la Banque (à priori / à posteriori)	Date prévue de soumission des propositions	Commentaires / Fin de prestations
1	Recrutement d'un Resp. Admin & Fin (36 mois)	75.000	IC	Prior		
2	Recrutement Sp. Pas. Des Marchés (36 mois)	57.000	IC	Prior		
3	Recrutement d'un Comptable (36 mois)	48.000	IC	Prior		
4	Recrutement d'un Expert technique international (8 mois)	144.000	IC	Prior		
5	Recrutement d'un Consultant pour l'élaboration plan de formation personnel CT REDD+	15.000	IC	Post		

6	Sélection d'un Consultant charge d'Appui Plate-forme Société Civile	100.000	SS	Prior		
7	Recrutement d'un Consultant en charge de l'élaboration plan de communication	10.000	IC	Post		
8	Recrutement de consultants pour les études majeures	400.000	SFQC	Prior		
9	Recrutement de consultants analyse approfondies des options stratégiques de la REDD+	400.000	SFQC	Prior		
10	Consultant appui à l'élaboration du scenario de référence	400.000	SFQC	Prior		
11	Recrutement d'un Consultant en charge de l'appui à la mise en œuvre du plan d'actions MRV	200.000	QC	Prior		
12	Recrutement d'un Consultant charge de l'analyse du partage de bénéfices potentiels	30.000	IC	Post		
13	Recrutement d'un Consultant SESA/CGES	450.000	SFQC	Prior		
14	Recrutement d'un Consultant en charge de l'élaboration du mécanisme de gestion des plaintes	30.000	IC	Post		
15	Recrutement d'un Auditeur externe	20.000	SMC	Prior		
16	Contractualisation d'une police d'assurance du personnel	20.000	SMC	Post		
	Coût total en US\$	2.399.000	-	-	-	-

Lexique des Sigles et Abréviations

- AOI : Appel d'Offres International
AON : Appel d'Offres National
CF : Consultation des Fournisseurs
SFQC : Sélection Fondée sur la Qualité et le Coût
SFQ : Sélection Fondée sur la Qualité
QC : Sélection fondée sur les Qualifications des Consultants
SMC : Sélection au Moindre Coût
CI : Consultant Individuel
A posteriori : Revue à posteriori
A Priori : Revue à priori
PPM : Plan de Passation des Marchés

H. Financial Management Assessment

In accordance with the Financial Management Manual for World Bank-Financed Investment Operations that became effective on March 1, 2010, the Financial Management arrangements of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support have been reviewed to determine whether it is acceptable to the Bank. It was agreed that FM aspects of the new project will be handled by within the REDD+ Technical Coordination Unit located at Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries (MEDDEFPC). This Technical Coordination will be reinforced at its fiduciary function with the recruitment of fiduciary management consultants (Financial Management Specialist, Procurement Specialist and an Accountant). In addition this unit will benefit also permanent support from the World Bank fiduciary team.

The REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support Project FM arrangement will be based on the FM procedures. A designated account will be opened for the new project transactions and the accounting software acquired. The actions to be taken to strengthen the FM system of the project not later than four (4) months after the project effectiveness include: i) the recruitment a Financial management Specialist, (ii) the recruitment of an accountant to assist the FMS, iii) the adoption of project manual including administrative and FM procedures, and iii) the appointment of an external auditor acceptable to the Bank.

In order to mitigate fraud and corruption risks inherent to the public sector in CAR and to reinforce the governance of the project, the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support Project will benefit from regular internal audit missions from World Bank fiduciary Team.

The conclusion of the financial management assessment is that financial management arrangements for the Project satisfy the World Bank's minimum requirements under OP/BP10.00, and are adequate to provide, with reasonable assurance, accurate and timely information on the status of the Project as required by the Bank.

The overall financial management risk rating is assessed as High.

Detail of Financial Management and Disbursement Arrangements

The project Coordination Unit hosted by MEDDEFPC will handle the overall responsibility of FM aspects of the project included (i) managing the designated account, (ii) preparing withdrawal applications and reporting to be submitted to the World Bank.

Accounting

The project will acquire a well functional multi-project accounting software. This software will be customized to fit the new project needs.

Funds Flow and Disbursement arrangements

One Designated Account will be opened at a commercial bank acceptable to IDA. Its ceiling will be determined in the disbursement letter based on the disbursement forecast for the first four

months. The signatories will be jointly the project coordinator and FM officer. The account is set up to fund eligible expenditures based on the approved annual activity plans.

The table below sets out the expenditure category to be financed out of the grant.

Category	Amount of the Preparation Installment Allocated (expressed in US\$)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed
(1) Consultants' Services, including audits, Goods, Workshops, Training and Operating Costs	3,800,000	100%

Disbursements under the project would be transaction based. In addition to making advances to the Designated Account, other disbursement methods (reimbursement, direct payment and special commitment) will be available for use under the project, for example, direct, reimbursement, and special commitment methods. Further instructions on the withdrawal of proceeds will be outlined in the disbursement letter and details on the operation of the DA will be provided in the Project Financial and Accounting Manual.

Funds will flow from the Grant Account through the Designated Account. Withdrawal Application requests will be prepared by the FM Specialist, signed by a designated signatory or signatories (the signature authorization letter is signed by the Minister of Finance), and sent to the Bank for processing. The project will submit applications using the electronic delivery tool, "e-Disbursements", available at the Bank's Client Connection website. The Authorized Signatory Letter signed by the government will include authorization for the designated signatories to receive the electronic authentication devices ("Tokens") from the World Bank.

Reporting and accounting

Quarterly Interim audited Financial Reports (IFRs) would be prepared by the project Financial Management Specialist. The project will submit copies of the IFRs to the Bank within 45 days following the end the quarter.

Financial Statements for the project will comply with the accounting standards. Project accounts will be maintained on a cash basis, supported with appropriate records and procedures to track commitments and to safeguard assets.

Audit arrangements

Internal audit

The internal audit function will be assumed by the General inspectorate of finance (IGF) which is responsible for the internal audit of use of public fund at national level. During the course of the project, the newly recruited internal auditor under technical supervision of the IGF will cover the new project activities.

External audit

An external independent and qualified private sector auditor will be recruited to carry out the audit of the project's financial statements. Therefore, annual audits will be conducted based on Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and that are satisfactory to the Bank.

The Auditor will express an opinion on the Annual Financial Statements, and perform his audit in compliance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). He will be required to prepare a Management Letter detailing his observations and comments, providing recommendations for improvements in the accounting system and the internal control environment. The audit report on the annual project financial statements and activities will be submitted to IDA within six months after the end of each project fiscal year.

FM implementation Support

The project will be supervised on a risk-based approach. Supervision will focus on the status of financial management system to verify whether the system continues to operate well and provide support where needed. It will comprise inter alia, the review of audit reports and IFRs, advice to task team on all FM issues, review of annual audited financial statements and management letters. Based on the current risk assessment, there will be one on-site visit supervision per year during the implementation and a review of transactions will be performed on these occasions.

I. Readiness Package Assessment Framework Results Indicators

Key Result: Institutions strengthened at national, regional, and departmental levels effectively coordinating and implementing REDD+ readiness with a grievance and redress mechanism operational	
Criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework	Indicators
National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Accountability and transparency Yes/No
	Operating mandate and budget Yes/No
	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration Yes/No
	Technical supervision capacity Yes/No
	Funds management capacity Yes/No
	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism Yes/No
Consultation, participation and outreach	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders Yes/No
	Consultation processes Yes/No
	Information sharing and accessibility of information Yes/No
	Implementation an public disclosure of consultation outcomes Yes/No

Key Result: A National draft REDD+ Strategy (including its implementation framework) incorporating SESA outcomes and recommendations is prepared in consultative manner and validated by national stakeholders. A draft framework for managing potential social and environmental risks of agreed REDD+ strategy options is prepared and validated	
Criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework	Indicators
Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	Assessment and analysis Yes/No
	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement Yes/No
	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities Yes/No
	Action plans to address natural resources rights, land tenure, governance Yes/No
	Implications for forest law and policy Yes/No
REDD+ Strategy options	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options Yes/No
	Feasibility assessment Yes/No
	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies Yes/No
Social and Environmental impacts	Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues Yes/No
	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

	Yes/No
	Environmental and Social Management Framework Yes/No

Key Result: A preliminary national/sub national forest emissions reference level, based on updated and quantified information of forest resources and national circumstances is established

Criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework	Indicators
Reference Emissions Level / Reference Levels	Demonstration of methodology Yes/No
	Use of historical data, and adjustment for national circumstances Yes/No
	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines Yes/No

