



Letter of Intent

June 16th, 2017

Her Excellency. Ms Rosalie Matondo
Minister of the Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment
Boulevard Denis Sassou Nguesso
Brazzaville - Republic of Congo

Letter of Intent: Potential Purchase of Emission Reductions from the Emission Reductions Program in the Republic of Congo

Excellency,

This letter (“**Letter of Intent**”) confirms the principal terms of understanding about the interest of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“**IBRD**”) acting as the trustee of the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (“**FCPF**”, and the IBRD in its capacity as trustee, the “**Trustee**”) in the possible purchase of the rights, title, and interest associated with greenhouse gas emission reductions (“**ERs**”), resulting from the Emission Reductions Program in the Republic of Congo (“**ER Program**”) described in your ER Program Idea Note (“**ER-PIN**”).

The IBRD and the Republic of Congo (“**Program Entity**”, and together referred to as “**Parties**”), the latter represented by the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment, agree that this Letter of Intent shall create a legally binding agreement between the IBRD and the Program Entity. The previous letter of intent between the Parties dated September 25, 2014 (“**Previous Letter of Intent**”) terminated on May 25, 2016, in accordance with Section 7.1(ii) of the Previous Letter of Intent, and shall be replaced through this Letter of Intent.

The Trustee has entered into this Letter of Intent in reliance upon the representation from the Program Entity that the Program Entity has the power and legal capacity to sign this Letter of Intent and to negotiate and execute an Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (“ERPA”).

1. The Transaction and Purchase

1.1 The Program Entity intends to negotiate to sell and the Trustee intends to negotiate to purchase, on behalf of the participants in the Carbon Fund of the FCPF, on a seniority basis, ERs from the ER Program, measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, free of all third party interests based on the price per ER to be agreed upon between the Parties, on the basis of the Pricing Approach for the Carbon Fund of the FCPF at the time that the Parties conclude negotiations of the ERPA (“**Contract ERs**”), provided that:

- (i) The Trustee shall not purchase more than 11,700,000 (in words: eleven million seven hundred thousand) ERs from the ER Program ("**Maximum Contract Volume**");
- (ii) The ER Program conforms to the World Bank environmental and social safeguards;
- (iii) The ER Program Reference Level, ER Program Monitoring System, ER Program Document, and "due diligence" are completed to the satisfaction of the Trustee;
- (iv) There is sufficient tranche capital available in the Carbon Fund of the FCPF to purchase the Contract ERs;
- (v) All necessary approvals, including any necessary approvals by the IBRD's management and the participants in the Carbon Fund of the FCPF, are obtained;
- (vi) An ERPA, satisfactory for the Trustee and the Program Entity, is executed between the Trustee and the Program Entity, subject to IBRD's "General Conditions Applicable to Emission Reductions Payment Agreements for Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Emission Reductions Programs" dated November 1, 2014, as amended from time to time prior to ERPA signature.

2. Costs

- 2.1 Only in the event the Program Entity violates its obligations under Clause 3 of this Letter of Intent, the Trustee shall be entitled to request from the Program Entity reimbursement of all documented ER Program preparation costs incurred by the Trustee until the end of the Exclusivity Period (as defined below), up to a maximum amount of US\$ 650,000.00 (in words: six hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars) ("**Program Preparation Costs**"). These Program Preparation Costs include, but are not limited to, the costs incurred in relation to the preparation and review of the ER-PIN, initial ER Program assessment, including due diligence costs, preparation of the ER Program Document, and costs related to the negotiation and execution of the ERPA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Clause 2.1 shall not apply where ERPA negotiations fail, although conducted in good faith (as described in Clause 3.4 below), due to the disagreement of the Parties on any commercial terms of the ERPA (such as ER price, allocation of costs and provision of advance financing).
- 2.2 With the exception stipulated in Clause 2.1 above, the Trustee shall be responsible for all Program Preparation Costs incurred by the Trustee until the end of the Exclusivity Period (as defined below).

3. Exclusivity Period

- 3.1 Subject to Clause 3.2, Clause 3.3 and Clause 3.4 below and limited to the Maximum Contract Volume, the Program Entity agrees that for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of this Letter of Intent ("**Exclusivity Period**"), other than with the Trustee, the Program Entity will not:

- (i) Start any discussions or negotiations regarding the dealing in or sale of any ERs, which are part of the Maximum Contract Volume (as specified under Clause 1.1(i) above), generated or to be generated by the ER Program with any person;
 - (ii) Progress further any discussions or negotiations regarding the dealing in or sale of the ERs, which are part of the Maximum Contract Volume (as specified under Clause 1.1(i) above), generated or to be generated by the ER Program with any person that may have already started and are still continuing at the date of this Letter of Intent;
 - (iii) Enter into an agreement with any other person regarding the dealing in or sale of the ERs, which are part of the Maximum Contract Volume (as specified under Clause 1.1(i) above), generated or to be generated by the ER Program as a result of any such discussions or negotiations; without the prior written consent of the Trustee.
- 3.2 Where the Program Entity has specified in the ER-PIN (or otherwise notifies the Trustee in writing) that it may offer ERs expected to be generated by the ER Program to entities other than the Trustee ("**Third Party Sales**") then Clause 3.1 shall not apply provided and to the extent that:
- (i) The Third Party Sales process is compatible with Clause 1.1 above, including, but not limited to, providing the Trustee with seniority over the delivery of the Maximum Contract Volume (as specified under Clause 1.1(i) above);
 - (ii) The Program Entity keeps the Trustee reasonably informed regarding any aspect of the Third Party Sales process that could be or could become incompatible with Clause 1.1 above (e.g., regarding the Trustee's seniority over the delivery of the Maximum Contract Volume) and, if requested by the Trustee, will agree with the Trustee in good faith and implement measures to remedy such incompatibilities;
 - (iii) The Program Entity and the Trustee have agreed on any additional procedures reasonably required to address the use by the Program Entity of material or information held by the Trustee for the purposes of a Third Party Sales process.
- 3.3 The Parties agree that, following the submission of the ER Program Document to the Carbon Fund of the FCPF and provided that the Carbon Fund of the FCPF decides to proceed with ERPA negotiations ("**ERPA Negotiation Start Date**"), the Parties will use all reasonable endeavors to negotiate and execute an ERPA in good faith and on the basis of the terms of this Letter of Intent, within the remaining part of the Exclusivity Period (i.e. the period from the ERPA Negotiation Start Date to the end of the Exclusivity Period). In the event that the remaining part of the Exclusivity Period is less than ten (10) months ("**ERPA Negotiation Period**"), the Exclusivity Period shall extend to the end of the ERPA Negotiation Period.
- 3.4 Each Party shall be deemed to negotiate an ERPA in good faith as long as it conducts its negotiations in a fair and reasonable manner with a sincere intention to reach a final agreement with the other Party on the terms of the ERPA by the end of the ERPA Negotiation Period.

4. Provision of Information

To enable the Trustee to evaluate and consider the ER Program and to negotiate the ERPA, the Program Entity shall provide all reasonable and relevant information and assistance required by the Trustee, its staff and its consultants.

5. Disclosure of Information

All information disclosed by the Parties under this Letter of Intent shall be public, i.e., non-confidential, and be disclosed. In the event that either Party requests during the ERPA negotiations that the ERPA be treated as a confidential document, such requesting Party shall disclose its rationale for such request.

6. Carbon Fund Participant Payment Default

6.1 The Program Entity understands that (i) the IBRD is not intending to purchase any ERs from the ER Program personally or in its individual capacity but only as a trustee of the relevant tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF and (ii) the obligations and liabilities of the Trustee under any ERPA will be limited to the assets of the relevant tranche of the Carbon Fund and that neither Trustee, IBRD, any of its affiliated entities, the participants of the relevant tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF, nor any of their respective officers, directors, employees, partners, members or shareholders, will assume or will be subject to any personal liability for any of the obligations, claims or liabilities under or in connection with any ERPA.

6.2 The Program Entity further understands that any payment obligations of the Trustee under or in connection with any ERPA will be limited to assets of the relevant tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF, which consist primarily of the funding to be provided to the Trustee by the participants of the relevant tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF. Under the FCPF Charter, participants of a tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF are required to make payment to the Trustee up to their respective contribution to the respective tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF upon periodic demands for payment issued by the Trustee. In the event one or more participants of a tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF fail to make payment to the Trustee for whatever reason, the Trustee may not have sufficient funds available to meet its payment obligations when due under the ERPA, in which case the Trustee will not have any liability whatsoever in connection with such lack of available funding.

7. Termination

7.1. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, this Letter of Intent and the understandings it provides will terminate:

- (i) Upon execution of an ERPA between the Program Entity and the Trustee;
- (ii) If an ERPA is not executed prior to the end of the Exclusivity Period, and if applicable, upon reimbursement of Program Preparation Costs in accordance with Section 2 noted above;

(iii) If the Participants of the respective Tranche of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF decide not to proceed to negotiating an ERPA for the ER Program.

7.2 If the ERPA Negotiation Period has not started within ten (10) months from the date of this Letter of Intent, the Trustee may, at its sole and absolute discretion, either terminate this Letter of Intent and the understandings it provides or extend the deadline provided in this Clause 7.2.

8. **Governing Law and Disputes**

8.1 This agreement will be governed and construed in accordance with English law.

8.2 The Parties shall endeavor to settle amicably any dispute between them arising out of or relating to the Letter of Intent ("**Dispute**"). Upon the written request of either Party ("**Initial Request**"), the Parties shall meet promptly to consider the Dispute. If the Dispute has not been resolved by the Parties within sixty (60) days of the date of the Initial Request, the Parties may seek an amicable settlement of the Dispute by conciliation, which shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules as at present in force. The location of these conciliation proceedings shall be in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, and the language shall be English with simultaneous translation into French. The Parties shall endeavor to reach agreement on the name of a sole conciliator, failing which either Party may request the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration to appoint the sole conciliator.

8.3 Should either Party refuse to seek an amicable settlement by conciliation, or should the conciliation proceedings be unsuccessfully terminated, either Party may, by notice in writing to the other, refer the settlement of the Dispute to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force. The location of these arbitration proceedings shall be in Paris, France and the language shall be English with simultaneous translation into French. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the number of arbitrators shall be one.

9. **Assignment**


Both Parties acknowledge that IBRD may agree to act as Trustee for other of its IBRD administered carbon funds. The IBRD may assign its rights under this Letter of Intent to IBRD acting as trustee of such other carbon fund(s).

10. **Immunities**

Nothing in this Letter of Intent shall be considered to be a waiver of any privileges and immunities of the IBRD or the Trustee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Letter of Intent to be duly executed and agree that it shall be binding and of legal effect from the date of this letter.

On behalf of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in its capacity as trustee of the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility:



Authorized Signature

Name: Ahmadou Moustapha Ndiaye
Title: Country Director

On behalf of the Republic of Congo, represented by the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment:



Authorized Signature

Name: Rosalie Matondo
Title: Minister