
CABINET



**Supplement to Expression of Interest in Joining the
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**

Guidelines:

The information requested in this form is to follow up on your expression of interest in the FCPF and assess your country's interest in relation to the importance of REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) for the country. The governing body of the FCPF, the Participants Committee (PC), requested the Facility Management Team to solicit additional information from countries having expressed interest in the FCPF, propose criteria and a process for the possible selection of more countries into the FCPF, and analyze the cost implications of such a selection, given that the participation of new countries is subject to available resources (see paragraph 11 of Resolution PC/10/2011/1 available at <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Oct2011/Final%20PC10%20Resolution%201%20-%20strategic%20direction.pdf>).

Please keep the length of your response to 5 pages, as this is not meant to be a national Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

Please forward the completed form to the FCPF Facility Management Team by email at fcpsecretariat@worldbank.org no later than January 31, 2012.

Additional information about the FCPF is available at <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/>.

1. General information

Country submitting the form: **Côte d'Ivoire**

Date submitted: **January 20, 2012**

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2. Background

2.1 In what capacity would your country participate in the FCPF? Choose one of the five categories of participation below and briefly explain. Participation in the FCPF could be in different capacities, ranging from no support to full support and to be determined by PC subject to available resources, as listed below:

Cote d'Ivoire seeks full participation as described under pra iv.) below.

iv) Participation with full financial support for REDD+ Readiness preparation: As full member of the FCPF, participation would include financial and technical support for REDD+ readiness (total financial support is \$3.6 million in two stages: \$200,000 grant to help formulate a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), and \$3.4 million preparation grant to implement the R-PP), and for one country representative to attend FCPF meetings, subject to available resources.

2.2 Should your country preference be category (iii) or (iv) above, have you already identified or had discussion with a potential Delivery Partner for channeling FCPF resources and providing REDD+ readiness Services? If so, which one (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Inter- American Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme or World Bank)?

Yes, in the Framework of our activities, we are discussing with UNDP and the World Bank in order to channel FCPF resources.

2.3 Does the World Bank have an active portfolio on forests and natural resource management in your country? If so, briefly explain.

Yes, the World Bank actively contributes to the natural resources protection in Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, the World Bank through the project of Support to the Revival of the Conservation of parks and forest reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (PARCI), finances actions aiming at the safeguard of the country parks and forest reserves. The World Bank also carried out studies upon the estimate of the state of the country environment.

2.4 Have you received, or are you expecting to receive in the near future, technical or financial support for REDD+ from the UN-REDD Programme or any other multilateral or bilateral assistance program for REDD+? If yes, provide the details and also mention for what areas of REDD+ Readiness would you request the FCPF support?

Côte d'Ivoire is a country partner of UN-REDD, but there is no technical and financial support forecast for the REDD+ in the near future. We are not awaiting any other multilateral or bilateral assistances of any program for REDD+.

We would like that FCPF assists us technically and financially on the complete realization of the REDD+ mechanism, including catalyzing additional support from bilateral sources. Côte d'Ivoire which just left a very serious sociopolitical crisis has difficulties in supporting the implementation of this very important mechanism for a sustainable management of its natural resources.

3. REDD+ and National Development

(Please answer each question in 1/2 page maximum. If accepted into the FCPF, under categories (iii) or (iv) above in 2.1, the country will be expected to provide further information and analysis in the Readiness Preparation Proposal).

3.1 How important are forests in your country, including for poverty reduction, the well-being of forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples and other forest dwellers, and biological diversity? Please use quantitative data, if available.

The forest and agricultural sectors of Côte d'Ivoire have constituted, during years, the pillars of the country economy. But this contribution to the development of the country was not carried out without any consequences. Thus, the forest area decreased at a rate of 110 000 ha /year between 1980 and 2000, from 4 to 2 million hectares, then to 1, 7 million hectares in 2008 (**The World Bank, 2010**). Thus Côte d'Ivoire have seen its wet tropical forest mantle impoverished, to be weathered , then to disappear almost completely, with a rate of residual afforestation of less than 5 % in 2008 (forest area of dense forest not degraded by agriculture) after having been 80% at the end of the 1950s (**SOFRECO, 2009**). Its biological diversity which is one of the richest biological diversities of West Africa, is strongly threatened by the aforementioned reasons. The last exhaustive inventory of the biological diversity revealed the presence of 16 034 species of plants and animals, including 712 species of birds and 232 of mammals (**National report on "CDB", 2009**).

Today, the forest area of the country, by considering the permanent forest estate of the Government (classified Forests and National parks and reserves), put at 9 700 000 ha is approximately 30% of the national territory, against approximately 70% in 1900.

The Destruction of this environment has a direct impact on poverty, for the rural populations in particular, because their survival depends directly on (free access to) natural resources. Government is planning for strategies that would allow for more sustainable uses of forests by local communities. We are planning to incite populations to take no further interest in forests while creating breeding micro projects, of afforestation (alternative activities identified according to the diagnostic study and the cartography of the forests degradation causes). The provision of agroforestry project with the availability of food crops, diversification of crops to populations.

Sensitization campaign on the importance of the forest conservation will be organized. REDD+ Carbon incomes will be used for social projects for the benefit of communities. A capacity building of these communities is designed to allow them to take part entirely in all the stages of REDD+ process. The MRV system which will be set up in a very participatory way.

3.2 What are the current situation and trends in deforestation and forest degradation? What are the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation?

Côte d'Ivoire has a significant part of the Guinean forests of Western Africa, which shelters many seriously, threatened endemic species. But this forest is consumed at a very high rate. In 130 years, the original dense forest (climatic) lost nearly 90% of its original surface as of colonization, that is to say 14 million hectares, with an annual average rate of almost 110 000 hectares/year. According to projections, if nothing is done, the forest will disappear in ten years. The Principal causes of deforestation and forests degradation:

- Extensive agriculture (agricultural clearings);
- Bush fires (due to clearings, breeding or hunting);
- Noncontrolled exploitation of the natural resources (the wood of service and timber – in particular for export, Wood for energy, nonligneous forest products);
- Noncontrolled mining;
- Urbanization and infrastructures;
- Noncontrolled immigration;

3.3 Does your country currently have a forest monitoring system, including estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation?

No, the country does not have any forests monitoring system.

The second national communication mentions data on greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, but these data are to be improved.

The country just left a sociopolitical crisis which lasted 10 years and prevented any forest statistical estimate on all the territory.

3.4 What is the current thinking on what would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in your country (e.g., potential programs, policies, capacity building, etc.)?

With an annual deforestation rate of 150 000 to 200 000 hectares per year, according to the estimates, Côte d'Ivoire, belongs to the group of countries having a very high rate of deforestation.

The country political choices in favor of agriculture (with the binomial coffee cocoa) and the excessive use of charcoal (for food cooking) have contributed a lot to the destruction of the of the Ivorian forest . The long sociopolitical crisis that country faced has accentuated this deforestation and the State does not have recent data on the estimate of the national forest area. A situation which requires urgently a national REDD+ Program. The extent and general character of the interventions necessary to the implementation REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire requires a technical support and reform and even on the top level of the Government.

The political crisis being over, leads a strong will of the Heads of the State and Government to reduce deforestation and to carry out a reconstitution of the forest area. The REDD+ program will come as a considerable support and will be a catalyst for a transformation towards a green economy in Côte d'Ivoire. It is one of the major projects of the Minister of environment and of sustainable development.

Implementation of surveys for a participative benefit distribution with communities of carbon incomes resulting from REDD+. Establishment of carbon social projects for the benefit of communities with these incomes.

Given that the fight against degradation of forest and deforestation is a significant national issue, several Ministries work in collaboration to reduce the pressure on the forest resources. A national Coordination was installed by the Ministry of environment with the other technical Ministries (agriculture, Forest service, energies, infrastructures ...).

A national project of lands developement is in progress with the participation of all the Ministries. The country envisages, with a strong political support, to quickly carry out a REDD+ national Program with a harmonization of various sectoral policies.

The National Coordination REDD+ also envisages the popularizing and intensifying the agroforestry in prelude to the REDD+ program .To this end, a survey, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, on a project developing the set of themes coffee-cocoa industry and the conservation of the biodiversity will be carried out. Côte d'Ivoire being the first world producer of cocoa, there is a high competition between the cocoa plantations and forest.

A workshop of launching of REDD+ was organized in September 2011 by the country with a reinforcement of capacities of all the receivers. Documents were published for the information and training. A national cell MRV is also under installation.

So there is a willingness to implement REDD +, integrated strategy for socio-economic development.

3.5 What are the key potential challenges for REDD+ in your country (e.g., lack of financing, lack of technical capacity, governance issues)?

For the installation of the mechanism REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire, the REDD+ national Coordination needs:

- logistic support ;
- Technical support (MRV, Free Preliminary Consent and given with full knowledge of the facts, scenario of reference, etc.)

- strengthening of government institutions

3.6 How does REDD+ fit in your country's national low-carbon development strategy/plan, if any, or in the strategy/plan for the forest and other relevant sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, energy, transportation)?

The national development Plan of Côte d'Ivoire is being revised. And the Ministry of the Environment integrated to it some elements to be taken into account in the implementation of the REDD+ national strategy. For a harmonization of the concerned sectoral policies. A REDD+ national interdepartmental Coordination was set up for this purpose.

Some REDD+ Projects will be established in the zones of high anthropic pressure on the natural resources.

REDD+ will help Côte d'Ivoire to regulate the problem of competition on the use of grounds between forest and agriculture (production of cocoa and biodiversity).

We will use REDD+ to provide job to the youth through afforestation projects, to reintegrate veterans in carbon projects in order to contribute in the consolidation of peace. The will of the government is to reduce poverty and land conflicts; to solve the significant problem of the western part of the country where there is many land conflicts.

The mosaic of communities will be reconciled through REDD+ joint projects.

A Land improvement project in coordination with the ministry of agriculture is in progress to solve definitively land problems.

3.7 Please briefly describe the envisaged national management arrangements for REDD+, explaining at what level of government REDD+ would be steered.

The institutional framework of management of the preparation to the REDD+ is already under installation.

- **A REDD+ national Committee** will be set up. It will be the decision-making body with the participation of the Government, local communities, civil society, scientific research etc. The head of the Government or his representative will chair the meetings of the national Committee;

- **A REDD+ national interdepartmental technical Coordination** (TC REDD+) is already in activity with the participation of the concerned Ministries (agriculture energy, National Forestry Service, plan of development). The mission of CT REDD+ will be to implement the REDD+ national strategy under the supervision of the REDD+ national Committee (supreme body in charged of controlling the whole REDD+) National Strategy.

This coordination will make it possible to direct and harmonize various sectoral policies.

- **REDD+ Regional Committees**, with the participation of the local communities, will be set up in all the regions of the country;

The Ministry of Environment and sustainable Development is helping civil society and communities to organize themselves in a national working group, to effectively participate in the REDD +.

3.8 Please briefly describe the proposed consultations that would be conducted to design the REDD+ strategy.

The REDD+ National Strategy will be elaborated with a broad participation and consultation of all the stakeholders. There will be working sessions with all the concerned actors, the Focal Points (or their representatives) of other concerned conventions (Convention on biological diversity, Convention on the fight against desertification, etc.), concerned national organizations and institutions, NGOs, representatives of the civil society, representatives of local communities, actors of the forest private sector, and any other actor considered to be relevant. And this project of strategy will be initially validated in national workshop before its implementation.