

PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID) CONCEPT STAGE

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Project Name	REDD+ Readiness Preparation in RCI (P149801)
Region	AFRICA
Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Sector(s)	Forestry (100%)
Theme(s)	Climate change (100%)
Project ID	P149801
Borrower(s)	Ministry for the Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD)
Implementing Agency	Ministry for Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD)
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I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Population and economic growth. Côte d'Ivoire is the second largest economy in West Africa, covering an area of 322 462km² with 22.4 million inhabitants. It is also the world's largest exporter of cocoa and cashews, with an important manufacturing sector; it possesses an economy with great economic potential as seen in its remarkable recovery from the crisis ending in 2011. Despite the economic recovery since the instability (2002-2011), poverty remains high, having increased from 10 percent in 1985 to 43 percent in 2008.

2. Following a long period of political and social crisis and instability coupled with economic decline, Côte d'Ivoire has made rapid progress since the end of the crisis in May 2011. The government formed in early 2011 has rapidly reorganized the administration, restructured the army and redeployed public security and judiciary services, enabling the reunification of the country - a progressive return to normalcy - and an immense improvement of the security situation across the territory. The government has also undertaken a number of important reforms on the economic governance side and reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point at the end of June 2012. Despite some limitations in addressing current drivers of fragility, the National Development Plan developed by the government and covering the period 2012–2015 provides a valuable framework to guide economic and social policy; and to channel investments in priority

areas. Côte d'Ivoire's progress has also manifested itself in sharp improvements on the CPIA rating which rose from 2.7 in 2011 to 3.2 in 2013, the fastest increase in the entire region and one of the fastest historically for any country. Similarly, Côte d'Ivoire's ranking on the Doing Business index has improved greatly since the end of the crisis.

3. Since the end of the crisis, growth performance has been extremely strong. Growth in 2012 was 9.8 percent and was estimated at 8.7 percent in 2013. Growth in 2014 is projected at 8.5 percent, and close to 8 percent over the medium term driven by both public and private investment, and recovery in the exports of main commodities. With the political and social situation of the country stabilizing, the private sector regained confidence and began to invest to reestablish production capacity in the manufacturing subsector. Exports have grown impressively in value terms even since 2000, driven by oil with cash crops such as rubber and cashew enjoying growth rates in excess of 20 percent, reflecting both real growth and improved prices. Petroleum products (17.8 percent) and cocoa (13.6 percent) have grown rapidly, though this has been essentially due to stronger prices. However, three traditional sources of growth have suffered decline (coffee, cotton) or stagnation (wood products) and these resource-based exports have continued to drive the country's growth.

4. Despite these achievements, the government still faces a number of challenges and threats that could destabilize and undermine the country's fragile transition toward peace and development. The CPIA rating remains well below the threshold for fragile countries (3.5), and Côte d'Ivoire's ranking on the Cost of Doing Business places it near the bottom of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. More importantly, root causes of the conflict remain fundamentally unaddressed and include lack of security on land rights, poor judiciary and marginalization of ethnic groups. Since 1999, efforts have failed to resume the positive development path of previous decades. Reconciliation between government and opposition remains elusive and both the security forces and society as a whole are divided. High levels of unemployment and underemployment, especially among young people, create dissatisfaction and potential for conflict. Root causes of economic decline and stagnation are deep-seated and not easily resolvable, especially on land.

5. Côte d'Ivoire's economy continues to be highly dependent on a narrow set of agricultural commodities, in particular cocoa and coffee, thus continuing the country's reliance on international commodity prices and the exchange rate. The poor business environment is characterized by opaque land regulations, high cost of logistics, poor quality of physical infrastructure, lack of access to finance—especially for smaller enterprises, tax policy and tax administration, security, judiciary, licensing processes and a lack of skilled labor.

6. Disparities between Abidjan (urban Côte d'Ivoire) and rural areas are great, with poverty of those living near forest zones (primarily the West and South) increasing. Much of this has been a result of the volatility of world prices for coffee and cocoa during the past decade of internal conflict. These are also areas with limited access to basic services, few investments in infrastructure, high rates of social and economic inequalities, gender-based violence, land issues, and ex-combatants. While urban poverty has increased from a low of 6 percent to 29 percent between 1985 and 2008, the fact remains that 3 out of 4 poor people continue to live in rural areas. The current reality of Ivoirians is one characterized by high poverty, high inequality and multiple threats from shocks. The interaction of high poverty and inequality provide the conditions which are vulnerable to social exclusion, intense group rivalry and mass group mobilization, and possibly conflict. The

latter in turn lead to further erosion of living standards, thereby reinforcing the negative feedback and stagnation.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

7. Forests in Côte d'Ivoire are divided into two categories: the State Rural Forest (Domaine Forestier Rural de l'Etat – DFRE), and the State Permanent Forest Estate (Domaine Forestier Permanent de l'Etat – DFPE) made up of 231 forests, 6 national parks and 8 natural reserves.

8. The annual rate of deforestation is estimated at 3.5% for the 1980-2008 period (SOFRECO, 2009), making it one of the highest in the world. The REDD+ process in Côte d'Ivoire aims to curb this trend so that a key portion of these remaining forests can subsist and survive the national forest transition. A number of political, investment and field actions have been taken to curb this trend, rebuild the country's ecological capital, and make a transition to a more sustainable development model. Côte d'Ivoire has suffered in its recent history from a high rate of deforestation and forest degradation in addition to the widespread degradation of its natural resources due to factors such as the expansion of agriculture and demographic growth in an environment of political instability. Only 2.7 million hectares (FAO, 2005) remain of a forest area estimated at 16 million hectares at the beginning of the century.

9. The REDD+ mechanism is designed to create a framework for action taken by countries to maintain (and enrich) their forest stock. Côte d'Ivoire will be able to scale up action to counter deforestation for sustainable development as part of its engagement in the REDD+ process, the environmental funding mechanism driven by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. REDD+ Opportunities. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire expects that REDD+ can support the country in ensuring sustainable forest management, and provide incentives to address some of the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, such as slash-and-burn agriculture (shifting cultivation) and fuelwood consumption. In addition, REDD+ is an opportunity to help the country address the issue of a national land use planning exercise that will mitigate impacts on forest cover from developments in other sectors, such as mining, commercial agriculture and infrastructure development and reinforce the reform of the land tenure acquisition process. For this purpose, REDD+ should be considered a sustainable development promotion instrument. Following discussions during a preparation mission in May 2014, the Ministry of State for Planning and Development indicated great interest in integrating the strategies developed under REDD+ into the National Development Plan (Plan National de Développement – PND) for the period 2016-2020.

11. Deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire is a result of overlapping factors interacting at the global, regional and local level, of which some are 'direct' drivers of deforestation, like agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, and wood harvesting. Interacting with these, are several 'indirect' drivers, institutional and location-specific factors, often associated with economic growth, demographic change, policy incentives in other sectors (i.e. land use and energy) and technology changes; and political and socio-economic factors like poverty, migration, and land tenure and use rights (Geist and Lambin 2002).

12. The National REDD+ Commission (CN-REDD+) is headed by a Permanent Executive Secretary nominated by MINESUDD. The CN-REDD+ is made up of a National REDD+ Committee (with representation from all relevant ministries, line ministries and state-owned enterprises; refer to R-PP for details) responsible for steering the process, and a Technical

Interministerial Committee (CTI), responsible for interministerial cooperation, in addition to the Permanent Executive Secretariat (PES – to be funded by this Readiness Grant), responsible for the implementation of activities associated with the development of the national strategy. All three of these groups play a role in ensuring that REDD+ is integrated into national, regional and local-level policies.

13. The development of the REDD+ strategy will accompany the decentralization process taking place in Côte d’Ivoire in order to ensure that the future REDD+ National Strategy is implemented across the country, that local government’s capacities for land-use planning is developed, and that national plans take into consideration regional priorities. This will be done through the 15 Regional Direction offices throughout the country. In the same vein, the FLEGT/REDD+ civil society platform will also have regional representation to facilitate dialogue at the grassroots level. Further, based on Côte d’Ivoire’s division into seven agro-ecological zones (Figure 2); the PES will employ three focal points who will be lodged at the Regional Direction offices of three preliminary agro-ecological focus regions that will be responsible for taking into consideration the agro-ecological aspects of each of these regions along with supervising studies on the drivers of deforestation and degradation in each. The additional agro-ecological zones’ priorities will be included through workshops and meetings hosted by Côte d’Ivoire’s decentralized Regional Direction offices where civil society and local communities will be invited to participate. These structures will enable a participatory, “bottom-up” process that takes into account the aspirations of local communities and relevant stakeholders. Regional coordination structures will facilitate the link between the Permanent Executive Secretariat and the relevant officials at the Departmental level, whereas, the Technical Interministerial Committee will be in charge of managing the REDD+ activities at the local level. Coordinated by the REDD+ PES, the Technical Interministerial Committee will consist of representatives of all Ministries as well as of all the other stakeholders.

14. Institutional and Policy framework for REDD+. The Council of Ministers of Côte d’Ivoire has enacted a decree on the REDD+ process, detailing its internal organization (Council of Ministers Decree of October 24, 2012). The Minister for the Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD) has set up a National REDD+ Commission (REDD+ NC) to steer this new program. In 2012, a REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (REDD+ PES) was set up to manage planning, fundraising and technical assistance for the national readiness preparation process for the REDD+ mechanism. A partnership has also been launched with civil society organizations and the FLEGT process.

15. There are a number of reforms and large-scale investments being enacted across the land sectors in Côte d’Ivoire, in land tenure, forest law reform and in agriculture, under the National Programme for Agricultural Investment (PNIA 2010-2015). In addition, a consortium led by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), IDH and IFC aims to create a US\$100 million market of farm input finance for 200,000 cocoa farmers in West Africa by 2015, with a preliminary focus on Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria in order to develop this sector sustainably. To achieve this goal, they have created a platform of industry members (Cargill, ADM, Armajaro, Nestle, Mars), local commercial banks (Diamond Bank, Ecobank), raw materials company (OCP Group) and local importers. The program intends to improve cocoa farmers’ livelihoods through access to credit for needed inputs, and make the business case to financial providers to increase services to the cocoa sector through the creation of sustainable supply chains. Similarly, the WB is supporting Côte d’Ivoire’s agriculture sector through the Agriculture Sector Support Project with a US\$ 23.82 million equivalent credit, and a US\$ 26.18 million equivalent grant.

16. In 2012, Côte d'Ivoire embarked on the multi-partner engagement and participation process as part of their REDD+ planning preparation in order to make these participation structures operational, and to raise financial resources through international technical and financial partnerships. Côte d'Ivoire has become a member of two international REDD+ support platforms: the UN-REDD Programme (an FAO/UNDP/UNEP partnership) and the FCPF (World Bank). Beginning in 2012, UN-REDD, FCPF, AFD and EU REDD missions were conducted to assist Côte d'Ivoire with its initial analysis of needs and to plan its national REDD+ process. Since 2013, Côte d'Ivoire has also been receiving assistance from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) under the Debt Reduction and Development Contract (C2D). This support includes funding for the national REDD+ process. The European Union REDD Facility (EU REDD) is also contributing. All of these institutional partnerships stand as evidence of the national political resolve to engage in the REDD+ process and international recognition of this commitment.

17. Côte d'Ivoire's national readiness preparation proposal for the REDD+ mechanism (known in short as the R-PP) presents the preliminary analyses and details an action plan for national organization, stakeholder engagement, cooperation with FLEGT, etc. The R-PP is the national REDD+ process planning tool for the 2014-2017 period. It also serves to guarantee the harmonious coordination of the array of technical and financial assistance provided by UN-REDD, the FCPF, AFD/C2ED, and EU REDD.

18. UN-REDD have been working in Côte d'Ivoire since 2012. A first policy assistance-advisory mission in March 2012 focused on preparing the country's institutional organization for the REDD+ process (as per the decree of October 24, 2012). Three capacity building and technical assistance projects followed: A targeted stakeholder engagement support project conducted by the UNDP in 2013 with funding of US\$50,000 (a second project is scheduled for before the end of 2013 for additional financing of US\$60,000); an FAO technical cooperation project (FAO/TCP financing) for a sum of US\$195,000 to build REDD+ and M&MRV capacities, conduct the national information/consultation campaign and provide a national technical assistant to the REDD+ PES; and a targeted FAO support project totaling US\$195,000 to build REDD+ readiness capacities, especially to draft and finalize the R-PP, take part in international conferences, develop the NFMS and coordinate the different REDD+ activities in the country. Côte d'Ivoire took part in training and capacity building meetings held by UN-REDD in Africa, including the DRC REDD+ universities held by the UNDP in 2010 and 2011, the REDD+ socio-environmental safeguards and multiple benefits workshop held by UNEP in Nairobi in 2013, and workshops on forest monitoring and M&MRV systems held by the FAO since 2011. The UNREDD Policy Board approved \$3 million in REDD financing for Côte d'Ivoire in July 2014.

19. AFD and Côte d'Ivoire have agreed upon an allocation of US\$2,450,000 for the REDD+ process under the Debt Reduction and Development Contract (C2D). An initial sum has already been disbursed to the REDD+ PES for information and communication activities, stakeholder engagement and FLEGT-REDD+ associative action. Details on the AFD/C2D's engagement are available in Component 5 of the R-PP. The FCPF helped Côte d'Ivoire write the R-PP with targeted support in 2013. More recently, the Technical Advisory Panel assisted with a full review of Côte d'Ivoire's proposals in October to improve the document and officially submit it to the FCPF Participants Committee.

20. EU REDD in February 2013 supported the launch of the REDD+ process in Côte d'Ivoire

in order to enhance participation and national involvement alongside the development of the R-PP. Support from the EU REDD Facility focused first on the need to provide players with early information about the REDD+ process and on possible interactions with the FLEGT process to improve forest governance (negotiations for a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement started in 2013). EU REDD and the REDD+ NC are aware that the progress expected of the REDD+ and FLEGT processes could easily be held back by the forest land needs of a far more powerful agricultural sector, which is already encroaching upon the permanent forest estate. Since mid-2013, therefore, they have been working on a way of engaging in constructive dialogue with the agricultural sector. This is an ambitious work plan (analyses, stakeholder mobilization, especially in the private sector, and field test actions within pilot projects) covering a range of sectors (potentially the cocoa, rice, palm oil, rubber, yam and cashew nut sectors).

21. In June, 2013 the UN-REDD Policy Board selected Côte d'Ivoire as a priority country in Africa for its new round of national programmes and officially invited the Government to submit an expression of interest and its priorities for UN-REDD support. At the same time, the FCPF announced a last R-PP submission window for funding consideration set for July 31, 2013. Following the submission of a first draft R-PP to the FCPF in late July 2013, and a subsequent draft in November 2013, the country was accepted into the FCPF Readiness Fund on Dec 15, 2013, providing it incorporate the resolutions of the Participants Committee of the FCPF.

22. Information Sharing and early dialogue with key stakeholder groups are already well underway with the abovementioned UN-REDD, EU REDD, and AFD/C2D support since 2012. Many national, regional and local information and consultation meetings were held on REDD+ in 2012 and 2013. These meetings also provided food for thought for this R-PP. Over 1,000 participants took part in the early information and consultation activities, representing the different REDD+ stakeholders (local communities, civil society, private sector, public administration, technical and financial partners, women's and youth associations, local authorities, traditional chiefs, academic and research sectors, and the press). Within this stakeholder information exercise, UN-REDD's stakeholder engagement targeted support project examined the REDD+ issues for civil society players, explored synergies between the FLEGT initiative and REDD+, and identified participation and consultation methodologies. Given the sound, well-established FLEGT platform for multi-partner and civil society dialogue, it was agreed that this same platform should serve for REDD+ dialogue and that other representatives could join the platform where needed.

23. A new UN-REDD targeted support proposal is being prepared with the purpose of helping Côte d'Ivoire develop a National Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This will be drawn up in early 2014 at the same time as the UN-REDD is preparing for Côte d'Ivoire's acceptance into their programme. Component 1C provides for the implementation of this plan with UN-REDD funding.

24. A robust, credible REDD+ process depends on ongoing dialogue between government institutions, civil society and private sector players. The R-PP includes the implementation of the National Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see 1B above). This plan will detail the chosen stakeholder engagement methodology, a work plan with communication and consultation activities, a timeframe and a budget. The joint UN-REDD and FCPF guidelines on stakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness will provide the methodological framework. This component also provides for a series of communication, information dissemination and field survey activities.

Relationship to CAS

25. The current CPS (FY2010-FY2014 (extended from FY2013)) has four strategic objectives: strengthening of economic governance, infrastructure renewal, agricultural production and export promotion, and private sector development. In the R-PP, the Government has also identified agricultural production and export promotion as a major development priority; this will form one of the axes of the REDD+ National Strategy which will in turn support the current CPS objective of agricultural production and export promotion.

26. In preparation for the upcoming CPF elaboration process between the World Bank and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) exercise has begun. Building off of the current CPS priorities, the SCD will identify and discuss the challenges that will need to be overcome to allow the agriculture sector to live up to its potential which the REDD+ strategy development process will be designed to complement. In addition to sector- or crop-specific interventions, the SCD intends to highlight the importance of environmentally sustainable agriculture to prevent potentially irreversible depletion of natural capital, as well as the relevance of upgrading of physical infrastructure and addressing legal uncertainties on land tenure as critical constraints that need to be resolved to attain sustainable growth. The development of a REDD+ National Strategy for the country will attempt to address land tenure issues as well as strategies to conserve natural capital in terms of forest and treed landscapes. Without proper planning in this sector, Côte d'Ivoire's permanent forest estate could be further at risk of deforestation and degradation.

27. Supporting Côte d'Ivoire in their plans to develop a National REDD+ Strategy aligns well with the Bank's priorities of supporting the development of a strategy for poverty reduction that is based on sustainable and inclusive growth. In line with the SCD (and eventual CPF process), the REDD+ National Strategy will further explore means to increase productivity in the agriculture sector and structural transformation towards higher value-added goods. Key issues highlighted in the SCD overlap with priority areas under the National REDD+ Strategy development process: environmental sustainability, governance, land, and gender.

28. Côte d'Ivoire 2010 CEA: The Country Environmental Assessment identified the following major issues for 2009-2010, which remain the same in 2014: rapid loss of forest cover and biodiversity, land degradation, coastal erosion, air & water pollution, and urban environment degradation. The main changes in environmental management in the country have come about through a change in the institutional framework with the creation in 2011 of a Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD), and a Ministry of Water and Forests with related National and Local Directorates (MINEF), together replacing the former Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests.

29. World Bank involvement in the Natural Resources sectors after re-engagement in 2011 in the country include the following activities: Ivory Coast Protected Area Project (PARC-CI) (GEF) (P111290); POPs Pesticides Management Project (GEPOP)(GEF)(P131778); and the Agriculture Sector Support Project (P119308).

30. Given that the most recent formal engagement in the forestry sector by the Bank was in 1990, REDD+ will be an important point of re-entry in this sector as well as an opportunity for further engagement in the land-use sectors in Côte d'Ivoire for the Bank. By supporting the country in developing its future capacity to tap into international payments for carbon and ecosystem services through REDD+, standing forests in Côte d'Ivoire, and improved agriculture systems (agroforestry, trees on farms, etc.) could become a source of economic diversification. In

addition, by promoting equitable and transparent benefit sharing arrangements that reach forest-dependent communities (notably through women), the Readiness process could contribute to ensuring that REDD+ effectively contributes to poverty reduction in rural areas.

II. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective is to reinforce the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire's capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

B. Key Results

Key Results

- Institutions strengthened at national, regional, and departmental levels; these institutions will be coordinating and implementing REDD+ readiness effectively and put in place an operational grievance and redress mechanism;
- A National REDD+ Strategy (including analysis of options for the development of a benefit sharing plan) incorporating SESA outcomes and recommendations is prepared in a consultative manner and validated by national stakeholders. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for managing potential social and environmental risks of agreed REDD+ strategy options is prepared and validated;

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

This REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant will provide funding to support Côte d'Ivoire in the amount of US\$3.8 million in carrying out a subset of activities outlined in its R-PP. The full R-PP includes all activities necessary for Côte d'Ivoire to become ready for REDD+ as well as additional complementary activities estimated to cost up to US\$19 million. For a list of all activities to be financed under the R-PP by all partners please refer to Côte d'Ivoire's original R-PP.

Project Components

FCPF will finance six major components of the R-PP that have been prioritized by the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (PES):

- National Readiness Management Arrangements (Component 1a):
Activities will support the appointment of the staff of the Permanent Executive Secretariat (PES); PES travel expenses as well as the purchase of a vehicle, a computer and office supplies as well as their maintenance.
- Consultation and Participation Process (Component 1c):
Activities will include recruiting staff to support the training/capacity building for the REDD+/FLEGT civil society platform and its regional branches in the agro-ecological zones as well as substantial fieldwork in awareness raising.
- Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance (Component 2a):
Activities will include a study on the history of land use and future strategic options; a national study of wood use for energy; and an analytical study on the potential of reforestation at the national level; along with accompanying validation workshops.
- REDD+ Strategy Options (Component 2b):
Activities will include support for interministerial workshops to feed into the development of REDD+ strategy options.

- **REDD+ Implementation Framework (Component 2c):**
Activities will assess the relevant existing feedback and grievance redress mechanisms and arrangements (FGRMs), and either strengthen the existing FGRMs or, as necessary and appropriate, establish a new FGRM, to address any relevant feedback and grievances during the REDD+ readiness process. In addition, analysis and consultation on options for the development of a benefit sharing plan (for carbon and non-carbon benefits) will be carried out.
- **Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD+ Implementation (Component 2d):**
Activities will support the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Support is limited to technical assistance, analytical studies, capacity building, goods, operating costs, and consultation processes and does not include the implementation of site-specific REDD+ programs on the ground. The activities have been prioritized based on the comparative advantages of the FCPF, on-going work supported by other development partners and the likelihood of follow up work by other actors active in the REDD+ space in Côte d'Ivoire. The table below summarizes the activities to be financed by the FCPF.

IV. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	x		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	x		
Forests OP/BP 4.36	x		
Pest Management OP 4.09	x		
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	x		
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	x		
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	3.80	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility			3.80
Total			3.80

VI. Contact point

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