



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board
18 – 21 August 2020
Virtual meeting
Provisional agenda item

GCF/B.26/02/Add.14

28 July 2020

Consideration of funding proposals - Addendum XIV

Funding proposal package for SAP015

Summary

This addendum contains the following six parts:

- a) A funding proposal titled "Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)";
- b) No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s);
- c) Secretariat's assessment;
- d) Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment;
- e) Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment; and
- f) Gender documentation.

Table of Contents

Funding proposal submitted by the accredited entity	3
No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s)	43
Secretariat's assessment	44
Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment	59
Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment	72
Gender documentation	74

Simplified Approval Process Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title: Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)

Country(ies): Côte d'Ivoire

National Designated Authority(ies): Climate Change Office (*Bureau des Changements Climatiques, BCC*), Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Tiangoua KONE

Accredited Entity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Date of first submission: 2019/11/08

Date of current submission/
version number: [2020/03/31] [V.005]

If available, indicate GCF code: *This code is assigned to each project upon first submission of a Concept Note or Funding Proposal and remains the same throughout the proposal review process. If you have submitted this project/programme previously please indicate the GCF code here.*



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Section A **PROJECT / PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

This section highlights some of the project's or programme's information for ease of access and concise explanation of the funding proposal.

Section B **PROJECT / PROGRAMME DETAILS**

This section focuses on describing the context of the project/programme, providing details of the project/programme including components, outputs and activities, and implementation arrangements.

Section C **FINANCING INFORMATION**

This section explains the financial instrument(s) and amount of funding requested from the GCF as well as co-financing leveraged for the project/programme. It also includes justification for requesting GCF funding and exit strategy.

Section D **LOGIC FRAMEWORK, AND MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION**

This section includes the logic framework for the project/programme in accordance with the GCF Results Management Framework and Performance Measurement Framework, and gives an overview of the monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements for the proposed project/programme.

Section E **EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA**

This section provides an overview of the expected alignment of the projects/programme with the GCF investment criteria: impact potential, paradigm shift, sustainable development, needs of recipients, country ownership, and efficiency and effectiveness.

Section F **ANNEXES**

This section provides a list of mandatory documents that should be submitted with the funding proposal as well as optional documents and references as deemed necessary to supplement the information provided in the funding proposal.



Note to accredited entities on the use of the SAP funding proposal template

- The Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) supports projects and programmes with a GCF contribution of up to USD 10 million with minimal to no environmental and social risks. Projects and programmes are eligible for SAP if they are ready for scaling up and have the potential for transformation, promoting a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development.
- This template is for the SAP funding proposals and is different from the funding proposal template under the standard project and programme cycle. Distinctive features of the SAP funding proposal template are:
 - *Simpler documents*: key documents have been simplified, and presented in a single, up-front list;
 - *Fewer pages*: A shorter form with significantly fewer pages. The total length of funding proposals should **not exceed 20 pages**, annexes can be used to provide details as necessary;
 - *Easier form-filling*: fewer questions and clearer guidance allows more concise and succinct responses for each sub-section, avoiding duplication of information.
- Accredited entities can either directly incorporate information into this proposal, or provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to other funding proposal documents such as project appraisal document, pre-feasibility studies, term sheet, legal due diligence report, etc.
- Submitted SAP Pilot Scheme funding proposals will be disclosed simultaneously with submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information which may not be disclosed pursuant to the [GCF Information Disclosure Policy](#).

Please submit the completed form to:

fundingproposal@gcfund.org

Please use the following name convention for the file name:

"SAP-FP-[Accredited Entity Short Name]-[yyymmdd]"

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY					
A.1. Has this FP been submitted as a SAP CN before?			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
A.2. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
A.3. Project or programme	<i>Indicate whether this FP refers to a combination of several projects (programme) or one project.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	A.4. Public or private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	A.5. RFP	Not applicable
A.6. Result area(s)	<p><i>Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the proposed project/programme targets. Indicate for each checked result area(s) the estimated percentage of GCF budget devoted to it. The summed up percentage should be equal to 100%.</i></p> <p>Mitigation: Reduced emissions from:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use: <u>100</u> %</p> <p>Adaptation: Increased resilience of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment: <u>Enter number</u> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services: <u>Enter number</u> %</p>				
A.a.1 Total investment (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: 11,754,000 USD	A.a.1 Total GCF funding requested	Amount: 10,000,000 USD		
A.b. Type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding	<i>Mark all that apply.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Loan ² <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantees <input type="checkbox"/> Others:				
A.7. Implementation period	<i>Indicate the number of years the project/programme is expected to be implemented. (i.e. From the effective date of the Funded Activity Agreement to the Completion Date)</i> 5 years (60 months)				
A.8. Total project/programme lifespan	20 years	A.9. Expected date of internal approval	7/11/2019		
A.10. Executing Entity information	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD)				
A.11. Scalability and potential for transformation (Eligibility for SAP, max. 100 words)					

¹ This fields will be automatically calculated in the OSS system

² Senior loans and subordinated loans

This project's activities will build on the results and lessons of the REDD+ pilot project in La Mé (budget of € 2.5 m from AFD), which supported the activities of the La Mé Cooperative of Organic Cocoa Producers (*Coopérative des Producteurs de Cocoa Biologique de la Mé*) from 2017 to 2019. This pilot project developed effective and sustainable models for organic, fair trade cocoa production based on a zero deforestation production approach, which benefits small producer members of the cooperative. The proposed Green Climate Fund (GCF) project will generate a paradigm shift through the scaling up of these innovative agroforestry models, zero deforestation agriculture and organic cocoa production. The project is aimed at reducing GHG emissions while also providing adaptation co-benefits. The adoption of these low-carbon emission agricultural practices by communities will lead to increased value added per hectare, increased diversification of livelihoods and independence from public funds, particularly by better connecting smallholder farmers to financial institutions. Low-carbon emission agricultural practices will be implemented on 3,650 ha of land. 7,550 individuals (30% of whom are female), and three cooperatives (one per region), stand to benefit directly; 600,000 smallholder farmers stand to benefit indirectly. Furthermore, support to the operationalization of the REDD+ mechanism in the target area will also enable subsequent replication of activities and good practices in other regions to achieve national coverage as recommended by the REDD+ National Strategy, validated in November 2017 (REDD+ NS) and the National Investment Framework (NIF).

A.12. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach (max. 300 words)

Côte d'Ivoire currently has one of the world's fastest rates of deforestation and forest degradation, with only 2.77 million hectares of remaining forest and almost no pristine forest outside the national parks. According to the Forest Reference Emission Level for Côte d'Ivoire (FREL), national forest cover was at 7.8 million hectares in 1990, 5.09 million in 2000 and 3.4 million in 2015.³ Current estimates indicate that 250,000 hectares of forest were lost every year between 1990 and 2015,⁴ which is a loss of 4.32% per year for the period 1990–2000 and 2.69% for 2000–2015.⁵ Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) were estimated at 5.5 million tCO₂ eq in 2014, which represents approximately 13.75% of total national GHG emissions.⁶

Agriculture contributes to 62% of deforestation, of which 38% is driven by cocoa production;⁷ **Côte d'Ivoire is in fact one of the world's leading cocoa producers**. Despite deforestation-free cocoa commitments made during COP 23 in 2017 by leading chocolate companies and states⁸ through programmes such as the **Cocoa and Forests Initiative**, the trend continues even inside protected areas and National parks. This loss of forest cover has a significant effect on climate, people and crops. Tropical rainforests are essential for climate change mitigation, as they absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and store carbon in their vegetation and soil. They also provide key adaptation co-benefits, such as promoting favorable microclimates, decreasing soil erosion, increasing the soil's ability to absorb and retain water, producing nutrients for plants, maintaining high levels of organic matter in the soil, and moderating soil temperatures. This is particularly relevant in Côte d'Ivoire, a country which is classified among the most vulnerable countries to climate change (145th out of 178 countries according to the ND-GAIN index). Côte d'Ivoire is in fact significantly affected by increasing temperatures and decreasing rainfall (see section B.1.). These climatic variations result in **reduced soil fertility and increased water scarcity**, conditions that are extremely detrimental for cash crops and food crops, including cocoa production. In Côte d'Ivoire, as in many developing countries, local communities extract raw products from forests and are highly dependent on climatic variations, particularly for family farming that supports their livelihoods.

³ Côte d'Ivoire Forest Reference Emission Level, 2017.

⁴ Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNEDT) & Ecterra. 2016. Qualitative study of factors in deforestation and degradation of forests broken down by agro-ecological area.

⁵ Côte d'Ivoire Forest Reference Emission Level, 2017.

⁶ <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/countries/CIV>

⁷ Ibid BNEDT & Ecterra.

⁸ <https://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/>

In its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 28% compared to the baseline scenario by 2030 (see section 2.2 of the pre-feasibility study). REDD+ is a key mechanism to achieve this ambition, as the REDD+ NS aims to reduce deforestation by 80% compared with 2015 and to restore 5 million hectares of forest by 2030.⁹ In order to fast-track the implementation of low carbon investments in the forestry and land use sector, the Government is also engaged in an ambitious **zero deforestation agriculture policy** (2016).

The Government has committed significant domestic resources, and has worked closely with bilateral and multilateral donors to reach its current level of REDD+ readiness and ability to transform its forest and agricultural sectors. However, capacity and funding needs remain. In fact, although significant progress has been made in the development of the national REDD+ architecture, the REDD+ readiness phase is not yet complete and is facing some challenges. The main technical and financial support provided by partners dedicated to the REDD+ readiness phase (specifically the UN-REDD National Program and the FCPF/WB) ended in 2019. With no plan for additional funding to finalize and operationalize the elements of the Warsaw Framework, the GCF is the only financial partner who would finalize it as part of this project's first component.

GCF resources (grant) for the project will be used to overcome the Government's constraints to source public funding to invest in measures needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. The project will first **finalize and operationalize the REDD+ architecture** by building the institutional capacities to ensure effective implementation of the tools at national and subnational levels. At the same time, it will support **a new agricultural model to begin a transitional path towards a low-carbon economy** (see section 3.5 of the pre-feasibility study) and effectively implement zero deforestation agriculture. To achieve this, 3,650 ha of agroforestry systems will be established, and 1,500 ha of forest will be restored, thus generating a direct and indirect reduction in carbon emissions of 5.5 million tCO₂ eq over the life of the project.¹⁰ Agroforestry will reduce pressure on forests by supporting smallholder farmers to increase their income whilst ensuring food security and fuelwood needs. This will lead to an improvement in livelihoods, reversal of deforestation trends,¹¹ and co-benefits for climate adaptation. This initiative offers the opportunity to provide concrete support to agriculture, one of the pillars of the REDD+ NS, and to initiate the necessary transition towards a green and low-carbon economy.

Funding from the GCF will be a catalyst for the REDD+ implementation phase and for **leveraging additional funds** for the activities budgeted in the NIF. It will allow the Government to optimize future partnerships with the private sector thanks to leverage financing (see section 3.4 of the pre-feasibility study), and will help smallholder farmers obtain sustainable financial tools **to end their dependence on public subsidies** (see section B2 and pre-feasibility study section 3.4), thus allowing the low-carbon agricultural model to slowly become autonomous through its own investments. Grant funding is necessary for the rural population targeted by the project, which has neither the financial resources nor guarantees to repay a loan, but also to overcome the major financial constraints on the Government, which is barely implementing its own public policies due to insufficient resources.

⁹ REDD+ NS – summary for decision-makers, 2017.

¹⁰ Estimations from evaluations using the Ex Ante Carbon-balance (EX-ACT) tool developed by FAO.

¹¹ See section B.1.

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME DETAILS

B.1. Context and baseline (max. 500 words)

Côte d'Ivoire faces a forest crisis given its extremely high level of biodiversity, and the population's dependence on forest products (Myers et al., 2000). **Expansion of cash crops** is the main direct driver of deforestation due to its economic attractiveness. A 2016 report (BNEDT and Ecterra) provides an analysis of the deforestation drivers by major agro-ecological zones. For the south-east agro-ecological zone which includes La Mé, Agneby Tiassa and Sud-Comoe regions, the most important drivers of deforestation are agricultural expansion (especially cocoa, rubber, and palm oil), logging (mostly for charcoal production), and urbanization and informal mining (BNEDT and Ecterra, 2016). The proportion of these direct drivers in this area reflects national trends, with the exception of palm oil agriculture (responsible for 20% instead of 7% at the national level), and charcoal production because of demand in Abidjan (see more details in section 3.3 of the pre-feasibility study).

Agriculture accounts for 62% of deforestation, of which **38% is due to cocoa production** (BNEDT and Ecterra, 2016). Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading cocoa producing country with an average production of 2.15 M tonnes in 2018/2019¹², representing about 32% of global offer.¹³ More than 75% of cocoa is produced in the south-west region where the most fertile forest areas are found. Only 30% of production is processed locally, the rest being exported.

In the targeted regions of Agnéby-Tiassa, La Mé and Sud-Comoé, massive deforestation is driven by land clearing to produce full-sun cocoa rather than growing shaded cocoa. Small producers lacking land tenure security often look for quick returns based on limited time horizons, and practicing shaded cocoa often results in a delayed first yield, which limits its attractiveness for adoption by local communities. In this context, slash-and-burn agriculture is often perceived as the cheapest and easiest way to proceed, to the detriment of the forests.

Cocoa production remains concentrated among **vulnerable small producers**. Cocoa farming is essential to the livelihoods of two million producers in Côte d'Ivoire: It provides 70% to 100% of the producers' annual income and accounts for about 1/3 of the international producer workforce – nearly 9% of the population of Côte d'Ivoire. Low-income smallholder farmers remain mostly unorganized and lack secure land tenure. Women are particularly vulnerable as a result of weaker land tenure rights and less access to assets, inputs and services (see gender assessment). Additionally, smallholder farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods, which increases their vulnerability to climate change.

In fact, according to the ND-GAIN Country Index,¹⁴ Côte d'Ivoire is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, ranked 145th out of 178 countries for vulnerability and readiness. The country is in urgent need of investment in readiness and support to implement climate-responsive actions. At both the national and local level, rainfall decreased by 23% to 29% between 1940 and 2010, and temperatures increased by 1.6 degrees between 1960 and 2010 (Yao et al., 2013¹⁵). This reduction in rainfall is attributed to the massive destruction of forests.¹⁶ Projections also indicate a mean temperature increase of 2°C for the whole country, with a peak of 3.5°C in January. Moreover, rainfall variations are expected to decrease by 9% for the April–May period, and increase by a similar amount in October (World Bank, 2018).¹⁷ The main impacts of climate change in Côte d'Ivoire are increased water scarcity and more intense droughts. Since average temperatures in Côte d'Ivoire are projected to increase because of climate change, evapotranspiration, and thus plant water demand, are also expected to increase, leading to increased drought stress of cocoa trees, especially during the dry season and in particularly dry (El Niño) years.

Climate change will, indeed, increasingly affect the climatic suitability for cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire. This will, in turn, affect global cocoa output as well as the national economy and farmers' livelihoods. Forests and natural habitat will also be at risk, as cocoa growing regions expand, shrink or shift. The NDC¹⁸ indicates that climate change will have a significant impact on cocoa production with financial losses estimated at USD 202 million and a 10% (estimated also

¹² <https://fr.statista.com/statistiques/565101/production-mondiale-feves-cacao-volume-par-pays/>

¹³ <http://www.fao.org/assets/infographics/FAO-Infographic-chocolate-en.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/ranking>

¹⁵ Yao N., Oule A., N'Goran K, 2013. Etude de Vulnérabilité du Secteur Agricole face aux Changements Climatiques en Côte d'Ivoire.

UNDP

¹⁶ K.E. Kouakou, T.A. Gouabi, A.M. Kouassi, 2012. Analyze of climate variability and change impacts on hydro-climate parameters: case study of Côte d'Ivoire. *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, 3(2).

¹⁷ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/470341530853819903/pdf/127979REVISED-WP-FRENCH-P167083-PUBLIC.pdf>

¹⁸ https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/C%3CB4te%20d%27Ivoire%20First/INDC_CI_22092015.pdf

at 20% by Dje K.B., 2007¹⁹) reduction in production by 2020, resulting from increased temperatures and decreased soil fertility (see section 3.1 of the pre-feasibility study).

The Government recognizes the importance of forests to tackle climate change mitigation and acknowledges its potential for climate change adaptation. Tropical rainforests play in fact an important role in the fight against climate change because of the high carbon densities stored in their vegetation and soil, but also because of their potential to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, as such contributing to climate change mitigation. Agroforestry systems in particular in Africa constitute the third largest carbon sink after primary forests and long-term fallows and are one of the most conspicuous land use systems across landscapes and agroecological zones in Africa. Forests and agroforestry systems also present important adaptation co-benefits: promoting favourable microclimates, decreasing soil erosion, increasing the soil's ability to absorb and retain water, producing nutrients for plants, maintaining high levels of organic matter in the soil, and moderating soil temperatures.²⁰

REDD+ mechanism in Cote D'Ivoire:

The country has committed to **reducing its GHG emissions by 28%** compared to the business as usual scenario (NDCs),

has and has expressed interest in moving towards an ambitious REDD+ implementation phase in order to achieve its targets. Côte d'Ivoire has been involved in the REDD+ mechanism since June 2011, and REDD+ is one of the instruments that the country wishes to mobilize to achieve its GHG emission reduction objective (see Section A). The country has committed significant domestic resources to these efforts, and has received support from several technical and financial partners since 2011 (see Section 2.2 of the pre-feasibility study), thus laying the preliminary foundations for a future system of results-based payments (RBPs).²¹

However, despite these efforts from the Government and partners, capacity and funding needs remain. Previous interventions did not reach the stage of RBPs because the readiness phase had not been achieved. In fact, funds mobilized for this readiness phase were insufficient to achieve results. To date, there are no accurate national estimates of Emission Reductions (ERs), and the technical annex of the Biennial Update Report (BUR) has not yet been submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Continuation of the preparation process faces additional constraints. For example, the bulk of the support from technical and financial partners for the REDD+ readiness phase ended in 2019, and the country requires additional funds to finalize the architecture of the REDD+ mechanism and the elements recommended by the Warsaw Framework to start its operationalization (see Table 1). Technical and financial partners of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire currently provide sporadic support for the REDD+ readiness phase, primarily for technical training. The country also needs additional funds for the finalization and operationalization of REDD+ tools. Amongst them, National Investment Framework needs to be revised as a result of the adoption of a new forest code in July 2019, which stress forest preservation, rehabilitation and extension strategy as well as actions taken by the government to mobilize technical and financial partners to accompany its implementation. Furthermore, certain institutional aspects of REDD+ still need to be consolidated at different levels. The legal framework on carbon rights and the transfer of carbon titles within the context of the benefit sharing plan still need to be established and the REDD+ fund management structure needs to be finalized (see Section 2.2 of the pre-feasibility study for gaps).

Table 1. State of the Warsaw Framework in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019

Warsaw REDD+ elements	In place	To be finalized
National Strategy or Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A National REDD+ Strategy was formulated in 2016 with the goal to reduce deforestation by 80% compared to the 2015 baseline in classified forests and protected areas and the restoration of 5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.		
National Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹⁹ Dje K.B., 2007 : Impacts des phénomènes ENSO sur la pluviométrie et leurs incidences sur la production cacaoyère en Côte d'Ivoire. Conférence Internationale pour la Réduction de la Vulnérabilité des Systèmes Naturels Economiques et Sociaux en Afrique de l'Ouest face aux changements climatiques, Ouagadougou du 24 au 27 janvier 2007

²⁰ FAO Agroforestry for landscape restoration <http://www.fao.org/3/b-i7374e.pdf>

²¹ The country is aiming for GCF RBP pilot programme but will also think about selling carbon credits on private market. To be noted that for the FCPF, emissions reductions are already the ownership of the FCPF Carbon Fund and will be deducted from the national account.

A Forest Emission Reference Level was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2017. An updated version of the national FREL is planned by Jan 2022, with sub-national estimates.

National Forest Monitoring System	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The NFMS is in place. It will be operationalized, improved and adapted to subnational/local needs.

Safeguard Information System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The safeguards information system is under development.

Most Recent Summary of Safeguard Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The summary of safeguards information was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019

Zero deforestation agriculture:

In order to fast-track the implementation of low carbon investments in the forestry and land use sector, the Government is also engaged in an ambitious zero-deforestation agriculture policy (2016)²². Zero deforestation agriculture has been defined in Côte d'Ivoire as **'an intensive agriculture in rural land, which preserves parks, reserves, gazetted and sacred forests, contributes to the restoration of forest cover through agroforestry, is resilient to climate change and respects communities' human rights while improving their livelihoods**' (*Ministère de l'Agriculture et al.*, 2015).

Zero deforestation agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire aims to stop the deforestation generated for the production of agricultural commodities by 2025, mainly in the permanent domain of the state (protected areas and classified forests) while improving agricultural productivity in rural areas, the conservation of biodiversity and improving the living conditions of producers, including by contributing to the national effort to replenishment of forest cover.

Private sector engagement in zero-deforestation cocoa production:

Efforts towards accelerating low carbon investments have also been made by the private sector in Cote D'Ivoire, particularly by companies involved in the **Cocoa and Forest Initiative**.²³ This initiatives includes 54 companies such as Mars Inc, Ferrero Group, Mondelēz International, Meiji Co Ltd, Hershey Co, Nestlé SA, Lindt & Sprüngli AG, Ezaki Glico Co Ltd, Pladis and Kellogg Co. The CFI is an active commitment of top cocoa-producing countries part of the **WCF to end deforestation and restore forest areas through no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production**. The agreement committed the participating companies to develop and present a joint public-private framework of action named **Joint Framework of Action of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative**²⁴ to address deforestation. ²⁵ To deliver the commitments set out in the Joint Framework of Action of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, the WCF²⁶ companies agreed to develop a **detailed individual action plan** that spells out the specific actions to be taken during the 2018-2022 period. The CFI companies, the government of Côte d'Ivoire and national stakeholders, have also agreed to start planning the **second phase of the action plan covering the 2021-2030**.²⁷

(see Section 2.2. of the pre-feasibility study for more details). As for now, private sector companies are reticent to invest in zero-deforestation cocoa production activities as they expect to be provided by evidence and concrete examples from the field and at local producers' level. **PROMIRE** project will bring this experience and evidence and to serve as input for the second phase of the abovementioned action plan.

²² <https://www.unredd.net/documents/redd-papers-and-publications-90/15642-politique-agriculture-zero-deforestation-en-cote-divoire.html?path=redd-papers-and-publications-90>

²³ <http://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/cocoa-forests-initiative/> . PROMIRE activities will be included in this initiative.

²⁴ Available in French at <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2017/11/CDI-Framework-Final.pdf>

²⁵ <http://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/cocoa-forests-initiative/>

²⁶ The companies working in Cote D'Ivoire are Arysta Callivoire, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Chocolats Halba, Cocoonect, Cococo Chocolatiers, ECOM Group, Fazer, Ferrero, General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Indcresa, Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley Confectionery, Meiji Co. Ltd., Mondelēz International, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, PBC Limited, Sainsbury's, SIAT, Tesco, Toms Group, Touton, Tree Global, Unilever, Valrhona, and J.H. Whittaker & Sons.

²⁷ Discussions on the second phase were expected to take place in April 2020 but have been postponed to June 2020 due to the current COVID-19 emergency.

Microfinance institutions engagement in zero-deforestation cocoa production:

There are several microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Côte d'Ivoire. These institutions mainly operate in agriculture, trade and services. According to the database published by the Directorate of Regulation and Supervision of Decentralized Financial Systems of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, there are 11 institutions operating in the project area (see details in the pre-feasibility study). While most of these MFIs cover only one or two regions, three institutions work across the three regions: Union Nationale Des Coopec De Côte d'Ivoire (UNACOOPEC); Réseau des Caisses Mutuelles d'Epargne et de Crédit (RCMEC); and CELPAID-Finances SA. All of these MFIs provide financial services for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, which require a sufficient level of cash to take into account operating cycles and climate shocks. However, while MFIs provide financial services for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, these are not adapted to the specific conditions and constraints of the forestry and agroforestry sectors, in particular the cocoa subsector. Financial products have to, as such, better match Ivorian cocoa farmers' needs, especially to help them manage irregular incomes.

As an example, CECKA (in La Mé region) is working in the following development areas: school loans, investment, plantations with reforestation, vegetable crop production, commercial solidarity, and agricultural loans. Conditions for loans are that (a) one has to be a member of the institution (have an account with it), and (b) one benefits from the first loan three months after joining the MFI. The credit provided depends on the formulas chosen: 15% and a duration of 12 months for agriculture, and 15 months for reforestation. The maximum amount is normally USD 8,250, but customers with a bank account can benefit from loans exceeding that amount if they are in the position to do so. Moreover, customers with a savings account can benefit from a loan equivalent to double their savings. It should be noted that loans are more easily obtained if the customer is a cooperative.

Advans supports the improvement of agricultural production through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Credit starts from USD 300 and goes up to USD 300,000. The interest rate for loans is 1.6% per month, and is declining (interest is calculated on the remaining due amount, and not on the initial amount). For Advans cocoa credit, loans range from USD 8,000 to USD 170,000, with a maximum duration of 10 months. The interest rate is 1.33% per month on borrowed capital. There are some requirements to be met for a loan, such as a credit signature to fill the request, and information on the cooperative to assess farmers' requests and to identify documents to open the account (number of members wishing to benefit from the loan, past cocoa tonnages, cocoa tonnages planned for the year, banking history, number of hectares of desired inputs). Advans has also developed a product called "cocoa credit", which meets farmers' needs for production inputs and processing equipment. This product has not been tested nor implemented yet.

Despite political will and investments from different partners in progressing in REDD+ and low carbon agriculture, the country is still challenged by barriers for REDD+ implementation through zero-deforestation agriculture. In particular the barriers are as follows:

Social/Governance barriers

- Weak/nonexistent land tenure rights and plans: In Côte d'Ivoire, smallholder farmers (especially women smallholders) lack secure land tenure rights, and land-use plans are not developed. It is essential to ensure that plots are delimited and secured, as reforestation is a long-term process – species grow at different speeds and native species will need more time to grow. Moreover, securing land ownership is essential to attract investment and implement actions in the long-term.
- Lack of organization and association of productive activities.
- Weak enabling policies and legal framework.

Technical/knowledge barriers

- Insufficient skills and experience in agroforestry and restoration among smallholders.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices (i.e. slash-and-burn farming and agricultural expansion are widespread in forests).
- Weak financial skills.

Financial barriers

Lack of access to income-generating, low-carbon activities: To generate income quickly, cocoa is usually cultivated using slash-and-burn farming.²⁸ Forest is cut down and burned before planting, and then, when the plot becomes infertile, the farmer moves to fresh forestland and repeats the production practice. This is mostly because, currently, smallholder farmers do not have alternative and sustainable livelihood options in the forestry and agroforestry sector. Weak access to financial systems: Despite the importance of cocoa production in the country, the supply of financial services to farmers is still limited and is not adapted to the specific conditions of the cocoa sector. In addition, farmers are usually paid in cash when receiving their payment during the harvest. Managing this cash flow can be a challenge and undoubtedly poses risks, as the income earned needs to cover all the year's expenses. Few farmers have access to banking institutions, making it difficult for them to save their earnings or to ask for a loan. Farmers may turn to friends and family for loans (Lonie et al., 2019)²⁹ when emergency cash is needed and when they are unable to save enough to cover the year's household expenses.

- Costs: Although NIF allocated half of the NS REDD+ total budget (USD 5.37 billion) to fulfil its REDD+ national strategy (NS REDD+) goal of reforestation by 2030 – which is about 5 million hectares – the country is in urgent need of additional funding support.

The PROMIRE project will build on experiences and draw on lessons learned from past projects – e.g. AFD project in La Mé, FCPF readiness fund, FIP and others). It will also seek complementarity with ongoing initiatives (e.g. GEF FOLUR), and will remove financial, technical and institutional barriers to allow for additional resources (public, private and results-based payments) to flow and to scale up sustainable and zero-deforestation agriculture and forestry approaches. This project is in fact part of an **essential step in scaling up REDD+** activities and finalizing the Warsaw Framework necessary for national coordination of the REDD+ process (mandate of the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat – SEP REDD); the long-term objective of scaling up actions that aim to effectively reduce the country's GHG emissions will thus contribute fully to achieving the country's NDC objectives.

To this end, the country has adopted a phased approach. Following implementation of the pilot projects, including in the La Mé region, the country will implement the first phase of the project in coordination with other projects funded by other partners. One example is the "Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Transformative Innovations in Côte d'Ivoire - SCOLUR-CI" project, implemented by FAO and funded by the GEF FOLUR program with a total budget of USD 5 million, of which USD 554,000 will be used for the PROMIRE project as co-financing.³⁰ The SCOLUR-CI project, which is currently being formulated, will target 9 regions in the east and west and will extend the activities of this project in the only common region (La Mé), with complementarities which will progressively contribute towards the scaling up of successful experiences.

The second phase will consist of further extending REDD+ interventions to the national level. The "REDD+ project in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: Forest restoration, reforestation and reduced deforestation through zero deforestation agriculture" project, already submitted to the GCF,³¹ will be part of this second phase, as well as the future RBPs that the country will submit to the GCF in 2021 (based on rough national estimates of 15M tCO₂eq for the period 2015–2017). The Emission Reduction ER-Programme (FCPF), Forest Investment Programme (FIP), and other potential REDD+ projects are being developed by partners and future investments will be mobilized within the context of blended finance. The geographical complementarity of these interventions is preferred in order to be able to cover the national territory over time (see Section E5). FIP is another REDD+ initiative with the double objective of restoring forest areas and making forest management more sustainable. The action areas are largely in rural areas and will benefit forest-dependent communities through sustainable forest management. FIP will be implemented through two projects: The Forest Capital Restoration project in the center of the country (Projet de Restauration du Capital Forestier), and the Tai National Park Management Support project in the south-west (Projet d'Appui à la Gestion du Parc National de Taï).

²⁸ There is no political or regulatory provision at the agricultural production sector level that aims to avoid land clearing by fire during the installation of crops. Coaching services just focus on good cultivation practices. The new Forest Code approved in July 2019 provides specific regulations for the protection of forests requiring prior authorization for deforestation and land clearing in its articles 45 and 47, in the private forest environment, and in article 46 in the public forest domain. The implementing decree developing article 47 is in the discussion phase within the government, as of the beginning of 2020 and will be approved in the first semester with binding measures for deforestation and clearing by slash and/or burn. Although it mentions activities likely to cause deforestation in these areas, there is nothing specific about slash and burn agriculture being restricted and/or punished if found.

²⁹ Lonie et al., 2019. Opportunities for Digital Financial Services in the Cocoa Value Chain, Côte d'Ivoire. Insights from new data.

³⁰ GCF Projects and FAO-GEF projects are distinct, but they are complementary. The PROMIRE project will also be considered as co-financing for the SCOLUR-CI project. No double accounting is foreseen.

³¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/15460-redd-project-c-te-d-ivoire-forest-restoration-reforestation-and-reduced-deforestation-through.pdf>

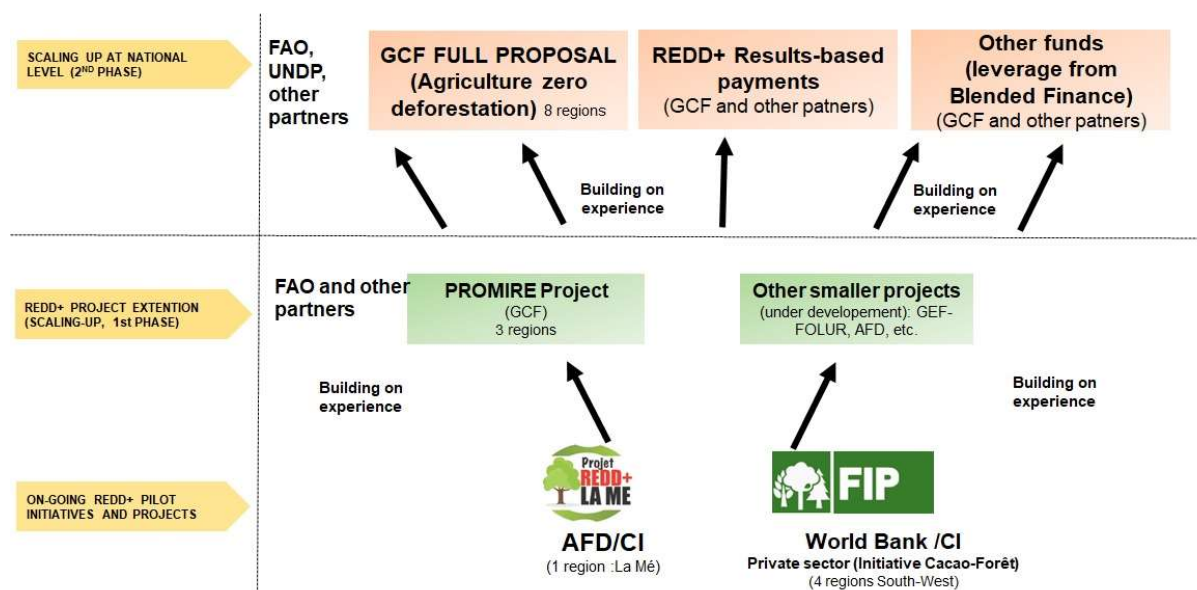


Figure 1. Synergies between the different REDD+ projects.

Access to results-based financing requires investment in deforestation-free agriculture, sustainable forest landscape management and the creation of an enabling environment. The FAO project will implement activities targeting zero deforestation agriculture in the cocoa sector to achieve concrete results in emission reductions. Component 2 will greatly benefit from successful practices implemented under the REDD+ pilot project in La Mé. The main lesson drawn from the project in La Mé concerns the sustainability of its models, which are threatened by overdependence on public funds. Lessons from the implementation of this pilot project are detailed in the pre-feasibility study (see Section 3.2). The project will therefore consolidate and scale up these successful initiatives through concrete actions accompanied by consolidation of the enabling framework and the technical and institutional capacities of the different stakeholders, taking gender equality concerns into account.

B.2. Project/Programme description (max. 1,000 words)

The project's general objective is to contribute towards the reduction of GHG emissions through the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism, thus enabling Côte d'Ivoire to access results-based payments. The project is broken down into two components and targets three regions (Agnéby-Tiassa, La Mé and Sud-Comoé, see map below). Thirty villages have been chosen according to the following criteria:

- Ongoing pre-existing initiatives related to the project objectives – continuity and complementarity of actions initiated by the REDD+ project or REDD+ aligned projects, such as the La Mé REDD+ Pilot Project, "Partnership For Forests" project, "Sustainable agricultural chain values of Côte d'Ivoire (FADCI)" programme under its sub-component "Support for National Parks and reserves of Côte d'Ivoire" implemented in Sud-Comoé.
- Intervention area of the PAMOFOR project (*Projet d'Amélioration et de Mise en Œuvre de la Politique Foncière Rurale de Côte d'Ivoire*), which will support rural certification activities as parallel financing.
- Environmental criteria:
 - o Location of well or moderately preserved forests;
 - o Proximity of protected areas and fragile ecosystems (mangroves) and priority of the Government for their conservation;
 - o Low environmental and social risks;
 - o Agricultural activities identified as the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and potential expansion of agriculture using remaining forest area;
 - o Climate change impacts which are felt by, and affect the activities of local communities (e.g. reduction and/or irregularity of rainfall, increased temperatures);
 - o Vulnerability of areas to erosion.
- Social criteria:
 - o Demography (village size) and village formation;
 - o Household income level and household dependency on forest resources;

- o Existence of local structures (associations, civil society organizations, etc., and especially women's associations) which can be enhanced and strengthened by the project to achieve its objectives. In the three regions, cooperatives or associations implemented by women range from cocoa production to food crop production, including Attiéké production and fish smoking. A few women's organizations, or those led by women, have been identified for each region;
- o Vulnerability of local communities to the effects of climate change;
- o Strong demand from local communities given the observed effects of climate change.
- Geographic criteria:
 - o Easy access to the localities to be covered, facilitating transport of the cocoa produced;
 - o Land availability – degraded old plots which can be restored for agroforestry or forestry purposes.

Agnéby-Tiassa, La Mé and Sud-Comoé regions have been chosen for the following reasons:

- To contribute to this REDD+ geographical complementarity and implement the NS REDD+ on the whole territory at a jurisdictional scale;
- To build on lessons learnt from the la Mé project, and replicate this approach in neighbouring regions; and
- To address the high deforestation rate from cocoa in remaining humid forest areas in the eastern part of the country. The section below gives a summary of each component, output and activity. A more detailed narrative is available in Section 3.4 of the pre-feasibility study.

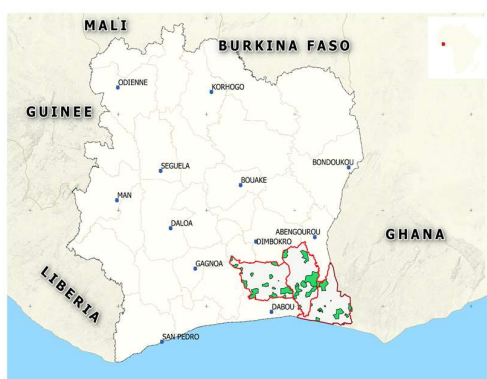


Figure 2. Targeted regions.

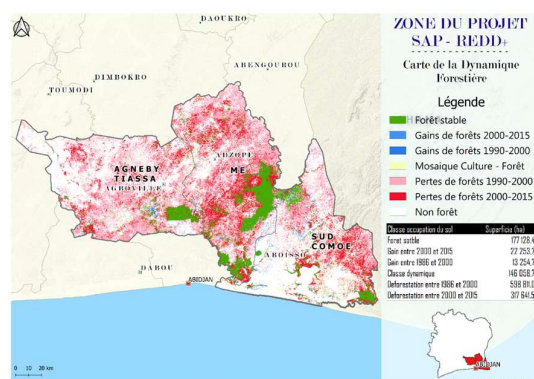


Figure 3. Forest cover change in targeted regions.

The project is structured around two interlinked technical components:

Component 1. Finalization and operationalization of the REDD+ architecture for REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs)

This component aims to support the SEP REDD+ in finalizing and operationalizing the REDD+ architecture by building institutional capacities for effective implementation of REDD+ at national level.

Output 1.1: REDD+ architecture finalized for REDD+ RBPs (GCF funding: 1,050,710 USD).

In order to finalize the REDD+ architecture, activities under output 1.1 will support the finalization of the elements of the Warsaw Framework at a national level for the effective implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.³² The elements of the Warsaw Framework to be finalized are as follows: i) update its NIF; ii) update its reference emission level – FREL (inclusion of degradation); iii) consolidate its national forest monitoring system – NFMS; and iv) finalize its safeguard information system (SIS). The finalization of these elements is the first essential step to enable Côte d'Ivoire to access results-based payments.

Additionally, the capacities of the technicians in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by the SEP REDD+ and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (*Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*, MINEDD), as well as the technicians involved in the REDD+ process from the Ministry of Water and Forests (*Ministère des Eaux et Forêts* – MINEF) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (*Ministère en charge de l'agriculture et du Développement rural*, MINADER) will be strengthened so that they can sustainably operationalize these tools.³³ Trainings by FAO experts will be provided for each element of the Warsaw framework. Equipment will be

³² The pre-feasibility study provides a detailed description of the reference level, status and deficiencies of the Warsaw Framework in Côte d'Ivoire.

³³ These technicians are already identified as they have been/are involved in the REDD+ process in Côte d'Ivoire.

purchased and specific experts, who will strengthen the capacity of the government staff, will be hired for technical work. Missions will be carried out for quality insurance and for technical exchange. It should be noted that, through the operationalization of the NFMS, potential results in terms of reduced emissions from deforestation will be refined in 2021 to compile the REDD+ Technical Annex of the BUR necessary for RBP submission. The pilot near real-time alert system in the current NFMS will also be translated into a transparent, open-source version implemented directly by the national coordination team inside the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) platform. The validation process for the alerts will be further strengthened and translated into local level intervention protocol. The validated alerts will be regularly included in the bi-annual change detection (see Section 3.4. of the pre-feasibility study). The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 1.1.1 Update of the National Investment Framework (NIF)

Activity 1.1.2 Update of the Reference Emissions Level (FREL) with regional (sub-national) estimates

Activity 1.1.3 Update and consolidation of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Activity 1.1.4 Finalization of the safeguard information system (SIS) for its operationalization

Output 1.2: REDD+ Warsaw Framework operationalized for REDD+ RBPs (GCF funding: USD 1,008,196; Republic of Côte d'Ivoire co-financing USD 630,000).

In addition to the finalization of the elements of the Warsaw Framework carried out in Output 1.1, Output 1.2 will ensure the consolidation of their interrelationship through a portal dedicated to REDD+ that incorporates the registration of REDD+ projects. The following enabling elements will be developed and finalized by this project:

- the national benefit sharing plan,³⁴
- the REDD+ funds management mechanism,³⁵
- the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)³⁶ guidelines, and
- the complaints management mechanism – these last two activities being entirely co-funded by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as well as UNFCCC reporting.

Moreover, the nesting issue must be taken into consideration for implementation of REDD+, as it is not possible for the country to directly target national coverage for REDD+ activities; therefore, Côte d'Ivoire will develop its own methodology, suitable for the country context. Indeed, mitigation efforts at multiple levels can potentially overlap, but double counting emission reductions must be avoided to have clear vision and accounting at country level. To achieve this, the nested approach shall provide a means to clarify which claims competing projects and programmes can make. Consistency with national and sub-national registry and tracking systems will be ensured. Implementation of this activity will be funded jointly by the government and GCF (GCF will cover the cost of equipment, training, missions, additional experts and technical backstopping). A stakeholder engagement plan will also be developed through the activity 1.2.5 (see pre-feasibility study).

Mixed types of instruments will be considered to ensure that local stakeholders and investors duly benefit from the mechanism. Following a first assessment, a combination of in kind and in cash benefits in the context of REDD+ is likely to generate optimum outcomes in Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, as land titling still needs to be secured in most of the rural areas, for the time being it will be challenging to define carbon rights in association with tenure rights. Payment for environmental services (PES) contracts could be signed instead to incentivise companies and local people to change their agricultural practices, promote restoration and avoid deforestation. A study currently under process with CIFOR will define the options in this regard. The benefit-sharing mechanism to be used in future RBPs will be set up and operationalized as part of the project.

Background information on the benefit-sharing mechanism:

The Forest Code, which very recently entered into force, defines a benefit-sharing mechanism as “the set of principles, models and processes developed and applied to allocate both monetary and non-monetary benefits generated by the implementation of the national forestry policy”. Payments for environmental services refer to “the incentive instruments providing benefits in cash or in kind to compensate the implementation of practices promoting environmental conservation (Article 1)”. In particular, Article 13 states that “the State promotes the creation of carbon sinks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To that end, a mechanism to share the benefits derived from carbon sinks,

³⁴ The benefit sharing plan will be developed and used by the country for REDD+ RBP.

³⁵ The REDD+ fund is one of the tools the Government wants to put in place in order to channel future REDD+ financing which will be triggered by the implementation of REDD+, including the RBP. The fund could help the country to catalyse financing for the REDD+ process, in order to better link their impact with future GHG accounting/reductions. The fund management mechanism will be identified in a planned study with its governance. The issue of duplication with other existing funds will also be considered for an economy of scale in terms of operational cost. An operational manual will also be developed.

³⁶ These guidelines are used within the context of stakeholder commitment to Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ process and do not refer to the concept of Indigenous People as defined by the United Nations.

and the implementation of forest strategies and policies is developed. The modalities to implement those provisions are regulated by decree". In addition to the draft decree defining the benefit-sharing mechanism currently under revision, an assessment of REDD+ benefit-sharing options is also under construction under the guidance of CIFOR, involving relevant stakeholders, including the Government, civil society representatives, and the private sector, among others. In particular, the benefit-sharing mechanism should create incentives to encourage actors to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which are identified in the National REDD+ Strategy, including:

1. agricultural production of cocoa, cashews, rubber, coffee, and palm oil, as well as food crops, such as mango, pineapple, banana, cotton, and cola;
2. forestry, timber and wood industry (promoting legality and tackling illegal logging);
3. firewood in rural areas and charcoal in urban areas;
4. extractive industries and gold washing;
5. insecure tenure, land-use conflict, and displacement;
6. demographic factors (e.g. increasing population and migration from neighbouring countries); and
7. lack of incentives for people to protect, manage and restore forests and corresponding policies of measures.

A national workshop (expected in 2020) will validate the results of the study describing options for the national benefit-sharing mechanism, and additional analysis will be carried out for the finalization of the mechanism and its operationalization. The approach is thus to ensure that the benefit-sharing mechanism under development will consider inclusive and transparent principles as well as clear criteria for designating beneficiaries, and specify how the benefits (and under which form) will flow to the local stakeholders, in order to meet the expectations of all relevant actors.

The AE/EE is currently performing a close follow-up and is participating in the initial process aimed at identifying options for the future benefit-sharing mechanism. Having SEP-REDD initiating the discussion is a guarantee of the consistency of the intervention. The mechanism is going to pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, not only smallholder forest owners and local communities, but also individuals or groups comprising women and youth, who often do not hold property rights. In particular, based on the experiences of other countries that have already developed a benefit-sharing plan, the project will ensure the following:

1. **A participatory approach will be adopted** to guarantee stakeholders' active engagement in all the regions involved, so that their views and concerns are duly reflected in the construction of the plan, and that the plan is implemented at the right level;³⁷
2. **Land and forest property rights will be assessed and clarified, where possible.** Though vulnerable groups are not tenure holders, they contribute towards generating ERs; therefore, it will be important to assess the legislation in place related to payment for environmental services and forest tenure rights, and to refine eligibility criteria.³⁸

As an eligibility criteria, a performance-based approach was also taken into consideration in the context of the ERP workshops, identifying efforts in four major groups of activities: (1) forest conservation, (2) carbon sequestration, (3) activities avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, and (4) activities enhancing carbon stocks. This may also take into consideration a balance between different groups of actors, including government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, local village communities, riverside populations along protected areas, and research communities focusing on vulnerable groups. Finally, the ability of actors to reinvest in activities that can lead to emission reductions will also be considered as a relevant eligibility criteria. In addition to the results of discussions already undertaken in the context of the ERP programme, those elements will be considered to accurately identify eligibility criteria that matches regional specificities, priorities of vulnerable groups and real capacities to further increase ERs in the selected pilot areas.

The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 1.2.1 Development and operationalization of the benefit-sharing mechanism

³⁷ To date, a first assessment, funded by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire through SEP-REDD, has been carried out, focusing on existing options related to the establishment of a benefit-sharing mechanism. In this context, five regional consultation workshops were organized in six ecological regions. These regional consultation workshops acted also as platforms for raising awareness and exchanging information linked to REDD+. In addition, twelve focus group discussions were conducted to understand the perceptions, interests and concerns of local women, men, and indigenous peoples related to forests and land-use change related issues. In addition to a focus on local authorities, rural producers' cooperatives, research institutes, decentralized communities, and non-state actors (including the private sector), a more consistent focus on gender considerations will duly be taken into consideration both in the development and implementation phases of the benefit-sharing plan. Those aspects will be reflected in the eligibility criteria.

³⁸ As for now, the New Forest Code provides a legal framework for stakeholders to participate in forest protection and development activities. However, the relationship between tree and land ownership remains unclear in both Land Law and Forest Code. Clarifying carbon rights and relationship between tree and land ownership will help to determine how the REDD+ benefits will be distributed among relevant stakeholders.

Activity 1.2.2 Development of the Fund management mechanism's legal aspects
 Activity 1.2.3 Operationalization of the grievance mechanism at national level
 Activity 1.2.4 Design and operationalization of the web portal/platform
 Activity 1.2.5 Finalization and implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines
 Activity 1.2.6 Elaboration of mandatory reports for complying with UNFCCC requirements
 Activity 1.2.7 Development and implementation of the communications plan
 Activity 1.2.8 Development of the methodology for the nesting approach

Key results: Interoperability of the Warsaw elements allows for reporting on national deforestation, degradation and forest carbon stocks (restoration) and is linked to the local (sub-national level). All requested elements allowing the country to access REDD+ RBPs are in place, operational and connected. Data converge on the REDD+ webportal and are available for public consultation for a sake of transparency. The country reports regularly to UNFCCC and is ready to access to REDD+ RBPs

Component 2. Evidence-based and innovative jurisdictional REDD+ community-based activities

The objective of this component is to reduce the country's GHG emissions through the implementation of innovative, low-carbon land-use models in 30 villages of the Agn by-Tiassa, La M  and Sud-Como  regions. These activities will directly benefit 7,550 beneficiaries (smallholder farmers and female-led associations will be preferred³⁹), and will impact 600,000 indirect beneficiaries. Through this component, the project will restore 1,500 ha of forest and implement 3,650 ha of agroforestry systems in order to stop and subsequently reverse the trend towards the loss of forest cover and to improve agricultural productivity, using a community approach in the targeted regions.

Output 2.1: Strengthened territorial planning and land security (GCF funding: USD 227,000).

This activity will focus on the development and implementation of Local Development Plans for village-owned land in 20 villages in the regions of Agn by Tiassa and Sud-Como  and 3 additional villages in the La M  region (local plans are usually supported by public finance or through a development project). Such plans do not currently exist in targeted villages, except for la M , but they enable the consistency of future activities with regional zoning plans. The Government has drawn up guidelines for local and regional authorities for the preparation of Regional Spatial Planning Schemes (SRAT) and Local Development Plans (PDL) for regions and municipalities. These two instruments for local planning work together with the National Spatial Planning Scheme (SNAT). Planning is a double approach with guidance from the national level thanks to the SNAT, and implementation at a local level through SRAT and PDL (see Section 2.2 of the pre-feasibility study). Climate change is mainstreamed indirectly into this planning process: indeed, without good planning, no action can be sustainably achieved in the field no matter which area is targeted (forestry, energy, agriculture, etc.). With the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector contributing greatly to CO₂ emissions, improving land-use planning is crucial if the country wants to tackle and reduce emissions. In fact, the La M  project demonstrated that the development of these plans facilitated understanding of the region's environmental issues and led to improved identification of activities to be conducted according to requirements. Several plans have indeed been successfully implemented as part of la M  project.

Land security will also be supported in order to reduce the trend towards uncontrolled land access, and to promote long-term investment through the private sector, such as forest restoration and agroforestry, which require private, demarcated and registered plots. The project will support the development of 23 local, land-use plans, involving information sessions on the delimitation of activities and mapping, and sensitization. This intervention will take place together with parallel financing from the PAMOFOR project, which supports security of private land plots and the issuance of land certificates. Component 2 of the PAMOFOR project will support the implementation of the National Rural Land Tenure Security Programme to secure land in selected areas. It will be achieved by supporting the Rural Land Agency to oversee the development and test the initial implementation of a new system. One of the project results is the issuance of land certificates or a lease agreement, issued by the government for at least a total of 1,950 ha. Such certificates are necessary for private sector investment (see output 2.4) and could be used as a guarantee for credit and loans by farmers. This GCF project will therefore complement the PAMOFOR project by concentrating more on raising community awareness about land security through information campaigns in the villages.⁴⁰

The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 2.1.1 Creation of Local Development Plans
 Activity 2.1.2 Strengthening of land tenure security

³⁹ For example, Marie-Esther Foundation is a women's organization for the empowerment of women in terms of agricultural, economic and social development located in the Aboud  area (see section 3.3. of the pre-feasibility study and Annex 4 on gender for other examples)

⁴⁰ Exchanges are already underway with the PAMOFOR project for the coordination of all our synergistic projects around cocoa and land tenure. Meetings with the PMU and the World Bank will be organized at the start of the PROMIRE project to specify ways to better coordinate these two initiatives, and to strengthen the complementarity between both projects.

Key results: 23 local development plans created; 60 information sessions organized, land certificates for 1950ha.

Output 2.2: Reinforced local governance (GCF funding: USD 165,000).

A consolidation of the institutional and legal framework at jurisdictional level will be implemented depending on the context and needs of the regions. A REDD+ committee will be created and operationalized in each region in order to conduct activities and manage the complaints management mechanism within the same regions. In line with the national benefit-sharing mechanism that will be established in component 1, a benefit-sharing plan will also be developed, tested, and operationalized at a more local level to allow the subsequent receipt of potential funds from results-based payments at these levels. The project will thus support the cost to operationalize the system, including the annual meeting cost for the 3 local REDD+ committees. The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 2.2.1 Establishment of 3 REDD+ regional committees

Activity 2.2.2 Creation of 3 regional (sub-national) grievance management committees

Activity 2.2.3 Operationalization of subnational benefit-sharing systems

Key results: 3 REDD+ regional committees established, and 3 local grievance management committees created.

Output 2.3: Zero deforestation agricultural production and reforestation (GCF funding: USD 5,974,117; Republic of Côte d'Ivoire co-financing: USD 510,000; FAO project co-financing: USD 386,000).

Zero deforestation agriculture has been defined in Côte d'Ivoire as "an intensive agriculture in rural land, which preserves parks, reserves, gazetted and sacred forests, contributes to the restoration of forest cover through agroforestry, is resilient to climate change and respects communities' human rights while improving their livelihoods". This output will support the development of agroforestry systems in rural areas and forest restoration. The agroforestry systems selected will enable the reduction of emissions from the business as usual scenario, and will improve productivity and crop diversification – a co-benefit that will increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts on cocoa production.⁴¹ The models tested during the REDD+ pilot project in La Mé will be in fact replicated with agro-systems and food crop plantations (such as bananas and cassava), with a focus on organic and fair-trade productions. Activities in La Mé proved that the development of such systems in rural areas reduced the pressure on gazetted forests and reduced GHG emissions. Activities in this output will help 3,650 smallholders to increase their productivity and to produce certified organic and fair trade and deforestation-free high quality cocoa by regenerating their plots, providing added value to their fields, and supporting them with the organic certification needed (see the section on co-benefits).

For the rehabilitation of cocoa plots, and more broadly, for the improvement of the agroforestry system, the project will support producers to set up nurseries with the distribution of bags and will provide all the necessary technical assistance to enable an average of 300 cocoa plants to be replaced. Technical capacities of small producers will be strengthened through trainings (by meetings and specific technical support to producers directly in the field), specifically with the involvement of the trainers of ANADER (National Agency for Rural Development Support), so that they can acquire organic and fair-trade cocoa production techniques, as well as processing and storage techniques to ensure production compliance with the targeted organic market. For this purpose, 2,200 additional farmers will receive these trainings.

The project will also support the rehabilitation of old coffee plantations by including food crops – such as plantain, and cassava – with special emphasis placed on women through a gender approach developed within the project (see Annex 4). Applying a gender lens is particularly important, as women are active in food crop activities (see Annex 4 for more details on gender aspects).

Plots diversification is key to stabilizing and even increasing income, which increases smallholder farmers' resilience to the impacts of climate change on cocoa production. This model is essential to avoid deforestation as agrarian diagnosis carried out during the first year of implementation of the REDD+ Project of La Mé revealed that every year, around 0.25 hectare of forest per household is destroyed for the establishment of food crops. Agro-systems of coffee-rubber and cocoa-rubber will also improve families' incomes and increase the value per hectare by renewing old cocoa or coffee plantations. The model implemented has already been successfully tested in Côte d'Ivoire.

Another core activity of the project will be to support the rehabilitation of cocoa plantations by introducing trees (timber, firewood and fruit trees, with the choice of species used being left to small producers). For all these activities, the project will provide funds for the following: clearing, cutting old trees, transport of seedlings, marking, digging, planting, weeding, pruning, fertilizer, plant protection, harvest, and post-harvest actions, such as building a stockage warehouse. Equipment will also be purchased under this output. Additionally, the project will cover the cost of technical staff and

⁴¹ See EX-ACT tool for details about emission reductions.

for technical backstopping/monitoring. The identification of the location of the restored plantation is key to mitigating the risks of potential spillovers into forest areas if agricultural productivity is increased through successful agroforestry systems. Forest restoration, which will benefit from a more intensive monitoring by SODEFOR (*Société de Développement des Forêts*) and the local forest administration, will mainly target the buffer zone of these protected areas in order to strengthen the delimitation between the agroforestry plantation and forest, and the value of standing forests/standing trees. Finally, the SCOLUR-CI project, which has a region in common with this project, will implement conservation and restoration techniques in the la Mé landscape, and support the test of a traceability system to ensure more sustainable cocoa production.

This system will allow small producers to generate much more substantial profit margins. Profits will be generated through two different strategies: 1) Thanks to agroforestry systems, crop diversification will bring more income to households; 2) the organic and fair-trade and deforestation-free cocoa market is more profitable for smallholders, as the purchasing price is higher. As the producers from the three regions are not at the same level with regard to techniques and market access (the producers from the 7 villages in La Mé have already received more technical support than the producers in the Sud-Comoé and Agnéby-Tiassa regions), a differentiated approach will be adopted, taking into account the level of progress of the targeted regions and producers.

Sustainable forest management will also be carried out through the restoration of degraded forests on 1,500 ha (mangroves including in the Sud-Comoé region) with the technical partnership of SODEFOR and local communities. Additional hectares will be added as one of the results of private sector resource mobilization, leveraging investment in restoration development, subject to local producers and communities obtaining land certificates (see output 2.4). The project will provide technical and financial support for the following activities and 1,500 beneficiaries: nurseries – at least 1 per region (seeds, bags, tools, self-protection equipment, agro-chemicals, clearing, shaded area, bag filling) and land preparation; plantation (survey, clearing, stump extraction, digging, seedling transport, planting) and forest maintenance (weeding, compensatory planting, shape pruning, fire breaking, pruning). The objectives are ecological (enrichment with timber species), self-consumption (wood energy, fruit trees), climatic (CO₂ absorption) and economic (diversification of production systems). The government will co-finance monitoring of agricultural activities while the FAO project – funded by GEF – will co-finance landscape restoration and the traceability system test (see Section 3.4 of the pre-feasibility study). For the specific mangrove case, the project will support the establishment of a nursery for forest plants and strengthen the capacities of communities for the management of banks, estuaries and fish breeding areas. It will also support the functioning of villages committees to monitor these ecosystems.

Finally, free and open-source tools will be introduced at a community level for forest monitoring activities. The Collect Mobile application developed in the *Open Foris suite* will be tweaked for a specific survey integrating the different information collected on the ground. Information will be combined with spatially explicit alerts, and land-use maps to guide decision making on forestry activities, thus enabling local communities to be participate in forest monitoring. A strategy for community-based forest monitoring has been developed and tested in the La Mé region with the technical support of FAO. A community-based forest monitoring guideline will be developed and published, and this local forest monitoring will be deployed in the targeted villages of the project. All data collected by this activity will be used to strengthen the accuracy of data in the NFMS. The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 2.3.1 Agricultural technical support to small producers and restoration of degraded lands and forests

Activity 2.3.2 Conservation and restoration of natural habitats

Activity 2.3.3. Validation of the traceability system for sustainable cocoa production

Activity 2.3.4. Monitoring of agriculture and restoration activities;

Key results: 7,550 small producers supported, 3,650 hectares of agro-systems rehabilitated, 1,500 hectares of forest restored, 4,000 hectares of landscapes under improved management, 3,000 farmers informed, 500 jobs created for restoration activities.

Output 2.4: Strengthened agricultural financing structures and business capacities for cocoa cooperatives and smallholders (GCF funding: USD 688,796; FAO project co-financing: USD 144,000).

Finally, one of the most important output is related to the engagement of cocoa cooperatives,⁴² the private sector and microfinance institutions. Through this output, the project will leverage private sector resources from identified cocoa companies, traders and MFIs. The activities under this output will be implemented in collaboration with the Coffee-Cocoa Council (Conseil Café-Cocoa, CCC).

⁴² The purpose of existing cooperatives is to support their producers in improving production conditions and above all to facilitate the marketing of cocoa beans. Cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire do not export cocoa directly, it is bought by chocolate manufacturers.

PROMIRE will concretely engage small producers and cooperatives as well as the private sector cocoa companies and MFIs in zero-deforestation cocoa production through a two-pronged strategy (see annex on strategic engagement with PS and MFIs). This strategy -to be refined at the initial stage of implementation- will target these actors to enable them to find a common ground to work together sustainably. In particular:

- The project will **engage with small producers**. In Cote d'Ivoire most of the production of cocoa is produced by poor rural farmers who remain mostly unorganized (only 8 % belong to cooperatives) and do not usually have access to credit (only 11 % have access to credit lines).¹⁰
- PROMIRE will engage with cocoa companies and traders in Cote D'Ivoire **to include the project sites in their supply of zero-deforestation cocoa production** based on the sustainable forestry and agroforestry activities to be implemented by the project.
- PROMIRE will **engage with MFIs to enhance their capacities in the provision microcredit lines** taking into consideration the specific features of investment needed in the forestry and agroforestry sector (e.g. tenor, flexibility for the interest rate).

Cooperatives: The project will engage with small producers and cooperatives as cooperatives are the best vehicle for ensuring the link between producers and markets through fair negotiations with private sector entities in Côte d'Ivoire. The project will provide technical assistance to support the establishment of two new cooperatives of organic cocoa producers in the Sud Comoé and Agneby Tiassa regions (as well as the deployment of branches in targeted villages) by the establishment of the necessary administrative and operational procedures and the formalization of their legal documents. The project will also strengthen the capacities of the existing La Mé cooperative (SCOOP-PCBM for 'Société Coopérative Simplifiée des producteurs de cacao biologique de la Mé'⁴³). Cooperatives will receive technical, operational and financial training. In terms of financial literacy capacity, training will include funds management, bookkeeping and accounting, benefits of the adoption of sustainable production, investment, and negotiation with traders/cocoa companies.⁴⁴

The project will also support the development of robust business plans⁴⁵ informed by a market assessment to explore the legal aspects needed for promoting potential eligible investments among key beneficiaries (cooperatives and small-scale producers), the priorities in each region regarding contracts, the legal context which enable the promotion of potential eligible investment in the regions, the alignment with local policies e.g. development plans and the assessment of the cocoa sector (highlighting the priority and potentiality of the beneficiaries-cooperatives and small-scale producers) and the update of the economic and financial analysis of the different agroforestry models. Cooperatives will receive technical assistance to present their business plans to cocoa companies and MFIs. These **business plans** will aim at the following (depending on the specific needs of the cooperative and the targeted region context):

- Establish **purchase agreements with cocoa companies based on the experience of the premium prices established by the la Mé cooperative** for the high-quality cocoa produced through project output 2.3;
- Be subject to receiving micro credits lines from MFIs through loan agreements;
- Extend sustainable agroforestry activities through investments from the cocoa companies (*investments in this regard will be guided by the land use planning and tenure right activities developed through project output 2.1*).

As a result, **cooperatives will be in a better position to negotiate price and purchase agreements with potential buyers**, cocoa companies and traders and members of CFI, for the certified organic and fair-trade cocoa production and for the deforestation-free cocoa production.

Cocoa business sector: The project will aim at attracting private investors who will be interested in becoming involved in the production of fair trade organic and/or deforestation free cocoa, specifically within the context of blended finance (cost of meeting, training, expertise and missions covered by GCF funding). The project will actively contribute to the national technical exchange and dialogue (through CFI and cocoa innovation platform amongst others) on the development of **deforestation-free cocoa production principles and criteria** (in line with future EU regulations amongst others) and on the advocacy for the adoption at national level of a **principle of a "premium price" for deforestation-free cocoa production**. Regular meetings (every 3 months) with **Cocoa and Forest Initiative** and

⁴³ One of the results of the former La Mé project was to establish a cooperative in the La Mé region

⁴⁴ Content of trainings will be tailored to cooperative's needs: La Mé cooperative needs will be assessed in order to better identify its needs.

⁴⁵ Detailing the objective of the cooperatives and their financial and technical needs. This will help the cooperative to better target the potential future partners in the framework of resource mobilization.

member cocoa companies will be established to expand on forestry and agroforestry interventions and to seek additional opportunities for the establishment of **purchase contracts** based on national and international market development and dynamism. The project will also participate with stakeholders in dialogues on optimal business models for the sustainable development of agroforestry systems and value chains to delineate policies aimed at ultimately changing the behaviour of all stakeholders along the cocoa value chain.

MFIs: The project plans to mobilize microfinance institutions to support cooperatives working in cocoa production.⁴⁶ This will be carried out through i) an in-depth assessment of the three micro-finance institutions present in the three regions; ii) an identification of site specific barriers which influence the level of investment required on agroforestry and forestry sector; iii) a capacity gaps and needs assessment for potential involvement of additional MFIs.⁴⁷ The project will enhance MFI's ability to invest in sustainable cocoa interventions and ensure robust environmental and social management systems are in place, and identify and test adequate financial instruments to be used for the benefit of smallholders and/or newly established cooperatives; while being respectful of environmental and social safeguards. The project will also explore the potential to tailor their services to the project beneficiaries and /or design an innovative financial mechanism (and/or MFI products) in close collaboration with MFIs, in order to increase access to finance for targeted beneficiaries.

Finally, the project will support capacity building and the strengthening of cocoa innovation platforms through FAO co-financing (Activity 2.4.4.). As part of a jurisdictional approach to natural resource development and management, a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform will create a space where stakeholders can exchange information, develop a common understanding of the problems, decide jointly on desired outcomes, and jointly design and implement action plans and catalyse investments aimed at sustainable natural resource management that ensure sustainable production of agricultural goods and improve the living conditions of local communities. The SCOLUR project will establish 3 multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) which will be set up in 3 regions on a permanent basis. The MSPs will be piloted by the Regional Councils and chaired by the Prefects of the regions. For this purpose, (i) the project will provide support to the Regional Council and help forge a common vision and facilitate constructive dialogue among all partners through methodologies that will be developed for the proper functioning of the framework for dialogue; (ii) the capacities of experts from the Regional Councils will be strengthened in terms of human and material resources. Capacity building will focus on a systemic approach to strengthen the leadership of the Regional Council experts, who will lead this change process. The platform of the governance structure will comprise 3 governance bodies, namely: (i) a Steering Committee chaired by the Prefect of the Region; (ii) a Technical Committee; and (iii) the Secretariat of the dialogue framework provided by the Regional Council.

The Steering Committee, chaired by the Prefect, is a political body. Its role will be to validate the proposals of the Technical Committee, in particular the regional strategic plan for zero deforestation cocoa production and to ensure its monitoring and evaluation. The Technical Committee will be made up of thematic working groups according to the priorities defined by the stakeholders after analysis of the results of the studies. The Secretariat will be led by the Regional Council and its technical officers. Its role will be to organize the meetings of the various bodies, take the minutes of meetings and communicate the results of the dialogue framework. The MSP will thus bring together officials from the Government's decentralized structures, representatives of producers, women's and youth organizations, civil society groups, the private sector of value chains and financial actors in order to ensure a participatory and inclusive process. The process will be conducted with a gender and youth perspective to ensure that women as well as young men and women participate equitably and actively, and that their views are taken into account.

The following are activities under this Output:

Activity 2.4.1. Creation, strengthening and capacity building of cocoa cooperatives;

Activity 2.4.2. Development of business plans and financial literacy for cooperatives and producers;

Activity 2.4.3. Development of partnerships with private sector and microfinance institutions;

Activity 2.4.4. Strengthening of multi-stakeholder dialogue and cocoa innovation platforms

Key results: 2 cooperatives created, 1 cooperative strengthened, 3 business plans developed and presented to micro-finance institutions and the private sector, 1 platform strengthened, purchase and loan agreements established.

⁴⁶ At this stage, the project has identified the micro-finance institutions present in the target regions, and has started their characterization (type of activities, credit or loans availed, requirements/conditions for credit, etc.). See Annex 5 of the Pre-feasibility study for further details on MFIs.

⁴⁷ Not currently present in the targeted regions

Output 2.5: Knowledge management and communication (GCF funding: USD 417,730).

Communication activities will be undertaken to disseminate the results and lessons learned from the project and from previous REDD+ initiatives to farmers and local communities, mainly in the targeted regions. Cocoa producers and cooperatives focused on cocoa production will be prioritized. Some technical exchanges between villages and with other regions will be also organized. Methodological guidelines will be published, particularly for agroforestry and landscape management, using appropriate media for the local and national targets (website, radio broadcast, etc.), so that these tools can be used to scale up successful experiences. Priority will be given to sharing tools and guidelines with all direct beneficiaries as well as interested farmers / cocoa producers who won't directly benefit from the project financial support. The cost of the communication materials, such as printing, media outreach, as well as expertise (consultants and top-up for additional Government staff) are covered by GCF funding. The beneficiaries of the technical exchanges will be the same as the project beneficiaries.

The following activity will be undertaken:

Activity 2.5.1. Capitalization of experience and results dissemination.

The beneficiaries (smallholder farmers) of the project will be selected by the PMU and validated by FAO according to the following criteria:⁴⁸

- Dependence on agriculture, natural resources and forests, and located close to a forest area (potential actors for deforestation and forest degradation);
- Low income (up to USD 2 per day, as defined by the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire);
- "Ownership" of degraded cocoa / coffee plantation, or ownership of degraded plot with high restoration potential;
- Vulnerability of key livelihoods to climate change impacts;⁴⁹
- No access / very limited access to public finance;
- No or limited access to microfinance institution;
- Two cooperatives or associations implemented by women, with production ranging from cocoa to food crops, including Attiéké production and fish smoking.

Criteria to strengthen activities (and access to finance) for cooperatives in the La Mé area:

- Already part of the La Mé project (for the consistency of the activities planned in the project);
- Organic cocoa production;
- Member of the targeted cooperative;
- One cooperative or association implemented by women, with production ranging from cocoa to food crops, including Attiéké production and fish smoking.

Identification of the potential MFI by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and in collaboration with stakeholders will be done through the following criteria:

- Presence of the MFI in the targeted area;
- Credits allocated to cooperative (not only individuals);
- Credits allocated for agriculture, forestry, fishery activities;
- Reasonable credit rate (the level of the "reasonable rate" will be defined before applying the criteria);
- Simplified process (with low or without financial guarantee).

Other criteria could be added during a deeper characterization of MFI which will be undertaken during the project implementation. For the selection process, a score will be attributed to each criteria, and the MFI with the higher score, and which is willing to work with the project, will be selected.

B.3. Implementation / institutional arrangements (max. 750 words)

FAO will serve both as the Accredited Entity (AE) and the Executing Entity (EE) for this project, with a structure that encourages a high level of appropriation and implementation by the Government and supports capacity building objectives. FAO's AE and EE functions will be clearly defined to differentiate project coordination and project supervision functions. As the Executing Agency, FAO will take responsibility for the effective implementation and coordination of all project components through a dedicated team. The Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, represented by the Permanent REDD+ Executive Secretariat (SEP/REDD+) in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère de

⁴⁸ Restoration potential of gazetted forests was one of the selection criteria for reforestation activities with SODEFOR.

⁴⁹ Please refer to pre-feasibility study for more details on the criteria.



l'Environnement et du Développement Durable [MINEDD]) will also act as the Executing Entity and co-financer.⁵⁰ FAO's longstanding and successful partnership with MINEDD- SEP REDD+ in implementing REDD+ projects in the country, formed the basis for identifying MINEDD as a reliable co-executing entity.

FAO and MINEDD will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) for the day-to-day management, coordination and implementation of the project. The PMU will be based on the SEP REDD+ premises and will include a mixed team of FAO and SEP REDD+ specialists. One technical expert per region will be based locally in order to ensure the presence in the field. These specialists will provide expertise and material related to the project's themes if necessary (agriculture, forestry, gender, resource mobilization, etc.).

Implementation will be via letters of agreement (in compliance with FAO policies) between FAO and national entities (such as MINEDD), which will implement specific project activities, in accordance with FAO's procurement rules. FAO will select the partners (procured entities) to perform services against a set of general and technical criteria that would include, inter alia, expertise in the technical field and past successful engagement with FAO.

The FAO Country Office's relationships with the government, technical and financial partners (TFPs) and civil society organizations may be used in the implementation of this project to ensure continuity and sustainability of the activities at the end of the project. FAO also has specialists in REDD+ and forest monitoring based at FAO headquarters in Rome, and in the Regional Office for Africa (RAF), as well as innovation experts in agroforestry, funding and value chains. These individuals will strengthen the technical pool at the project's disposal by providing experience, knowledge and expertise from other regions in Africa, particularly West Africa, where FAO is currently working with its member states to develop understanding of climate change mitigation options in forests and land use.

The project will be directed by a Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will act as a decision-making organ and provide guidance by ensuring that links and appropriate coordination are maintained with relevant national programs and projects and the National REDD+ Committee. The PSC will be co-chaired by the Government representative and FAO, and will include representatives from different implementing partners, the GCF focal point and involved sectoral ministries, but also from technical and financial partners, from civil society organizations to private sector representatives. The PSC will hold meetings at least twice per year to supervise activities and make the decisions needed for their implementation (see the pre-feasibility study for details on the composition of the Committee). Presence in territories will be ensured by 1 technical assistant per region, development structures such as SODEFOR and ANADER, the REDD+ committee, involvement of the decentralized office of the MINEF (Ministry of Forestry), and possibly local partner organizations duly contracted for this purpose.

The project will establish a grievance mechanism at field level to file complaints during the project inception phase. Contact information and information on the process to file a complaint will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops and other related events throughout the project lifetime. In addition, it is expected that all awareness raising material to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances. The project will also be responsible for documenting and reporting as part of the safeguards performance monitoring on any grievances received and how they were addressed (all details are available in Section 5.3 of the pre-feasibility study).

The project team will report regularly to the PSC on project progress. The unit, jointly led by a Chief technical adviser and the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretary, should have an extensive overview of the project.

⁵⁰ The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire co-financing contribution is in kind and will consist of:

- Staff time of existing staff in the Ministry of Env, allocated to the SEP RED department, also to carry out activities related to monitoring,
- Meetings of national committee REDD+,
- GOE (fuel, insurance, etc.).

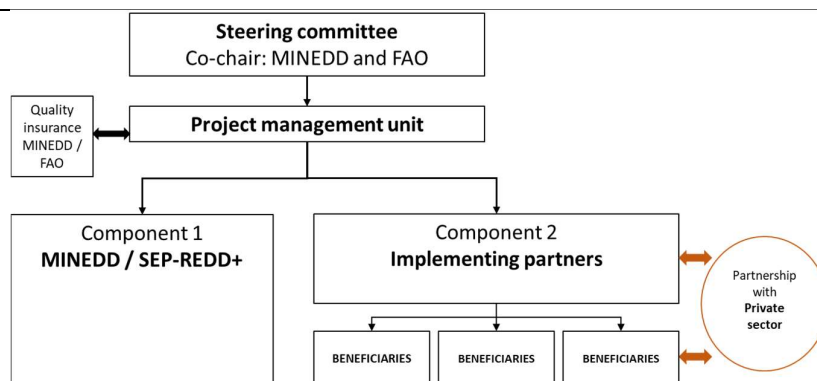


Figure 4. Institutional arrangements for project implementation.

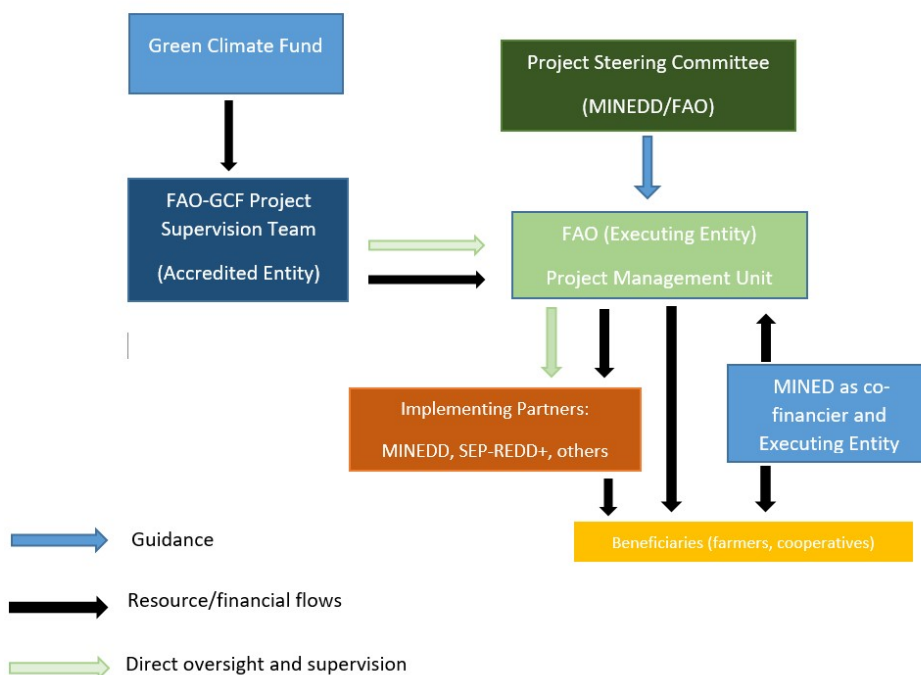


Figure 5. Financial flows within the project

As the Accredited Entity, FAO will receive the funds – at headquarters level – from GCF. The funds will then be transferred to the FAO Representation in Côte d'Ivoire, who will hire technical experts as part of the PMU in charge of executing the project (as such, the PMU will be composed of FAO-contracted experts, with the exception of SEP REDD+ specialists who will be staff co-financed by the Ministry of Environment). The funds will be managed by FAO's Côte d'Ivoire office, which will establish the PMU. As the Executing Entity, FAO will manage the GCF funds, manage financial expenditures against budgets, execute payments, and provide technical assistance. Both GCF and FAO will enter into an FAA, under which FAO shall administer the relevant GCF Proceeds to be used for the financing of the project, in accordance with the FAA and AMA. Accountability on the use of financial resources will be facilitated through the review of annual and bi-annual project reports, as well as through audit and monitoring reports.

The partners that will receive GCF proceeds – through fund transfer in accordance with FAO's procurement rules – are implementing partners,⁵¹ in other words, organizations involved in the project implementation, such as SEP REDD+, SODEFOR, ANADER, and ECOCERT (see the procurement plan for more details). AFD will not constitute a co-financing partner as their project ended. The technical and financial management capacity of implementing partners will be assessed during the identification of the implementing partners⁵² and before the officialization of the Letters of Agreement (LoA), as stated by the FAO procurement rules – Manual Section 507. Some of the targeted implementing partners have already had an LoA with FAO, meaning no additional capacity assessment is needed. Fund transfers to these various partners involved in the implementation of the project will be in line with FAO procedures, and pursuant to the Accreditation Masters Agreement signed with the GCF. More specifically, FAO will transfer funds to the various implementing partners via LoAs, which will specify the procedures (activities, deliverables, schedule, payments, monitoring and evaluation) to be followed by these partners on the advice of the SEP REDD+. Procurement will be done through a competitive process in line with FAO rules and procedures.

The Ministry of Environment via the SEP REDD+ will manage their co-financing funds. FAO has a longstanding and successful partnership with MINEDD (SEP-REDD+) in implementing REDD+ project activities in the country through LoAs. Additionally, a capacity assessment of MINEDD, performed in 2016 by an independent audit firm, deemed the financial management capacity and procedures risk of the SEP REDD+ to be moderate. Since then, the Ministry has taken active measures to address the recommendations indicated in the assessment through the recruitment of personnel, capacity building and strengthening of internal mechanisms. These two elements have been the basis for identifying SEP as a reliable, co-executing entity.

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing⁵³

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi)		10, 000, 000		million USD (\$)			
GCF Financial Instrument		Amount	Currency	Tenor	Pricing		
(i)	Senior loans	10	Options	years	%		
(ii)	Subordinated loans		Options	years	%		
(iii)	Equity		Options	years	% equity return		
(iv)	Guarantees		Options		%		
(v)	Reimbursable grants		Options				
(vi)	Grants		million USD (\$)				
(b) Co-financing information ⁵⁴		Total amount		Currency			
				Options			
Name of institution		Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor	Pricing	Seniority
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire		In kind	1.2	million USD (\$)	years	%	Options

⁵¹ Implementing partners are those entities to which FAO will transfer funds via Letters of Agreement, which will specify the procedures (activities, deliverables, schedule, payments, monitoring and evaluation) to be followed by these partners on the advice of the SEP REDD+. This is in line with both FAO and AMA procedures: procurement activities will be carried out through a competitive process in line with the procedures set out both by FAO and the procurement plan under the SAPs as further described in Annex 8 of the FP.

⁵² According to FAO rules, partners will be selected through open tenders as mentioned in the procurement plan. It is expected that well established partners – with a specific mandate at national level such as SEP-REDD, ANADER, SODEFOR – will participate to the open tender.

⁵³ Flow of funds for co-financing will not transit through FAO, but will be managed by partners which are considered EEs for their own financing. Co-financing from financial partners is expected to be materialized in accordance with the project work plan. Conditions are linked to activities necessary for the project implementation.

⁵⁴ If the co-financing is provided in a different currency other than the GCF requested, please provide detailed financing information and a converted figure in the GCF requested currency in the comment box. Please refer to the date when the currency conversion was performed and the reference source.

FAO (GEF)	<u>Grant</u>	0.554	million USD (\$)	years	%	Options
	Options		Options	years	%	Options
	Options		Options	years	%	Options
(c) Total investment (c) = (a)+(b)	Amount			Currency		
	1.754			million USD (\$)		
(d) Co-financing ratio (d) = (b)/(a)	0.1754					
(e) Other financing arrangements for the project/programme (max ½ page)	N/A					

C.2. Financing by component

Co-finance⁵⁵ will pay for activities related to the operationalization of the Warsaw Framework, including FPIC and the preparatory reports to be submitted to UNFCCC, and also monitoring and traceability activities under component 2. Project management costs will also be co-financed for the meetings of the institutions in charge of the REDD + process (national committee).

Component	Outcomes	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF financing		Co-financing			
			Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Type	Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1. The national REDD+ architecture is finalized and operational	Outcome 1. M5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems	2,688,906	2,058,906	Grants	Public Source	630,000	Choose an item.	MINEDD
Component 2. Successful and innovative REDD+ activities in local communities are implemented	Outcome 2. M9.0 Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions	8,512,643	7,472,643	Grants	Public Source	1,040,000	Choose an item.	MINEDD FAO (GEF)
PMC		552,451	468,451	Grants	Public Source	84,000	Choose an item.	MINEDD FAO (GEF)
Indicative total cost (USD)		11,754,000	10,000,000		1,754,000			

C.2.1 Financing structure (if applicable, mandatory for private sector proposal (max.300 words))

N/A

C.3 Capacity Building and Technology development/transfer

C.3.1 Capacity building Amount: 1,149,640 USD

C.3.2. Technology development Amount: _____ Choose an item.

⁵⁵ Co-financing letter from MINED has been issued with the old project title but is considered valid as the content of the project remains the same (only the title has changed).

C.4. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 500 words)

The Government has committed significant domestic resources and has worked closely with bilateral and multilateral donors to reach its current level of REDD+ readiness and ability to transform its forest and agricultural sectors. The mapping of financial flows aligned with REDD+⁵⁶ conducted in 2015 illustrates the public financing flows supporting all activities deemed “relevant” within the context of the NS REDD+ in Côte d’Ivoire. It shows that the means used are still not equal to the country’s ambitions. In total, nearly USD 140 million in public funds were invested in 2015 in the “grey” or “business as usual” activities of intensification and support to agricultural productivity. Unfortunately, the need for financial and technical assistance is still high to fill technical gaps and implement the REDD+ mechanism. Previous activities did not explicitly take into account the risks of deforestation and thus require the implementation of additional policies and support measures, such as land-use planning and land security, in order to prevent the conversion of forest areas. In 2015, only 13% (USD 17.7 million) of relevant funding from donors contributed to the REDD+ objectives. The same year, only USD 19 million was disbursed to support REDD+ enabling measures, such as land-use planning, land security, reforms and “green” planning, MRV and traceability, research and development or capacity building. In particular, land-use planning was largely underfinanced with only USD 0.7 million disbursed by the Public Treasury and with no international support. Land security received USD 5.5 million, mainly from international partners, but inclusion of the land aspect in all projects related to land use requires more significant resources. Yet, these aspects are extremely important to tackle deforestation and fight climate change, as tropical rainforests play an important role in this fight – by means of the high carbon densities stored in their vegetation and soil, and also thanks to their potential to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.

In order to reduce deforestation and fight climate change, the NS REDD+ must be implemented. The REDD+ readiness phase, however, must first be finalized to have an operational REDD+ mechanism in the country. As explained above, this is not yet the case, but this objective will be achieved through the first component of the project. There is also an urgent need to secure funding, particularly in terms of reaching the NIF’s objectives – the REDD+ NS will cost USD 5.37 billion over the period 2018–2040.⁵⁷ As part of this national REDD+ process, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire has designed an ER-PD under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund. It is currently in negotiations regarding the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA), through which it is expected to generate results-based payment (RBP) for approximately 16.5 MtCO₂ between 2020 and 2027. Although the FCPF represents the most immediate and concrete source of REDD+ results-based payments, other sources may materialize in the future, especially through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Warsaw Framework. Yet, to obtain results-based financing, investment is needed to create the necessary enabling environment, promote deforestation-free agriculture and improve sustainable forest landscape management. The PROMIRE project is fully aligned with these objectives and explicitly supports programmes that lead to results-based payments (such as the FCPF Carbon Fund and potentially the GCF RBP Programme).

Thus, GCF, as a new world fund created in order to support countries in their efforts to meet climate change challenges, can provide a sustainable alternative to support the country. The requested funds will be used to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation at a national scale, and more broadly, to ensure that the REDD+ mechanism contributes fully towards achieving the objectives announced by the country’s NDCs. GCF resources (grant) will be used with this project to overcome the Government’s constraints to use public funding to invest in measures needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Based on the financial analysis, different activities will lead to the generation of financial reflows. For example, a GCF grant is the most efficient and effective financial instrument to promote the agroforestry model in the second component, which is financially more attractive than baseline agricultural practices. Indeed, small-scale farmers in the targeted regions face very substantial barriers that prevent them from capturing any financial upside from sustainable farming. In particular, farmers lack knowledge, capacities and expertise in agroforestry cultivation, and lack access to downstream markets for any crops other than conventional cocoa and cash crops. Technical assistance and capacity building funded by the GCF grant will address these crucial barriers. The project will support the implementation of long-term, fair-price purchase agreements between cooperatives and agro-industrial enterprises in Côte d’Ivoire (or abroad), in order to stimulate demand for agricultural and forestry products that will be produced with project support. This development will be via partnerships with cooperatives and enterprises with the potential to create demand among producers, in a grouped and organized manner.

⁵⁶ Falconer *et al.*, 2016.

⁵⁷ Lack of visibility in NS REDD + implementation led, for most of the activities, to the creation of a budget at a national level first. Then, distribution of the investment at regional level was made according to the commitment and characteristics of each region according to the different activities (area, surface of gazetted forests, protected area, etc.) and their representation compared to the national total. Finally, 300 actions were identified for a total budget of USD 5.37 billion.

These three regions were chosen to capitalize on the achievements of the REDD+ project in La Mé, and to extend this approach to neighbouring regions, where forests (and livelihoods) are under immediate threat. Mitigation activities in agriculture will reduce crop pressure on forests and also optimize yields for small producers supported by the project. A crucial component to mitigate emissions is to stop slash-and-burn agriculture – the driving force of deforestation – by creating a new agricultural model supported by a new agricultural policy. Implementing REDD+ and a climate-resilient as well as a low-carbon agricultural model starts at the local level and extends upwards and outward to reach the national level. Funding from the GCF for this project will contribute towards the common effort to implement the NS REDD+ by complementing other ongoing initiatives, such as the Forest Investment programme (FIP), and the Emission Reduction Programme (ERP) – see Figure 5 of the pre-feasibility study which presents a map of other REDD+ projects. With funding support, the project can be effectively linked to other local public or private projects that are under development, including the SCOLUR-CI project submitted by FAO to the GEF.⁵⁸ It will also enable support in leveraging additional funding, specifically from the private sector, thus fostering long-term financial sustainability. This approach will help disentangle the relationship between agriculture and deforestation, and will help small producers equip themselves with the sustainable financial tools they need to end their dependence on public assistance (blended finance).

C.5. Exit strategy and sustainability (max. 300 words)

Côte d'Ivoire is resolutely committed to respecting its international agreements relating to the UNFCCC, particularly the development and submission of the necessary elements to access results-based payments (decisions 1/CP.16 and 9/CP.19). In fact, the country developed and adopted its REDD+ NS budgeted by the NIF, in November 2017 and submitted its FREL to the UNFCCC the same year. The NFMS was created, and the SIS is being developed. Using funding from the GCF for this project, its tools will be updated, operationalized using the latest technology and IPCC requirements, and adapted to enable smaller-scale implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. Furthermore, the legal texts to be developed within the context of the project should also strengthen the sustainability of the operation of these tools and establish the legality of the actions that will be conducted under the REDD+ process.

In order to progress within the context of the REDD+ process as such, the results in terms of emission reductions will be appraised at the beginning of project implementation.⁵⁹ If these results are conclusive, the REDD+ Technical Annex and the BUR will be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat during the second quarter of 2021. This implies that the concept note for the future RBP project will be submitted in the same year during the last quarter or the first quarter of the following year, with a complete proposal being possible by the end of 2021. This will allow the country to receive supplementary funds, thanks to its efforts in progressively extending the areas covered by REDD+ activities.

The potential for replication of technically successful activities is based on activities related to training and capacity building of beneficiaries in innovative techniques and technologies within the context of agroforestry and forest restoration. Such training will enable them to appropriate new techniques that they can then reproduce for themselves, and pass on to other people in the village, thus consolidating the sustainability and continuity of the interventions. Furthermore, subnational implementation of REDD+ activities will also be replicated in other regions so as to progressively cover the whole country, thus consolidating the sustainable nature of the project, given that the REDD+ mechanism is a long-term process. Finally, another potential for replication is also possible through microfinance institutions. Their role for the sustainability of organic cocoa production is important in the sense that these institutions will be sensitized and reinforced in the financing of producers. The strong presence of MFIs in large parts of the national territory means that the project has a high potential for replication and to transfer knowledge across regions.

The activities in component 2 will focus on progressive financial independence for producers and cooperatives thanks to access to the most profitable niche markets and a larger range of affordable and appropriate financial instruments (bank microcredit, working capital, bank guarantee, etc.). Building the technical and administrative capacities of cooperatives and small producers, primarily for La Mé region, will help them to create business plans, develop project documents, apply for credit and microcredit with banks and also invest in additional material or resources. This project is innovative in that it guides cooperatives and small producers through the steps to becoming independent of external public investment, such as donations and subsidies, in order to achieve independent and autonomous production models. In addition, leveraged funding will be sought from the private sector and microfinance institutions within the context of blended finance to promote private sector (and other potential investor) investment in organic cocoa, lumber and fuelwood. All of these elements, in place, will ensure long-term emission reductions, beyond the project's end date. Thus, the exit strategy is also based on leveraging additional funding during the project implementation, smallholder's financial independence, and private sector engagement, even if funds from RBPs are no longer available. The

⁵⁸ The GEF project idea in Côte d'Ivoire was selected at the GEF meeting in June 2018. The preparation of the full project is underway and is expected to be finalized in June 2020.

⁵⁹ A rough estimate gives 15M tCO₂eq for the period 2015-2017

estimated leverage impact of the project is USD 410 million for the whole REDD+ mechanism. Private sector financing will also be leveraged by the project (see Table 2 and Figure 1 in the pre-feasibility study).

Private sector resources will be leveraged by the implementation of the activity 2.4.3. of the PROMIRE project, based on the first Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) investment plan which covers the period 2018 to 2021 and, amounts to 210 million USD. The plan is the framework for all cocoa companies willing to invest zero deforestation, it covers various activities (planning, development of the traceability system, and improvement of agroforestry system, etc.), and targets 5 regions (including La Mé, one of the PROMIRE target area). The CFI is going to prepare a second investment plan for the period 2021-2030, and is going to replicate/scale up the agroforestry developed by PROMIRE and benefit from the technical participation and assistance of the project. As such, FAO will estimate the potential leverage finance during the implementation of the project, depending on the final second CFI investment plan.

The involvement of the private sector and Micro Financing Institutions (MFIs) will entail the following, which will constitute leveraged financing during project implementation:

- Purchase contracts by major cocoa companies for cocoa and coffee organic products produced under zero-deforestation in the project areas, at preferential prices;
- Extend sustainable agroforestry activities through investments from the cocoa companies;
- Provision of micro-credit by MFOs to producers engaging in zero-deforestation cocoa production.

The PROMIRE project will be the first project in Cote D'Ivoire, together with the FAO GEF SCOLUR project, that will be promoting and operationalising the commitment of this private sector zero-deforestation cocoa financing.

Finally, the Government's desired vision and strategic position will also be supported through this project. As the REDD+ mechanism should be national, cross-cutting and envisioned for the long-term, it is important for the SEP-REDD+ to move away from per-project funding, which does not allow for continuity of its teams or action on the ground. An institutional and organizational audit is currently in progress to propose a new status and method of operation that is more inclined to be cross-cutting and sustainable.

The rationale for GCF's support is primarily based on the fight against climate change, which is the common point for all actors, needs and benefits that the paradigm shift will bring for sustainable cocoa farming. This project can be the first significant investment made by a donor for a sustainable, low-carbon cocoa sector, involving both private and public investors. Lessons learned from the long phase of pilot projects will support the necessary institutional, legal and partnership frameworks that are needed to achieve transformational change and to move away from the business as usual (BAU) approach. Section 4.3 of the pre-feasibility study details the withdrawal strategies and works on perspectives related to the REDD+ mechanism.

C.6. Financial management/procurement (max. 300 words)

The project will be executed by FAO, and Letters of Agreement will be signed between FAO and its partners in order to implement the planned activities. The Letters of Agreements will be a key vehicle for FAO to deliver this project in a collaborative manner and in the spirit of partnership. The Permanent REDD+ Executive Secretariat (SEP/REDD+) in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, as co-financier of the project, will also act as Executing Entity for the implementation of the project for the activities it co-finances. The funds from this co-financing will be managed directly by the MINEDD and won't transit through FAO.

FAO-Côte d'Ivoire, as the Budget Holder (BH), will be responsible for the operational, administrative and financial management of the resources directly managed by FAO, as well as general project monitoring and the compilation of mandatory reports. The BH will also be responsible for supervising management and results of implementation partners as mentioned in the feasibility study and as specified in the Letters of Agreement to be signed. This includes financial management and procurement performed by the SEP/REDD+ (as Executing Entity).

The BH and implementation partners will prepare annual procurement plans for the main items that will be used as a basis for procurement requests during implementation. The plan will include a description of the goods, works or services to be acquired, and the estimation of the budget and source of funds, the schedule of procurement activities and the proposed procurement method. Details on purchases to be made are described in Annex 8. IPs are procured agencies with whom FAO will enter into Letters of Agreement to procure services. As per FAO Manual Section, the LoAs will specify the activities, deliverables, schedule, payments, monitoring and evaluation for the services to be procured (see procurement plan in Annex 8 of the FP).

FAO, as the Executing Entity, is responsible for the reporting, monitoring and implementation of its activities under the Project, and is expected to ensure that competent and qualified contractors are identified and procured to achieve the objectives of the Funded Activity (as per FAO procurement rules and procedures and as per AMA). It should be noted that SEP-REDD+, SODEFOR, ANADER and ECOCERT are only procured entities (implementing partners) and not EE.

Financial management and procurement under this project will be guided by relevant FAO rules and regulations, as well as relevant provisions in the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) signed by FAO and the GCF. These rules and regulations were reviewed and deemed satisfactory by the GCF Secretariat and Accreditation Panel as part of FAO's accreditation to the GCF. In the project execution, GCF resources will be managed directly by FAO as the Executing Entity, in accordance with its rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

FAO has deployed an Oracle based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system entitled 'Global Resources Management System' (GRMS). This system provides all FAO employees around the world with travel, human resources, procurement and finance functionalities. Using GRMS improves the flow of financial information, supports financial monitoring and reporting, increases transparency and visibility, and strengthens internal control. FAO maintains a Chart of Accounts which is used by the whole Organization and that allows for a separation of income and expenditure by donor and project and it provides a standardized coding structure that enables data to be recorded, classified and summarized to facilitate internal management and external reporting requirements.

Direct procurement during the project lifetime, by FAO, is done in accordance with the FAO Manual Section 502, "Procurement of Goods, Works and Services". To sub-contract the delivery of specific activities using Letters of Agreement, FAO operates in accordance with its Manual Section 507, "Letters of Agreement". Such services are managed under the FAO Procurement Service, which provides policy and operational support to FAO offices and staff undertaking these activities to ensure the Organization procures goods, works and services based on "Best Value for Money" principles.

The project will be subject to FAO's audit regime, including the external audit and internal audit function. When contracted through Letters of Agreement, according to the audit close of Manual 507, the Service Provider will maintain financial records that are open to inspection by FAO Officials or by the relevant authority (e.g. national audit office or for UN Entities their internal auditors) for a minimum of 3 - 5 years.

D. LOGIC FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

This section refers to the project/programme's logic framework in accordance with the GCF's [Performance Measurement Framework](#) under the [Results Management Framework](#) to which the project/programme contributes as a whole, including in respect of any co-financing. This is different from the project/programme-level log frame(as there may be other impact measures for example that go beyond those defined by the GCF).

A project-level logical framework, with specific indicators, baselines and targets, means of verification and assumptions should be provided as part of Annex 2.

D.1. Paradigm shift objectives (max.200 words)

Shift to low-emission sustainable development pathways	The project should enable a transition to a green, low-carbon economy by attacking the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation while aiming at progressive independence of producers/cooperatives from assistance and public funds. The project will also strengthen the REDD+ mechanism through the Warsaw Framework in order to access results-based payments. The REDD+ tools will be finalized to become operational and the enabling framework will be strengthened to allow long-term investments and to enable the country to mobilize more resources for scaling up.
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D.2. Impacts measured by GCF indicators

The detailed logframe, with indicators and milestones are in Annex 2a.

Expected Result	Indicator	Means of Verification ⁶⁰	Baseline	Target		Assumptions
				Mid-term	Final	

⁶⁰ All GIS information related to the project (location of the restored plots, restored forest, etc.) will be available through the NFMS national portal and its registry (public).

		(MoV) and sources		(if applicable)		
M4.0 Reduced emissions from land use, reforestation, reduced deforestation, and through sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks	M4.1. Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) reduced or avoided (including increase and removals) - forest and land use	BUR submitted to UNFCCC (government source UNFCCC platform)	2.65 MtCO ₂ eq of avoided emissions every year in the country for the period 2000-2015 ⁶¹	550,000 t CO ₂ eq reduced	1.375 MtCO ₂ eq reduced ⁶²	GHG estimates are based on the twenty-year project lifetime, estimated with EX-ACT tool, and monitored by the national forest monitoring system ⁶³

D.3. Outcomes measured by GCF indicators

Expected Outcomes	Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions
				Mid-term (if applicable)	Final	
M5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems	M5.2. Number and level ⁶⁴ of effective coordination mechanisms	<p>National forest monitoring system⁶⁵ and REDD+ portal⁶⁶ (including the REDD+ portal which will connect the full REDD+ platform)</p> <p>Minutes of meeting of the National REDD+ committee</p> <p>Minutes of meetings of the Regional REDD+ Committee</p>	<p>1 national coordination mechanism (National REDD+ committee) = Level 2</p> <p>3 sub-national coordination mechanism (Regional REDD+ Committee) = Level 1</p>	<p>1 national coordination mechanism (National REDD+ committee) = Level 3</p> <p>3 sub-national coordination mechanism (Regional REDD+ Committee) = Level 2</p>	<p>1 national coordination mechanism (National REDD+ committee) = Level 4</p> <p>3 sub-national coordination mechanism (Regional REDD+ Committee) = Level 3</p>	Government, through MINEDD and SEP-REDD, is strongly involved in the REDD+ mechanism, for the finalization and operationalization of REDD+ Warsaw framework elements (National investment Framework, National forest monitoring system, Forest reference level and Safeguards information system), and willing to create incentives to

⁶¹ FREL, 2017.

⁶² The impact potential for the project lifetime (20 years) is 5.5 MtCO₂eq.

⁶³ Forest is defined as: Minimum land area of 0.1 ha, minimum tree height at maturity of 5 m and minimum canopy cover of 30 per cent. Deforestation is defined as: Direct anthropogenic conversion of a continuous area of minimum forest land area 0.10ha to non-forest land area. It has been estimated that at project start, the total forest area equals 168,490 ha. Four drivers of deforestation are considered for this project in the three regions: agriculture (70%), logging (20%), mining (4%) and infrastructure (6%). With and without project scenarios are described in ExAct Tool.

⁶⁴ Level 1 = no coordination mechanism; Level 2 = coordination mechanism in place; Level 3 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly with appropriate representation (gender and decision-making authorities); Level 4 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly, with appropriate representation, with appropriate information flows and monitoring of action items/issues raised.

⁶⁵ <https://www.geoportalsst.com/>

⁶⁶ <http://reddplus.ci/>

						support a low-carbon economy and a zero-deforestation agriculture, in partnership with Government/technical agencies (Decentralized services of MINEDD and MINEF; SODEFOR, ANADER, etc.) and mainly beneficiaries (farmers and cooperatives)
M9.0 Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions	M9.1. Hectares (ha) of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO ₂ emission reductions	<p>National Forest Monitoring System and georeferenced data in REDD+ web-portal</p> <p>Evaluation of the implementation of the local development plan (report by the Government)</p>	<p>0 hectares of forests restored</p> <p>0 hectares of restored/rehabilitated agroforestry systems</p>	<p>500 ha of forest restored</p> <p>1,200 ha of hectares of restored/rehabilitated agroforestry systems</p>	<p>1,500 ha of forest restored</p> <p>3,650 ha of hectares of restored/rehabilitated agroforestry systems</p>	<p>FAO and government staff (from MINEDD/SEP-REDD, MINEF, SODEFOR, ANADER) provide the technical support needed for the implementation of project interventions. Local communities are interested and involved in field activities about forest and agroforestry, including the land-use planning development process.</p>

D.4. Arrangements for Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (max. 300 words)

FAO will serve as the Accredited Entity for the project. As such, FAO will be responsible for the overall management of this project, including: (i) all aspects of project appraisal; (ii) administrative, financial and technical oversight and supervision throughout project implementation; (iii) ensuring funds are effectively managed to deliver results and achieve objectives; (iv) ensuring the quality of project monitoring, as well as the timeliness and quality of reporting to the GCF; and (v) project closure and evaluation. FAO will assume these responsibilities in accordance with the detailed provisions outlined in the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) between FAO and GCF. Accountability on the use of financial resources will be facilitated through the review of annual and bi-annual project reports, as well as through audit and

monitoring reports. The project will oversee activities through the data that will be produced regularly by the NFMS coupled with community monitoring of forests, which will establish the reference levels for the project from the outset. Regular monitoring of activities, based on evidence including collected and georeferenced evidence,⁶⁷ will take place through the use of these tools established in component 1, and which will be consolidated by the work of the monitoring-evaluation expert (who must have competence in gender aspects) recruited for the project.⁶⁸ Section 3.6 of the pre-feasibility study details the M&E plan.

Project technical reports (annual reports and mandatory reports requested by GCF), as well as the financial reports, will be the responsibility of the project manager, who will establish them with the Project Management Unit (PMU, see Section 5.2 and Annex 4 of the pre-feasibility study). Likewise, all BTOR and technical reports will be developed under the responsibility of the project manager. All potential risks inherent to the project were assessed and mitigation measures are detailed in Annexes 7 and 12. The project has been considered as Low Risk by the GCF and the FAO ESM-Unit. A Project-level grievance mechanism in line with FAO standards will also be put in place. Contact information and information on the process to file a complaint will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops and other related events throughout the life of the project. In addition, it is expected that all awareness raising material to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances. The project will also be responsible for documenting and reporting as part of the safeguards performance monitoring on any grievances received and how they were addressed. The mechanism is detailed in the pre-feasibility study. In addition, the project will support the establishment of a REDD+ grievance mechanism at national level, thus reinforcing actions in this direction.

To perform these Accredited Entity functions, FAO will set up a dedicated FAO-GCF project supervision team comprising relevant staff from the FAO Country Office in Cote D'Ivoire, the FAO Regional Office for Africa, and FAO headquarters. Members of this project supervision team will perform the necessary supervision and oversight functions, including supervision and backstopping missions during the entire implementation period, as required. The project supervision team will remain independent of the Executing Entity functions also performed by FAO. In line with the GCF policy on fees adopted through GCF Board Decision B.19/09, the above-mentioned segregation of responsibilities within FAO will ensure that the Organization can independently and effectively perform the types of Accredited Entity functions listed in the GCF General principles and indicative list of eligible costs covered under GCF fees and project management costs. With respect to the administration of the proposed project, as the Executing Entity (EE), FAO will hold the project to its standards for project financial management, procurement, auditing and reporting. These standards have already been reviewed and approved by the GCF in the context of the Organization's application to become a GCF Accredited Entity in 2016.

In accordance with the AMA, the FAO Office of Evaluation will be responsible for the interim and final evaluation of the intervention. The evaluations will be conducted with a question-driven approach, and may include assessments against the broad criteria of relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability, amongst others, as appropriate. The interim evaluation will be instrumental for contributing – through operational and strategic recommendations – to improved implementation, setting out any necessary corrective measures for the remaining period of the project's life. The final evaluations will assess the relevance of the intervention, its overall performance, as well as sustainability and scalability of results, results achieved and lessons learned. The evaluation will adhere to the UNEG Norms & Standards.

The evaluation will adopt a consultative and transparent approach with internal and external stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. Triangulation of evidence and information gathered will underpin the validation of evidence collected and its analysis and will support conclusions and recommendations. It will develop specific evaluation tools to respond to each of the overarching evaluation question. These may include:

- Review of existing documentation: project document, outputs, monitoring reports (e.g. Project inception report, meeting reports and reports from other relevant meetings; Project Implementation Reports; quarterly and six-monthly progress reports), and other internal documents including consultant and financial reports, project website, annual work plans, publications produced at HQ or at country level and other materials and reports;
- Semi-structured interviews (direct or by phone) with key informants, stakeholders and participants

⁶⁷ All GIS information related to the project (location of the restored plots, restored forest, etc.) will be available through the NFMS national portal and its registry (public). An M&E officer will be hired for the project and the community forest monitoring will contribute to this project monitoring, at the same time as the production of more accurate land-use data for the NFMS.

⁶⁸ To be noted that the project is going to use FAO methodology on gender mainstreaming: every staff should be responsible of the gender mainstreaming during the implementation of his work. This means that all staff will receive gender training at the beginning of the project, and will have to mainstream gender into the activities they undertake. The M&E officer will rely on all the staff for the respect of the gender mainstreaming as this will be done throughout the project implementation. All staff should report on the gender aspect during the monitoring of activities. This methodology will help mainstream gender aspects into all activities and improve the participation of women during the overall project implementation.

- Interviews and focus group discussions with beneficiaries paying particular attention in ensuring participation and consultation of women and of under-privileged groups vulnerable groups. Insofar as possible and appropriate, interaction will also take place with non-participants to canvass their opinions.
- Direct observation during field visits.

The interim and final evaluation will draw on the existing monitoring system and reports prepared by project staff, including baselines, surveys implemented and mid-term and at project completion and polygons and geo-references provided on the project sites. In particular the accurate geo-referencing of the project implementation sites should allow a costs/benefits analysis (including land productivity, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem goods and services) of large-scale land restoration.

E. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

E.1. Impact potential (max. 300 words)

E.1.1. Expected tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO ₂ eq) to be reduced or avoided (Mitigation and cross-cutting)	Annual	275,000 tCO ₂ eq
	Lifetime	5,500,000 tCO ₂ eq
E.1.2. Expected total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender (Adaptation and Cross-cutting)	Direct	7,550 individuals 3 cooperatives (one per region targeted) 30% of female
	Indirect	600,000 (1/3 of population in targeted regions: Agn�by-Tiassa, 606,852, La M�, 514,700, Sud-Como�, 642,620; Total: 1,764,172 people of which 1/3 is 588,057). 30% of female ⁶⁹
	<i>*For both, Specify the % of female against the total number.</i>	
E.1.3. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to total population	Direct	0,4% of the 3 regions
	Indirect	34% of the 3 regions

E.1.4. Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and result areas with mitigation and adaptation characteristics

	Results	Targets	Climatic justification
Mitigation	Tons of CO ₂ equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) reduced or avoided	5,500,000 tCO ₂ eq	The project will generate 5.5 million tCO ₂ eq during its lifetime, with activities from component 2 focused on innovative models of managing low-carbon emission land thanks to agroforestry (2.3) and building the investment capacities of cooperatives and small producers (2.4).
	Hectares of land or forest areas contributing towards emission reduction through improved management	3,650 ha of agroforestry, 1,500 ha of forest restoration	The activities will increase forest cover by 5,150 ha using agroforestry and forest restoration techniques in specific areas, but also by building the capacities of small producers in agricultural techniques and those of cooperatives in the development of business plans that should allow them to focus more on private sector investors.
	Strengthening of institutional and regulatory systems for planning and development that are more sensitive to climate change	Operational Warsaw Framework	The project will enable the finalization and operationalization of the REDD+ national infrastructure through 4 elements in the Warsaw framework. It will contribute indirectly to emissions reduction by implementing a successful REDD+ mechanism and will help the country to access future RBPs.
Adaptation	Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (reduced vulnerability or increased resilience)	7,550 smallholders and 3 cooperatives as direct beneficiaries, 600,000 indirect beneficiaries	The main climate change impact in C�te d'Ivoire is increased water scarcity, which is extremely detrimental for cash crops and food crops, as well as for access to water for the local population (associated localised changes in climate conditions result in lower rainfall regimes). This project targets mitigation, and as such will focus on the main drivers of deforestation in the country to reduce it:

⁶⁹ Republic of C te d'Ivoire and FAO prerequisite

			agriculture (especially cocoa). However, it also contributes towards adaptation measures by strengthening the agricultural production of at least 3,750 small producers, reducing ecosystem vulnerability and increasing their resilience thanks to agroforestry, restoration and reforestation. Finally, reducing communities' vulnerability is also sought after by adding trees in the landscape. Indeed, trees create microclimate, modulate water flows, provide habitat and food for local people.
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E.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 300 words)

The anticipated project paradigm shift, while ensuring a new way of development in the three regions, will also support the optimal scenario of Vision 2040. According to Vision 2040, Côte d'Ivoire will move from an agricultural economy to the strong economy of a newly industrialized country and will have the conditions and activities needed to achieve the objectives of the REDD+ NS. This possibility is based on the fact that the country should profoundly transform its extensive model of natural resource use, starting at the local level, in particular with regard to cash crops, such as cocoa, but also logging and firewood. There is an urgent need for more sustainable agricultural models, better land security and renewable energy sources to meet the growing needs of the population.⁷⁰ Therefore, to support the REDD+ mechanism and realize this optimal scenario, the project will launch a paradigm shift focused on the REDD+ mechanism at both national and local levels through three transformative effects: (i) strengthened institutional and regulatory systems, (ii) improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions, (iii) reduction of emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry, and (iv) increased access to finance through building the business case for profitable, community-based cocoa production, as well as designing innovative financial schemes/products.

Improved management of land and forest areas contributing towards emission reductions is anticipated thanks to the REDD+ activities implemented in the country's three regions. This project will implement activities that directly aim to reduce emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation, specifically by the intensification of agricultural activities in the cocoa value chain and, as far as possible, other permanent crops that are deemed relevant (coffee and rubber for example⁷¹). This will be possible through the scaling-up of successful and innovative agroforestry models tested in la Mé that will lead to community appropriation of low-carbon emission agricultural practices and, globally, to zero deforestation agriculture based on added value per hectare and diversification of community livelihoods, with the replicated model being the pilot REDD+ project in La Mé. As the largest cocoa producer in the world, the country is committed to improving its cocoa production so that it is sustainable and part the evolution of its agricultural model. In addition to the traditional trade in wood products, the project will also stimulate markets of non-wood forest products (rattans, edible mushrooms, seeds and plants, etc.). Moreover, land security and land-use planning are essential for effective development, and their absence may cause land-use conflicts. To remedy this, these cross-cutting aspects should be consolidated by the project, and aligned with existing initiatives (PAMOFOR) at a relevant time-space level. The activities will also strengthen the financial independence of small producers and cooperatives through an improvement in the quality of their production (organic fair trade products), the creation of an enabling environment that allows them to access the most profitable niche markets and a wide range of affordable and appropriate financial instruments (microcredit, working capital, guarantee, etc.). Innovation comes from the implementation of local models of low carbon land management towards a progressive financial independence of producers and cooperatives which did not exist in the BAU scenario. These actions will allow them to effectively engage with the private sector and to target basic product markets, as well as the carbon market via the RBP. As a result, small producers and cooperatives will reduce their financial dependence on public assistance in la Mé region while maintaining their agricultural production and preserving forest resources. As for them, Agneby Tiassa and Sud Comoé will reach the level of the La Mé region before the project implementation.

Finally, this paradigm shift will also be seen by the integrated implementation of REDD+ through intersectoral and multi-party coordination, policy consistency and a socially inclusive and strong commitment, specifically through validation of gender aspects, and including all stakeholders. To achieve this, the REDD+ mechanism must be implemented at national and sub-national level, with the two levels mutually reinforcing each other. This is the case thanks to the long-term political will of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to implement REDD+ by reducing deforestation and forest degradation at national level and more broadly to contribute to the fight against climate change. Indeed, the Government wants to take the lead in this process and to provide evidence that the country is contributing to global efforts to combat climate change and its impacts. Finalization of the REDD+ architecture will then consist of completing the development

⁷⁰ Ibid NIF.

⁷¹ Having different crops in a single plot will make producers more resilient to market fluctuations but also to climate change through the increase of forest cover.

of the tools necessary for the operation of the Warsaw Framework (NIF, NFMS, SIS – FREL was submitted, emission reductions evaluated using the results submitted via the BUR Technical Annex). The country will then be eligible for GCF's RBP, and will thus be in a position to expand and intensify its area of intervention by applying the successful lessons and experiences from the initial initiatives (in addition to potential parallel co-funding sought within the context of this project). Above all, through this project, the Government will increase actions on the ground by attracting more investors and by communicating the benefits of REDD+.

The project will contribute to pathways towards deforestation-free cocoa – funded by both the public and private sector – by strengthening capacities of national counterparts through the REDD+ mechanism, and by leveraging private funding. The estimated leverage impact of the project from the private sector⁷² will be assessed during project implementation (estimated with the private sector entities in order to scale up the cocoa-based agroforestry model), and USD 410 million for the REDD+ mechanism. If the country manages to transform this experience, the REDD+ objectives will be better integrated into development projects, national policy and the regulatory framework, thus leading to reduced emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry, and a profound transformation of the economic model or the “business as usual” scenario – a prerequisite for the optimal scenario of Vision 2040.⁷³ The theory of change in section 3.5 of the pre-feasibility study illustrates this new paradigm.

E.3. Sustainable development (max. 300 words)

The project will generate numerous co-benefits, as it focuses on improving the quality of life of people and the environment in rural areas. It will also contribute towards the achievement of numerous Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) objectives: 1 (No poverty); 2 (Zero hunger); 5 (Gender equality); 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); 10 (reduced inequalities); 13 (Climate action); and 15 (Life on land).

Environmental co-benefits:

- Restoration of forest cover – up to 3,650 hectares of agroforestry systems and 1,500 hectares of degraded forest will rebuild a forest area of 5,150 hectares in the project zone. This reforestation will reduce soil erosion, and thus improve water catchment at the level of the groundwater table, enabling increased and controlled release of source water during the year, thus limiting the impact of drought periods;
- During floods, the presence of trees and the absence of vast quantities of suspended mud and sand limits the impact on flooded land and particularly agricultural areas;
- Good quality water is also a key element for aquatic biodiversity;
- Benefits in terms of restoration of terrestrial biodiversity are numerous due to the restored connectivity of natural forest remnants and the increase in their natural habitat, as well as the improvement of the ecosystem in agroforestry systems. Species may therefore recolonize their living environments, increasing the speed of forest regrowth; local food resources will again become available and natural pest control will be established due to regrowth of the fauna; pollination is better owing to the rapid increase in insects and therefore the availability of non-timber forest products increases (fruits in particular). Generally, all ecosystem services are improved by the implementation of agroforestry and the restoration of forests planned in this project.

Social co-benefits:

- Increased and diversified income of 7,550 people from organic cocoa will improve the standard of living of the project beneficiaries and, more broadly, local communities;
- Property rights to a plot or the contents of a plot thanks to land certificates will give people a “right to remain” that can be passed on to spouses and future generations, thus creating a deeper sense of responsibility in terms of the value of the land as a “finite” natural resource that needs to be conserved;
- Increased food self-sufficiency through the implementation of agroforestry will improve the health of households and the quality of life of rural populations;
- Communication, sharing of information and training will take place within the context of the project, and will aim at consolidating the involvement of women in economic activities, raising awareness against child labour and developing awareness about the implementation of fair trade activities that also respect the social safeguards developed by the country within the context of the REDD+ process;
- Increased support for women through the development of food crops, the rehabilitation of commodity plantations, and forest restoration.

⁷² a conservative amount of 10 million has been agreed with the relevant actors but will be adjusted following the discussions on the second phase of the CFI. The volume was estimated following technical exchanges with potential private sector investors (Cargill, Mondelez, etc.), and also following technical exchanges with IDH and Conseil Café Cacao.

⁷³ T21-Côte d'Ivoire, scenarios on Vision 2040, 2016.

Economic co-benefits:

- Improved yields of existing plantations and the incorporation of higher-performing new practices that could cause household income levels to rise;
- Diversified income sources will help households deal with market fluctuations and variations in raw material prices more easily;
- Income diversification means that income will be spread out throughout the year, rather than being subject to a system of sudden wealth followed by long periods without income. This stabilization of financial returns will allow households to pay more attention to bank savings and increase their financial credibility with banks in order to obtain credit;
- Income smoothing is expected;
- Support to local entrepreneurship and the availability of new bank solutions will enable small producers to stabilize their economic activity and gain access to credit solutions;
- Individuals with land certificates are more bankable and therefore capable of accessing credit to implement their projects.

E.4. Needs of recipient (max. 300 words)

Economic needs

Côte d'Ivoire is the second leading economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the second largest economy in West Africa with a GDP of 31 billion USD in 2013.⁷⁴ The national economy seems fairly diversified with the primary sector representing 30% of the GDP, the secondary sector 21% and the tertiary sector 49% of the economy. However, it is agriculture, particularly the coffee-cocoa pairing, that is the driver of the Ivorian economy. The main cash crops are cocoa, robusta coffee, rubber, palm oil, cashew nuts, cotton and yams. With regard to cocoa, the country is currently the leading producer in the world, accounting for 40% of world production. Diversification and modernization of agriculture is one of the pillars of the National Agricultural Investment Program (*Programme National d'Investissement Agricole*, NAIP) with a declared growth target of 7% for cash crops.⁷⁵ However, deforestation is a threat to the agricultural sector owing to decreased rainfall and available agricultural land – with the lack of water having an impact on the growth of the cocoa plants (see pre-feasibility study). Agriculture in the District of Comoé (Sud-Comoé region), is mainly based on cocoa and coffee, but also rubber and cashews that the communities added later to diversify their crops and improve their income. With regard to food crops, bananas are dominant followed by cassava, taro, yams, and more – they represent 46% of cultivated areas and 76% of production while cash crops (oil palm and cocoa primarily) represent only 20% of the tonnage despite the fact that the coffee-cocoa pairing represents 84% of areas (yields remain very low today). It should also be noted that people prefer to work with cash crops, neglecting food crops, which will lead to long-term problems with food security.⁷⁶ In the Lagunes district (Agnéby-Tiassa and La Mé regions), agriculture is mainly based on cassava, rice and yams, with fruit being grown as a food crop and palm oil, rubber and cocoa as cash crops. Sixty-eight percent of the farmed area is used for food crops compared with 32% for cash crops. Cocoa occupies 89,500 ha, which is 4% of the national area.⁷⁷ In addition to a relatively favourable climate (good rainfall) and large cultivation areas, this part of the country is a key agricultural area, although farmers remain dependent on weather variations.

The country must therefore strengthen these economic sectors while limiting deforestation in order to preserve the remaining forests. The project will contribute towards these objectives in several ways, mainly by focusing on agriculture. Improvements in agricultural performance through intensification and development activities for a more competitive organic cocoa will contribute towards achieving the 7% growth target set by the NAIP. The addition of agroforestry systems into cash crops will also make the systems significantly more resilient to climate change and will stabilize rain in the areas, with a concomitant positive impact on productivity. Moreover, today there is a high demand on the international market for fair trade, sustainable products. By promoting agriculture driven by sustainable development objectives, Côte d'Ivoire's position on this market will strengthen the competitiveness of Ivorian products and will have positive impacts on the nation's economy.

Social needs

⁷⁴ Ministry of the Economy and Finance. Côte d'Ivoire Practical Guide. Last consultation in March 2017 on the Ministry's website: <http://www.finances.gouv.ci/index.php/fr/guide-pratique/guide-pratique-de-la-Côte-d'Ivoire>

⁷⁵ National Agricultural Investment Program (PNIA), 2010-2015.

⁷⁶ Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, 2015. Monographs and economic studies of districts in Côte d'Ivoire *Lagunes district*.

⁷⁷ Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, 2015. Monographs and economic studies of districts in Côte d'Ivoire *la Comoé district*.

With a poverty index estimated at 46% in 2015 and strong population growth, Côte d'Ivoire must face important societal challenges, such as access to education, healthcare, employment and gender equality. A survey in 2012 revealed that unemployment affects more women (11.9%) than men (7.4%). Another analysis shows that habits and customs have delayed access to formal education for women and girls. In fact, nearly one out of two women compared with one out of three men has had no schooling. Generally, irrespective of the level of schooling reached, men continue to be more educated than women (29% of women have a secondary level of education compared with 71% of men),⁷⁸ hence the need to support women. Moreover, poverty is mainly a rural phenomenon that exacerbates inequalities in terms of access to services. As stated above, local communities are also very vulnerable to climate change, especially water deficits, which are extremely detrimental for cash crops and food crops, as well as for access to water for the local population. The project's activities will allow the following needs to be met: improvement of household income thanks to organic cocoa and diversification, job creation, local community involvement in decision-making, greater participation of women in activities and sharing of benefits from more equitable activities.

Another very important social aspect for the country and the targeted districts is related to land use and occupation conflict. Forest cover and arable land have decreased rapidly and significantly due to massive use and demographic growth. In fact, pressure inevitably increases around available land, exacerbating risks of conflict between local communities and affected populations, with a negative impact on the social cohesion of the territories. By securing plots of village land, as well as implementing local land-use plans, the project can ensure minimization of these conflicts and better organization of the activities of each community.

Consolidation of the REDD+ mechanism and its institutions

The technical and financial support of most of Côte d'Ivoire's partners in preparing REDD+ expired in December 2019 and the country still requires additional assistance to finalize and operationalize certain REDD+ tools. Furthermore, there are still capacity problems in key organizations related to the technical implementation of REDD+ elements, as well as a lack of coordination of intersectoral policies. It is important to consider a more sustainable vision of Ivorian public policies to better support the REDD+ approach. An intersectoral vision should also be encouraged instead of a sectoral version which compartmentalizes issues and reduces interchanges. The REDD+ NS will encourage intersectoral dialogue because its components overlap, align all public policies on the objectives to be achieved and harmonize national documents. Moreover, despite intense deforestation and forest degradation pressures, the three areas targeted by the project have received a relatively low level of interest from technical and financial partners to date. The only successful REDD+ project implemented in the area is the La Mé project funded by the French Development Agency for a three-year period (2017–2019) in the amount of USD 2.7 million.⁷⁹

The project will support the finalization of the elements of the Warsaw Framework that are essential in gaining access to RBPs and building the capacities of key organizations in terms of operationalization. GCF funding will allow this financial gap to be filled, which is necessary for the implementation of an enabling environment needed to mobilize local private investment in low-carbon emission activities, but also to lay the foundations for the mobilization of significant private and public green investment, particularly within the context of future results-based payments.

E.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words)

There is a high level of national appropriation of the project, given that it is a direct result of the needs expressed by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through SEP REDD+ and MINEDD. In addition to the intrinsic nature of the REDD+ project, the activities contribute directly to the implementation of the REDD+ NS and the NIF by targeting one of the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, supporting one of the main pillars of the strategy and targeting one of the investment areas. In order to be able to implement the programmatic approach proposed by the NIF, geographically complementary approaches are needed to cover the country (ER-P in the west, FAO-GEF-FOLUR in the east and west, UNDP/GCF in the center and FAO/GCF in the east – with all these approaches covering the specific pillars of the REDD+ NS). The NDA, advised by the SEP REDD+, was the instrument for this coordination at national level, resulting in the adoption of a phased approach for REDD+. This project is also aligned with the country's reduction objectives, as expressed in the NDCs, which aim at a 28% reduction in GHG emissions (low-carbon scenario) from 2012 to 2030. This objective will specifically be achieved through the implementation of the REDD+ NS in addition to sustainable forest management and ambitious reforestation policies.

In fact, the main pillars are reducing deforestation by “strengthening zero deforestation agriculture” and restoring 20% of the national forest, in addition to the development of renewable energy. Further to the Paris Climate Conference and the commitments made at COP21, Côte d'Ivoire is committed to taking climate action, and is developing a roadmap,

⁷⁸ African Development Bank, 2015. Country gender profile: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

⁷⁹ <https://www.nitiidae.org/en/actions/projet-redd-de-la-me-lutte-contre-la-deforestation-et-la-degradation-des-forets-de-la-me>

the key elements of which are the promotion of renewable energy, zero deforestation agriculture and waste recycling. This project is also in line with national policies, namely the National Development Plan (*Plan National de Développement*, NDP), the National Climate Change Programme (*Programme national de changement climatique*, NCCP) and the National Agricultural Investment Program (NAIP), the Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation and Expansion National Strategy (*Stratégie nationale de préservation, de réhabilitation et d'extension des forêts*) but also the new Forest Code (that came into force at the end of 2019). The objective of the NDP is to consolidate the trajectory of an emerging economy into a country with a better diversified economy and industrialization. To meet these development challenges, Côte d'Ivoire established the current 2012 NCCP which will coordinate, propose and promote measures and strategies to combat climate change. Further to the NCCP, the national strategy to combat climate change 2015–2020 was adopted at the end of 2014. The institutional structures in charge of guiding climate-related policies and national actions come under the MINEDD.

FAO is the agency in the United Nations system that is specifically involved in agriculture and forestry issues, and it is also accredited to the GCF. The Organization has a solid reputation in the fields of forestry, agriculture and food with a long history of climate change-related knowledge and innovation, particularly in terms of the fundamental objectives of the strategic intervention areas of GCF. FAO has been established in Côte d'Ivoire since 1987, where it has implemented over 300 projects and programmes, such as the national REDD+ programme supported by UN-REDD, the NAIP 2017–2015, and a national climate-smart strategy.

The project document was developed by a team of experts, notably made up of representatives from the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat, the GCF National Designated Authority for Côte d'Ivoire as well as representatives of Côte d'Ivoire's technical and financial partners (mainly FAO). At each stage of project development, the identified potential stakeholders were informed and consulted:

- During the development of the concept note, the stakeholders, including the Regional Councils of the three regions to be covered by the project and the sectoral ministries that will be mobilized during implementation were consulted,
- During development of the funding proposal:
 - o The national stakeholders and, in particular, the three regions targeted during project implementation, were again consulted to discuss the commodities that should be developed in the regions as well as the locations, communities, producers and cooperatives that will be involved in the production activities. Gender aspects were broached throughout the interchanges and special emphasis was placed on the needs expressed by women and their expectations.
 - o Interchanges on planning were also conducted with ongoing projects (finalization of the REDD+ pilot project in La Mé, PAMOFOR, etc.), and the SCOLUR-CI project currently being developed by FAO for submission to the GEF.
 - o Potential private sectors (particularly through the Coffee-Cocoa Council and the World Cocoa Foundation which will be mobilized during project implementation, and according to the regions under consideration and the partners to be mobilized) were also approached. Furthermore, at international level, potential partners such as Ecoterra, *Livelihoods Funds* were also informed about the project and its objective, within the context of the blended finance that the country will develop, and thus the potential for their future involvement in the country's production sectors. It was noted that there is convergence between project and stakeholder objectives as the Cocoa and Forests Initiative defends the idea that agroforestry improves the resilience of communities and forests by restoring Ivorian forest, even if there are certain obstacles (access to plants, economic and financial viability of the models, tree ownership, land security, etc.) and this project provides responses to these obstacles, for example by making seeds and plants available to communities or by developing business plans with cooperatives to work on viable economic approaches. The Coffee-Cocoa Council is also working on the reorganization of the cocoa sector in order to develop more sustainable models, secure the income of small producers and strengthen the organization of the profession through cooperatives. It also encourages agroforestry in cocoa plantations based on the needs of producers identified in advance through agrarian diagnoses, for example.
- The government, and mainly the SEP REDD+ in charge of coordination of all REDD+ activities in the country, as well as the NDA focal point, were very involved in the technical compilation of the document through near-daily interchanges with their technical experts. The project is therefore aligned with the GCF country programme: the objective of the project is part of the priority of the country, in the AFOLU sector.

E.6. Efficiency and effectiveness

E.6.1. Estimated cost per t CO ₂ eq, defined as total investment	(a) Total project financing	USD 11,754,000
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cost / expected lifetime emission reductions (Mitigation and Cross-cutting)	(b) Requested GCF amount	USD 10,000,000
	(c) Expected lifetime emission reductions	5,500,000 tCO ₂ eq
	(d) Estimated cost per tCO₂eq (d = a / c)	USD 2.13 / tCO₂eq
	(e) Estimated GCF cost per tCO₂eq removed (e = b / c)	USD 1.81 / tCO₂eq
E.6.2. Expected volume of finance to be leveraged by the proposed project/programme and as a result of the Fund's financing, disaggregated by public and private sources (Mitigation and Cross-cutting)	(f) Total finance leveraged	USD10,000,000
	(g) Public source finance leveraged	USD 0
	(h) Private source finance leveraged ⁸⁰	USD TBD
	(i) Total Leverage ratio (i = f / b)	100%
	(j) Public source leverage ratio (j = g / b)	0%
	(k) Private source leverage ratio (k = h / b)	100%

Fully aligned with the INDC forest mitigation targets, the project will pursue a public good rated objective, with a large need for public resources. The financial structure of the project responds to the minimum needs to ensure success for public goods, such as forest conservation and GHG emission reductions.

The first project component will provide support to operationalize the REDD+ architecture by strengthening institutional capacities. Even though Cote D'Ivoire has benefitted from financial and technical assistance to implement the REDD+ mechanisms since 2011, the country still needs additional funds to operationalize the REDD+ mechanism. The first component represents 22.8% of the total costs, but a significant part of such costs (23.4%) are made of Government contributions. With 72.4% of the total project cost, the second component includes core mitigation activities.

An economic and financial analysis was conducted for the second component (see Annex 10). This is based on four modelled agro-forestry interventions and two forest restoration models.

The purpose of agro-forestry interventions is twofold: increasing carbon stock and raising income per unit of land, thus avoiding agricultural expansion into forest areas. The results of the analysis show that the project is viable both from a financial and an economic point of view. The financial analysis shows that all proposed investments are unlikely to be conducted without financial and technical assistance, since they require significant upfront costs and long pay-back periods for poor and resource-constrained beneficiaries. Indeed, from a private point of view (i.e. using costs and benefits borne by the individual beneficiaries and valued at market price) the net present value (NPV) is negative for three of the four modelled agro-forestry interventions, while it is positive if seedlings are distributed by the project along with the provision of technical assistance (while manpower and agricultural inputs costs after the initial investments are borne by beneficiaries).

The financial analysis conducted for the two modelled forest restoration interventions shows that the NPV would be positive even without subsidizing any activity (like free seedling distribution). This is because models are based on high value tropical timbers (i.e. teak) and also because during the first years of a timber plantation it is expected that farmers will gain additional income by planting annual food crops (e.g. cassava, maize, etc.) in the same parcel where timber seedlings are planted. However, with no project support, the initial investment is too high to be conducted by poor smallholders on private land. Of the total target area 1,000 hectares are expected to be restored on gazetted forests, which are managed by SODEFOR, a state-owned company. SODEFOR's own financial and operational resources are not sufficient to manage forest restoration interventions. Financial and technical support is needed to promote reforestation on gazetted forests.

With a 20-year time horizon (including the five years of project implementation period) and a social discount rate of 7.5%⁸¹ the economic analysis yields a positive net present value (USD 13.03 million) and an internal rate of return (27.7%) that is higher than the social discount rate. These results are obtained by taking into account the GHG

⁸⁰ The project vision is not to ask for active financial support but to leverage additional funding from the private sector – that's why it is not a co-financer. Leveraging private sector new funding is essential for a better exit strategy of the project, technical assistance will be provided for this purpose through the output 2.4.

⁸¹ The discount rate was obtained by multiplying the forecasted real per capital GDP growth rate (reported by the IMF World Economic Outlook) by an elasticity of marginal utility of consumption of two.

emissions avoided, which are valued at USD 5/Ton (as per GCF suggestions for pilot programs for REDD+ Results-Based Payments). The sensitivity analysis conducted (see Annex 10) also shows that the ENPV is not sensitive to major changes in costs and benefits. This is because GHG emission reductions are factored in the economic analysis. However, with no valuation of GHG emissions reduction the ENPV would be negative. This clearly shows the public nature of forestry interventions. Overall, given the limited space for fiscal policy in Cote D'Ivoire and large upfront costs for farmers, without a GCF grant, no private or public investment would take place.

F. ANNEXES

F.1. Mandatory annexes

- ☒ Annex 1 NDA No-objection Letter(s) ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 2a Example project level logframe ([Example](#))
- ☒ Annex 2b Example timetable ([Example](#))
- ☒ Annex 3 Budget plan that provides breakdown by type of expense ([Template in excel sheet](#))
- ☒ Annex 4 Gender assessment and action plan ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 5 Co-financing commitment letter⁸²
- ☒ Annex 6 Term sheet and evidence of internal approval
- ☒ Annex 7 Risk assessment and management ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 8 Procurement plan model ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 9a Legal Due Diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance) ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 9b Legal Opinion/Certificate of Internal Approvals ([Template](#))

F.2. Other annexes to be submitted when applicable/requested

- ☒ Annex 10 Economic and/or financial analysis
(mandatory for private-sector proposals)
- ☒ Annex 11 Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
- ☒ Annex 12 Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) ([Template](#))
- ☒ Annex 13 Pre-feasibility study

* Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents.

⁸² Letters of co-financing from Government and FAO, which mention the old title of the project, are still valid as only the title has been changed, not the content of the project.

No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s)

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE
Union – Discipline – Travail

DIRECTION GENERALE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT



DIRECTION DE LA LUTTE CONTRE
LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

N° 0039 MINEDD/CAB/DGE/DLCC/tk

To: The Green Climate Fund ("GCF")

Abidjan, 17 March 2020

Re: Funding proposal for the GCF by FAO regarding *Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire*

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the project *Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire* as included in the funding proposal submitted by FAO to us on 16 March 2020.

Pursuant to GCF decision B.08/10, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the project as included in the funding proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of Côte d'Ivoire has no-objection to the project as included in the funding proposal;
- (b) The project as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with Côte d'Ivoire's national priorities, strategies and plans;
- (c) In accordance with the GCF's environmental and social safeguards, the project as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with relevant national laws and regulations.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the project as included in the funding proposal has been duly followed.

We also confirm that our no-objection applies to all projects or activities to be implemented within the scope of the programme.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,



Name: Tiangoua KONE
Title: GCF Focal Point for Côte d'Ivoire

Secretariat's assessment of SAP015

Proposal name:	Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)
Accredited entity:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Country/(ies):	Côte d'Ivoire
Project/programme size:	Small

I. Summary of the Secretariat's assessment

1. The funding proposal is presented to the Board for consideration with the following remarks:

Strengths	Points of caution
The project will result in 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) of emission reductions over the 20-year lifetime of the project (275,000 tCO ₂ eq per year). This equates to a mitigation cost to the GCF of USD 1.81 per tCO ₂ eq	Further engagement and buy-in from private sector (business and finance) stakeholders are key to ensure the private leverage potential and the exit strategy
Beneficiaries include many small farmers in the most vulnerable and poorest regions of Côte d'Ivoire, but the most relevant for cocoa production	
Interventions enable and strengthen access to markets of a fragmented supply chain (cocoa) while addressing key technical elements related to agroforestry systems for reducing deforestation in western Africa	
If REDD-plus results are demonstrated and technically validated, Côte d'Ivoire has the potential to be the first country in western Africa achieving REDD-plus results-based payments following United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requirements	

2. The "Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)" Project is the first funding proposal in Côte d'Ivoire submitted for the consideration by the Board. The project aims to implement zero-deforestation agroforestry models as a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by decoupling deforestation from cocoa production.
3. This proposal consists of a stand-alone project embedded in a phased approach strategy designed by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to scale up sustainable and zero-deforestation agriculture and forestry in the country while seeking coherence and complementarity with several private and public funding sources.

4. The project duration is five years and will be implemented in three regions in Côte d'Ivoire – La Mé, Sud Comoé and Agneby Tiassa – in which the highest rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the country have been observed, mainly attributable to land-use change for cocoa production.
5. Côte d'Ivoire is the second largest economy in West Africa, and it is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture, and particularly the coffee-cocoa pairing of production. Cocoa production is a key driver of the Ivorian economy, essential to the livelihoods of two million producers who are mostly vulnerable small farmers. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries account for 28 per cent of the gross domestic product and employ 46 per cent of the Ivorian workforce.
6. Côte d'Ivoire has one of the world's fastest rates of deforestation and forest degradation (2.69 per cent per year for the period 2000–2015). While national forest cover was at 7.8 million hectares in 1990, it significantly reduced to 2.8 million hectares in 2019, with almost no pristine forest outside the natural protected areas. Agriculture contributes to 62 per cent of deforestation, 38 per cent of which is driven by cocoa production. Moreover, the situation regarding forest degradation – which encompasses reductions in forest carbon stocks, changes in biodiversity and livelihoods – is as concerning as deforestation.
7. GHG emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) were estimated at 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) in 2014, which represents approximately 13.75 per cent of total national GHG emissions. In its nationally determined contribution (NDC), Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 28 per cent compared to the baseline scenario by 2030. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has recently introduced bold policies and reforms, including an ambitious national REDD-plus strategy aiming to reduce deforestation by 80 per cent compared with 2015 and to restore 5 million hectares of forest by 2030.
8. For the last 10 years, Côte d'Ivoire has progressed substantially towards REDD-plus readiness, notably through the acceptance of the forest reference (emission) level, the finalized REDD-plus strategy, the initiation of the safeguards information system, as well as the progress made with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund. Therefore, Côte d'Ivoire is now strategically well placed for Phase 2 of REDD-plus (implementation) in order to reduce forest-sector emissions and achieve true paradigm shift, which means considering forest landscapes fundamental to the low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways of the country. Despite these efforts, Côte d'Ivoire has not reached the REDD-plus results-based payments (RBPs) stage yet, which could catalyse additional finance for implementing additional bold policies and strategies to reduce deforestation while promoting a sustainable and zero-deforestation cocoa supply chain.
9. The project provides a strategic opportunity to achieve a paradigm shift in the forest and land-use sector of Côte d'Ivoire while mitigating GHG emissions from the forest sector. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has embraced REDD-plus as a way to address its principal source of GHG emissions.
10. Although the project is a mitigation initiative, Côte d'Ivoire considers itself a developing country with limited adaptive capacities, that is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Côte d'Ivoire is considered to have a high risk for water scarcity, which is extremely detrimental for cash crops and food crops, as well as for access to water for local population. Moreover, if progressive climate change increasingly affects the climatic suitability for cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire, this will have implications for global cocoa output as well as the national economy and farmer livelihoods, with potential repercussions for forests and natural habitats as cocoa-growing regions expand, shrink or shift.
11. After decades of losing its forest, Côte d'Ivoire is actively seeking to implement an ambitious National Investment Framework (Cadre national d'investissement) and to implement

REDD-plus approaches linked to deforestation-free agriculture strategies. However, after committing substantial domestic resources and having worked closely with bilateral and multilateral donors, capacity and funding gaps remain. Therefore, building on and coordinating with complementary initiatives, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire will deploy GCF support to remove investment barriers to unlock future RBPs and to maximize the leverage potential from the private sector for scaling-up REDD-plus.

12. The project is expected to contribute towards the reduction of GHG emissions through the implementation of the REDD-plus mechanism based on sustainable and zero-deforestation cocoa production systems. The proposal scales up a REDD-plus pilot project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in La Mé region and capitalizes on lessons learned from other projects in the country.

13. The project has two components, which will be executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as both accredited entity (AE) and executing entity (EE). A second EE is the Permanent REDD-plus Executive Secretariat (SEP/REDD-plus) in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, MINEDD). Different governmental and non-governmental organizations will serve as procured implementing entities on the ground in the selected regions and villages.

14. The project is fully aligned with the Côte d'Ivoire GCF Country Programme (updated in February 2020), which identifies REDD-plus as a mitigation priority as well as the increase and maintenance of forest cover.

15. The project directly contributes to the two pillars of the GCF forest and land-use results area: (i) Scaling-up REDD-plus; and (ii) Strengthening Sustainable Forest Landscapes.

16. The project structure responds to the REDD-plus simplified approval process (SAP) technical guidelines.¹ The REDD-plus SAP technical guideline is understood as an instrumental tool and enabler to advance countries' national processes towards the fulfilment of REDD-plus implementation and accessing REDD-plus RBPs. The REDD-plus SAP is structured in two components: (i) complete and/or update the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requirements for REDD-plus RBPs; and (ii) implement REDD-plus demonstration activities (e.g. at the jurisdictional scale). This structure is reflected in the way the project has been designed and presented to GCF.

17. Component 1 aims to support the SEP/REDD-plus in MINEDD in finalizing and operationalizing the REDD-plus architecture by building institutional capacities for effective implementation of REDD-plus at national level. This includes updating the National Investment Framework (NIF) and the forest reference emission level (FREL) while including additional activities such as forest degradation and consolidation of the national forest monitoring system (NFMS); and finalizing the safeguards information system (SIS). This involves strengthening the capacities of SEP/REDD-plus to finalize these elements, which is the first essential step to enable Côte d'Ivoire to access REDD-plus RBPs. As part of the consolidation of the NFMS, it is expected that the AE supports the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to set a near real-time alert system in the current NFMS that can then be translated into a transparent, open-source system within the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring platform. In addition, under this component, it is expected to develop and operationalize a dedicated REDD-plus registry system to ensure transparency and accountability; to operationalize a national benefit-sharing plan to ensure that beneficiaries are rewarded and receiving the benefits from REDD-plus; and to operationalize the national REDD-plus fund through a clear management and governance mechanism. This component also

¹ Available on GCF website at <<https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/sap-technical-guidelines-redd.pdf>>.

includes the operationalization of the guidelines for free, prior and informed consent; the grievance mechanism; the nesting methodology to avoid double counting; and aspects related to the legal titling of emissions reductions linked with land titling issues. This component builds on the experiences and progress made during the REDD-plus readiness, where multiple donors (e.g. United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, FCPF, AFD) have invested around USD 16 million in reaching the country's current stage of REDD-plus readiness.

18. Component 2 aims to implement zero-deforestation land use models to support local farmers (7,550 direct beneficiaries) and cooperatives in 30 villages of three regions in Côte d'Ivoire (Agnéby-Tiassa, La Mé and Sud-Comoé). Zero-deforestation agriculture is linked to the cocoa supply chain and it is expected to increase the value added per hectare as well as to enhance diversification of livelihoods and independence from public funds by better connecting smallholder farmers to financial institutions and tailor-made financial vehicles. Sustainable agroforestry models are expected to be implemented in 3,650 hectares of local smallholders' lands while restoration of degraded forests is planned in 1,500 hectares. Co-finance in the form of a grant is expected from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) SCOLUR-CI (Scaling up cocoa-based food systems, land use and restoration transformative innovations in Côte d'Ivoire) project to support traceability systems for cocoa production. Activities under this component are also aimed at strengthening the territorial planning and land security, which are key enablers for linking small local producers to additional financing alternatives (e.g. local microfinance entities). A key governmental stakeholder (Projet d'Amélioration de la Mise en Œuvre de la Politique Foncière Rurale de Côte d'Ivoire - PAMOFOR) will be providing parallel financing for the development and implementation of 23 local land-use plans. While local governance for REDD-plus implementation is also expected to be reinforced, activities under this component will also support the establishment and managerial strengthening of cocoa cooperatives in the three targeted regions. This activity is expected to be conducted in articulation with the National Coffee-Cocoa Council and the Cocoa-Forest Initiative. It is expected to reinforce the business capacities of the targeted cooperatives by developing more robust business models while increasing their potential to establish offtaker agreements and to leverage private sector finance.

19. The total project size is USD 11.754 million, with a request to GCF for grant finance of USD 10 million. MINEDD is providing USD 1.2 million in the form of an in-kind contribution (staff time and related operational costs) in addition to USD 0.554 million in the form of grants contributed by the GEF through FAO. This has the total co-financing amount of USD 1.754 million, including partial coverage of project management costs. In terms of environmental and social safeguards (ESS), this proposal is categorized as a Category C project.

20. Overall, the proposed project scales up an approach and activities that have been proven in the field under a climate-designed precursor project (REDD-plus pilot project in the La Mé region financed by AFD) and thus fits well within the SAP modality. While the impact and paradigm shift potentials for direct beneficiaries of this project are clear, the argument for its wider transformative potential could be strengthened by anticipating the private sector leverage required for ensuring the financial sustainability of the project. It is also recognized that specific partnerships with the private sector (business and finance) will be developed during implementation stage. Transformative potential hinges on the local and national implementing entities, who will incorporate their increased knowledge into their routine development work, as well as with the wider community not directly selected for the project, who are expected to benefit from the knowledge generated and shared through the project. Transformation potential also hinges on the knowledge and experience shared across the wider network of FAO and SEP/REDD-plus partner organizations. To what extent this engagement and knowledge-sharing will influence behavioural considerations regarding zero-deforestation agriculture and sustainable land-use models will need to be validated through implementation. Nevertheless, successful experiences (e.g. the AFD project in La Mé region) anticipate that the

approach proposed is valid and that there is ample room for upscaling and for ultimately reducing GHG emissions through decoupling deforestation and forest degradation from agricultural cocoa production.

21. The Board may wish to consider approving this funding proposal with the terms and conditions listed in the respective term sheet and addendum XVIII, titled “List of proposed conditions and recommendations”.

II. Assessment of the performance against the investment criteria

2.1 Impact potential *Scale: N/A*

22. The project is expected to reduce emissions by 5.5 million tCO₂eq (an average of 275,000 tCO₂eq/year); and increase removals equivalent to 433,813 tCO₂eq for the project lifetime. The funding proposal has medium-high impact potential.

23. As a result of the direct and the enabling implementation activities, over its five-year implementation period, the project is estimated to achieve (relative to its baseline) restoration in 1,500 hectares of degraded forests and to implement sustainable and zero deforestation approaches in 3,650 hectares of agroforestry systems.

2.2 Paradigm shift potential *Scale: N/A*

24. The proposal builds on the AFD La Mé experience, the predecessor project. It was assessed in its independent final evaluation report to have achieved its stated objectives. FAO has taken into consideration the recommendations put forward in that report into the design of this proposal, including capacity-building of procured implementing entities and expanding to other regions and villages not covered by the previous project. A key strength is that the activities have been field-tested by the precursor project and are now being scaled up. The proposal argues that the activities are also innovative in the national context, though the innovation can be seen more easily in the application of the zero-deforestation agroforestry approach and the links to markets and the private sector, rather than the individual activities which have been implemented in various capacities by different development organizations.

25. The project, during its five-year implementation period, is expected to launch a paradigm shift focused on the REDD-plus potential of the country linked to zero-deforestation agriculture models. This is expected to be achieved through strengthening institutional and regulatory systems; improving management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions; reducing emissions from land-use; land-use change and forestry; and designing an innovative financial mechanism to increase access to finance for targeted beneficiaries, as well as the processing industry, which seems critical to the cocoa industry. It is therefore critical that such innovative financial products accommodate concessional financing, as well as limited collateral availability, no history of cash flow and limited offtake agreements.

26. Also, the project, during its five-year implementation period aims to unlock REDD-plus RBPs (e.g. from the FCPF Carbon Fund). The project provides a strategic and unique opportunity to achieve a paradigm shift in the forest and land-use sector of Côte d'Ivoire while mitigating GHGs from the forest and land-use sector. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has embraced REDD-plus as a way to address its principal source of GHG emissions and proposes innovative institutional and financial arrangements (e.g. REDD-plus fund, zero-deforestation agricultural/cocoa supply chains) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the investments.

27. The project will enable a paradigm shift across different sectors and business activities: agriculture, forestry and financial sectors in particular will be targeted as key sectors for

transformation. Within these sectors, the project will work throughout the agricultural and forestry supply chains, including input suppliers, producers, traders and processors. The project will target sectors and commodities where there is strong and consistent demand in order to ensure the profitability of the supported sectors.

28. New finance streams for forests will be mobilized, which will serve as a model for the rest of the country. The project will generate opportunities for leveraging additional private sector finance and de-risking investments, creating the needed platform for channelling investments into rural regions in Côte d'Ivoire and scaling up to the entire country. Also, while capacities will be built in MINEDD through the tight collaboration with SEP/REDD-plus, the project is expected to facilitate replication and upscaling as well as the broader distribution of REDD-plus finance as the capacities of the REDD-plus funds are built and become fully operational and capable of managing additional finance linked to deforestation reduction.

29. The proposal places a strong emphasis on knowledge management and learning. Documentation and regular sharing of lessons learned has been incorporated into component 2 and the AE has put a clear emphasis on sharing knowledge locally through workshops and knowledge materials.

30. In terms of replication and scalability, there exists a large potential for scaling up the activities in the project. Although this project's direct beneficiaries account for the small farmers in three regions, FAO, SEP/REDD-plus and other project implementing partners could scale this up to reach the remaining relevant population; however, it would appear difficult to do so without equally increasing the total costs of implementation. Working in a coherent and complementary manner with other partner organizations and entities is crucial for ensuring replication and scalability.

31. While the proposal promotes sustainable resource management, which can have positive spillover effects, the replication and scalability is dependent on the scaling-up of successful and innovative forestry models. Of the four agroforestry models estimated in the financial analysis, three do not generate sufficient revenue to be viable without GCF grant funding. While this demonstrates a clear need for GCF financing, there is a need to assess scaling-up potential without additional grant funding.

2.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: N/A

32. The project is expected to directly benefit 7,550 small farmers and three cooperatives while indirectly benefiting 600,000 farmers (one third of the population in the targeted regions: Agnéby-Tiassa, with a population of 606,852; La Mé with 514,700; and Sud-Comoé with 642,620). Through its promotion of shifts in cocoa cultivation to zero-deforestation approaches, the project provides a just transition by creating better incomes, jobs and skills. Among other benefits, these will help to prevent brain drain and work emigration to neighbouring regions and countries. The economic net present value provided to the local beneficiary is estimated as USD 13.06 million for the project.

33. The project offers significant potential for contributing positively to gender equality through ensuring engagement of women in the cooperative's managerial activities. Moreover, specific needs of beneficiaries' groups will be addressed by the project in several ways as described in the gender action plan.

34. With regard to the economic pillar, the project is expected to improve the livelihoods and income for rural poor population groups; support small-sized cooperatives; and strengthen financial mobilization from the private sector. As for the social pillar, the project is expected to diversify the income of small farmers; improve employment opportunities, including for women and vulnerable groups; and improve gender equality through economic, training and entrepreneurial activities. Finally, with regard to the environmental pillar, the project will

reduce GHG emissions from the forestry sector and increase carbon sequestration from the atmosphere and contribute to the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (notably, forests and land). Additionally, co-benefits are expected from the restoration of degraded forests, mainly related to water provision and regulation, as well as to biodiversity and habitat provision.

35. An interesting aspect of the project is that it provides clear eligibility criteria for the selection of the villages and beneficiaries, as well as for the requirements for participation in cooperatives, which includes gender-related considerations.

2.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: N/A

36. Côte d'Ivoire is the second leading economy in West Africa and its economy is mainly driven by agriculture, particularly cocoa production. However, in the last 20 years, forest cover and arable land have decreased rapidly and significantly due to massive use and demographic growth, which is partially driven by the need to continue producing cocoa to serve international markets. By promoting zero-deforestation agriculture driven by sustainable development objectives, Côte d'Ivoire's position on the cocoa market could strengthen the competitiveness of Ivorian commodities and have positive repercussions on the national economy.

37. Although the project is a mitigation initiative, it will also serve to address climate vulnerabilities in Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire is a developing country with limited adaptive capacities, yet highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, and the project responds to climate change impacts in a number of ways.

38. The project seeks to remove barriers that currently prevent Côte d'Ivoire stakeholders from accessing climate and REDD-plus and private sector finance to help address their financial, economic, social and institutional needs.

2.5 Country ownership

Scale: N/A

39. The proposed project is aligned with and directly delivers on the priorities outlined by the country's policies on national development, climate change, forest, agriculture and specifically REDD-plus. In this regard, the project is aligned with the country's GHG emission reduction objectives, as expressed in the NDC, which aim at a 28 per cent reduction in GHG emissions (low-carbon scenario) from 2012 to 2030. This objective will specifically be achieved through implementation of the REDD-plus National Strategy in addition to sustainable forest management and ambitious restoration policies. The project's selection criteria also allow enhancement of complementarity and coherence with other future GCF-funded projects and ongoing efforts (e.g. the GEF-FOLUR project (Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program)).

40. The proposal, which is the first GCF-funded proposal for Côte d'Ivoire, if approved by the Board, has been developed in close coordination with the national designated authority and several governmental entities, including key stakeholders of the cocoa production agenda such as the Coffee-Cocoa Council and the Cocoa and Forest Initiative.

41. The implementation capacity of FAO, as the project's EE, is assessed to be adequate. This is also evidenced by the experience of FAO serving in an equivalent role as EE in predecessor projects. It successfully implemented the activities and has an extensive track record of working with local and national partners across the country. The capacity and experience of FAO with other donor-funded projects are positively noted. SEP/REDD-plus, acting as the second EE, demonstrates a capacity to deliver.

42. Several project implementing entities will be procured at project implementation through the procurement regulations and processes of FAO. These implementing partners are to be selected through a competitive process based on selection criteria tailored to project needs. Appropriately, the project relies predominantly on national and local expertise (e.g. SEP/REDD-plus, SODEFOR, (Société de Développement Forestier, or Forest Development Corporation), and ECOCERT, a private company providing certification, consulting and training services in the country).

43. Stakeholder consultation is a strength of the proposal and will be ongoing throughout the project implementation. The stakeholder engagement plan provided is comprehensive and includes a range of stakeholders from local, regional and national government, local communities and the implementing entities to be selected.

2.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: N/A

44. The project will result in 5.5 million tCO₂eq of emission reductions over the 20-year project lifetime. This equates to a mitigation cost to the GCF of USD 1.81 per tCO₂eq.

45. The co-financing ratio is 0.175 (GCF budget: USD 10 million, and co-financing: USD 1.754 million).

46. The rationale for GCF financing is explained well, as is the rationale for grant financing on specific activities. It is understood that each financier is financing the activities that best fit its expertise and interest. SEP/REDD-plus will provide co-financing of USD 1.2 million in the form of in-kind and GEF, through FAO, will provide co-financing of USD 0.554 million in the form of grants, from the GEF-FOLUR project (Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program).

47. Although a formal economic model is not required for an SAP proposal, the AE submitted an economic and financial model that demonstrates cost-effectiveness of the project through the agroforestry systems proposed. While the project includes adaptation and economic co-benefits, the economic viability of the project largely depends on the mitigation benefits. Including the mitigation benefits at a value of USD 5/tCO₂eq provides an economic internal rate of return of 30.3 per cent over 20 years or 30.9 per cent over 28 years. Therefore, the mitigation benefits need to materialize. The mitigation impact methodology was verified and the GHG estimates match the estimates included in the economic model.

48. The proposal leverages co-financing from FAO and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, but the catalytic effect to mobilize other resources from the private sector needs to be strengthened during implementation. The project needs to demonstrate a strong case for its ability to catalyse or mobilize resources from other partners in the future as a result of its implementation, especially from private sector partners.

III. Assessment of consistency with GCF safeguards and policies

3.1 Environmental and social safeguards

Does the project comply with the GCF environmental and social policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the project have minimal to no ESS risks compatible with SAP?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

49. The AE has screened and assessed the project to have minimal to no adverse environmental and social risks and/or impacts. The Secretariat confirms the category C

classification which is within the entity's accreditation level on environmental and social risks and does not require any additional advance information disclosure.

50. The AE has developed an environmental and social action plan that provides details of management measures appropriate to the activities under the project, such as avoiding the loss of access to natural resources, and only including certification of private lands that are recognized by customary law and have no potential conflicts on property rights; strengthening the monitoring and reducing various anthropogenic pressures of agricultural activities in the proximity in order to preserve parks, reserves, gazetted and sacred forests, protected areas and fragile ecosystems (e.g. mangroves); and provide capacity-building support to address the lack of ESS capacity among technicians. It has likewise developed measures to address the minor risks related to management of pests and diseases. Although there are measures to ensure that local communities participate in and benefit from the project activities, the AE has declared at the concept note stage that no issues relating to indigenous peoples or cultural heritage sites have been identified.

51. Minimal risks related to occupational hazards and potential risks in the production chain will be managed through promoting respect for national and international laws and conventions related to labour, as well as protecting workers and guaranteeing good conditions at work. Regarding the management of pests and diseases, the project intends to avoid excessive use of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and to promote the use of organic and natural products against pests and diseases, particularly because the project is targeting organic cocoa production.

52. Continuing stakeholder consultation will be overseen by a project steering committee as the highest decision-making body, members of which will include various implementing entities with representatives from civil society and the private sector as independent observers.

53. In addition to the established entity-level grievance mechanism of the AE, the project will establish a grievance mechanism at the field level during the project inception phase, whereby contact information as well as the procedures to access the mechanism will be disclosed to stakeholders in the various meetings and workshops as well as through distribution of awareness-raising materials. In line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism and the Secretariat's indigenous peoples focal point will also be available for affected local communities.

3.2 Gender policy

Does the project comply with the GCF gender policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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54. The AE has provided a gender assessment and gender action plan that comply with the requirements of the Gender Policy of the GCF.

55. In its gender assessment the AE illustrates the country's commitment towards gender equality and women's empowerment. At the international level, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. At the national level, the formal framework for gender equality was established by the Constitution, which enshrines the principles of gender parity in the labour market and equal opportunities in employment and elected assemblies. The country promotes gender equality in access to elected office through its adoption of a law that requires political parties to ensure a quota of at least 30 per cent women on the lists of candidates for single-member and multi-member elections. A national strategy for the empowerment of women is being finalized and the National Development Plan addresses the gender issue with a dedicated budget. The Ivorian legal system has been enriched by new

laws that are more favourable to gender issues, such as The Marriage Act which abolishes the notion of a head of family and mandates spouses to jointly manage their household, and the Compulsory School Act for all children (girls and boys) from 6 to 16 years of age.

56. Despite a strong policy and legal enabling environment, gender inequalities, both de jure and de facto, persist at several levels and in many areas. Cultural practices, customary laws and traditional gender roles continue to limit women's access and control of finance, and productive and natural capital including land. In all three project areas, access to land is based mainly on customary rules that generally discriminate against women. Female illiteracy is high, gender-based violence continues to be a critical challenge and women remain underrepresented in decision-making at all levels of government and in national REDD-plus policies and strategies. Economically, much of women's work remains in the informal sector with women's agricultural work, and in particular cocoa, not being recognized at its fair market value. Rates of poverty are high for women and especially with women-headed households which constitute between 19 and 28 per cent of all households. Women's workload is generally high and domestic work limits the possibility to work outside the home and to engage in capacity-building interventions. Despite some willingness to work towards gender equality, many development organizations within the country lack the expertise and capacity to mainstream gender. And women's access to social infrastructure and services remains poor.

57. In rural Côte d'Ivoire many local communities are highly dependent on forest resources and services for their health, food, income and basic necessities and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Women in particular engage in numerous activities in and around forests such as firewood and water collection and harvesting of non-timber forest products. They are among the most vulnerable to climate change and its impacts because of their high dependence on forest resources. While women might be vulnerable as a result of their dependency on the natural resources, they have significant contributions as well. Women are involved in agroforestry, community forestry, and the rehabilitation of degraded areas through reforestation and forest restoration. Women in rural areas are involved in a range of important forest-related activities despite the fact that they are almost non-existent in decision-making. Women's involvement in forest governance is still a challenge. As such, women have limited involvement in decision-making processes related to REDD-plus projects, leading to limited access to the benefits from initiatives, such as access to knowledge and capacity-building activities, as well as to funds and income opportunities.

58. Women often play an important role in agricultural production, but do not always have control over their shares of agricultural income and are frequently trapped in a cycle of low agricultural productivity and poverty, thus contributing to food insecurity and nutrition problems for women and children. Women's work in agriculture is characterized by low levels of remuneration, a low level of organization, and women's groups tend to be informal with basic levels of management. These low-income smallholder farmers remain mostly unorganized and with insecure land rights. Women are particularly vulnerable as a result of weaker land tenure rights and less access to productive assets, inputs and services. In the cocoa production sector, women make up the majority of the 2 million vulnerable small producers, and they depend on it for 70 to 100 per cent of their income. For the cocoa value chain, women's activities are concentrated at the production level, from land development to the transport of nurseries, harvesting and post-harvest activities. They are also an important link in food security for families producing, procuring and preparing food, marketing agricultural products and their primary processing capacity.

59. Fulfilling the requirements of the GCF gender policy, the AE has provided a gender action plan. The gender action plan outlines activities designed to address the challenges of rural women in the target areas of the project with corresponding indicators, targets, timeline and budgets. The AE will engage a full-time gender and monitoring and evaluation expert (30 per cent time dedicated to gender mainstreaming) to support the implementation of the gender

action plan. The gender action plan is focused around four broad interventions which are linked to the findings of the gender assessment. These are: involvement of women in the establishment and maintenance of cocoa agroforestry systems, forest restoration and access to land; activities targeted at women's empowerment; decision making and addressing gender based violence; strengthening the capacities of actors to systematically take gender into account in all development strategies and activities; and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan. It includes activities aimed at involving women in GHG reduction strategies by improving sustainable agricultural and cocoa productivity, developing agroforestry systems and restoring forests. Women's empowerment actions have been based on a needs assessment which include intervention to encourage increased opportunities for women to engage in decision making structures and processes, as well as capacity-building activities in sustainable agriculture, income diversification, awareness of land rights, leadership and organizational strengthening, prevention and addressing of gender-based violence through awareness raising and through access to grievance mechanisms. Given the existing challenges to women to access and manage land, the project will support interventions that will provide women with such opportunities. These efforts are complemented by gender awareness and mainstreaming efforts to strengthen local governance, land use plans and decision-making, within both institutions and households involved with the project. The monitoring and evaluation of project investments will include sex disaggregated data and indicators relevant to evaluating women's involvement and progress towards gender equality. The project will endeavour to increase access to gender-responsive grievance and redress mechanisms.

3.3 Risks

3.3.1. Overall project/programme (medium risk)

60. The funding proposal requests a GCF grant of USD 10 million. The total project cost is USD 11.754 million with co-financing by way of grants from the GEF and in-kind contribution from MINEDD (SEP/REDD-plus). The project is to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions via: (i) operationalizing REDD-plus RBP architecture; and (ii) REDD-plus community-based activities (strengthening agriculture financing structures and business capacities for cocoa cooperatives and smallholders).

3.3.2. Accredited entity/executing entity capability to implement the project/programme (low risk)

61. FAO will be an AE and a co-EE. The AE has had a permanent presence in the country since 1987. It has experience and specialists in managing REDD-plus and agroforestry projects in the headquarters, regional office and country office. FAO will manage 90 per cent of the total project budget.

62. The Permanent REDD-plus Executive Secretariat (SEP/REDD-plus) in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development will be another co-EE for the implementation of the project activities that it finances. The EE has a track record of managing projects between USD 2 and 12 million financed by different donors over the past five years.

3.3.3. Project-specific execution (medium risk)

63. Regulatory risk: the funding proposal stated that cocoa is usually cultivated using slash-and-burn farming. Forest is cut down and burned before planting. The current regulation focuses more on ways to prevent the forest fire spreading to other areas. There is no political or regulatory provision available to avoid land clearing by fire for agriculture purposes and the relevant decree is in discussion within the government. While the project is expected to increase

the productivity/income of the smallholder farmers, the project may benefit if the country takes into account the control of slash-and-burn farming in their policy development.

64. Land tenure: the funding proposal states that land security and land-use planning are essential for effective project development, and their absence may cause land-use conflicts. Another project (“Projet d’Amélioration et de Mise en Œuvre de la Politique Foncière Rurale” - PAMOFOR, funded by the World Bank) is ongoing and will support the security of plots of private land and the issuance of land certificates. The GCF project will complement the existing initiative by focusing on raising awareness on land security. Therefore, timely intervention and close coordination with another project will be required. The AE responded that meetings will be organized to strengthen the complementarity and coordination between the projects.

65. Financial viability: with a 20-year horizon, the economic analysis yields a positive net present value (NPV) and an economic internal rate of return of 27 per cent. For the financial analysis, three out of four activities show a negative NPV, which requires GCF interventions. The overall NPV is negative. The project aims to create incentives for the private sector to invest in climate-resilient resource management and land-use practices. The grant is needed to afford high upfront costs and support upscaling of these practices and further implementation by the private sector.

3.3.4. GCF portfolio concentration (low risk)

66. In case of approval, the impact of this proposal on the GCF portfolio concentration in terms of results area and single proposal is not material.

3.3.5. Compliance (medium risk)

67. The proposed activities themselves do not appear to pose any unusually high risks for money laundering, terrorist financing, or prohibited practices; however, the capacity of local authorities to monitor may be somewhat weak. The AE has indicated it has appropriate internal controls to monitor and mitigate such risks. At this time, the compliance risk is assessed as medium, subject to modification should circumstances change.

Summary Risk Assessment		Risk Assessment
Overall project/programme	Medium	The regulation/policy to prevent the slash-and-burn farming practice is in discussion within the government. The land tenure and security will be essential for the project implementation and the ongoing project (“Mise en Œuvre de la Politique Foncière Rurale”) is supporting this issue. The project may benefit if the relevant policy is in place and coordination with the existing project is ensured
Accredited entity/executing entity capability to implement the project/programme	Low	
Project specific execution	Medium	
GCF portfolio concentration	Low	
Compliance	Medium	

3.4 Fiduciary

Does the project comply with the GCF AE fee policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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In case the EE/EEs is (are) different to the AE, has the financial management capacity assessment of the EE/EEs been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
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68. FAO will act as an AE and EE. The functions of FAO as AE and EE will be well separated internally in order to differentiate the project implementation and the project supervision functions. Another EE for the project is the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by MINEDD. MINEDD will manage their co-financing funds, in the form of an in-kind contribution. The funds from this co-financing will be managed directly by MINEDD and will not transit through FAO.

69. As an AE, FAO will be responsible for the overall management of this project, including: (i) all aspects of project appraisal; (ii) administrative, financial and technical oversight and supervision throughout project implementation; (iii) ensuring funds are effectively managed to deliver results and achieve objectives; (iv) ensuring the quality of project monitoring, as well as the timeliness and quality of reporting to the GCF; and (v) project closure and evaluation.

70. As an EE, FAO will hold the project to its standards for project financial management, procurement, auditing and reporting. In addition, FAO will take responsibility for the effective implementation and coordination of all project components through a dedicated team.

71. A capacity assessment of MINEDD has been performed in 2016 by an independent audit firm. The audit firm assessed the financial management capacity and procedures risk of the SEP/REDD-plus as moderate. Since then, the Ministry has taken active measures to address the recommendations indicated in the assessment through recruitment of personnel, capacity-building and strengthening of internal mechanisms.

72. Financial management and procurement under this project will be guided by relevant FAO rules and regulations.

73. Accountability on the use of financial resources will be facilitated through the review of annual and bi-annual project reports, as well as through audit and monitoring reports. The project will be subject to the FAO audit regime, including the external audit and internal audit function.

3.5 Results monitoring and reporting

74. As a mitigation project addressing forest and land use, the intervention expects to reduce or avoid 1.375 million tCO₂eq within the project implementation/duration and 5.5 million tCO₂eq over the project lifespan. Additionally, the project provides a co-benefit directly to 7,500 beneficiaries and indirectly to 600,000 beneficiaries, comprising 33 per cent of the targeted regions' rural populations.

75. Overall the funding proposal and logical framework sufficiently apply GCF (impact and outcome) results management framework and performance measurement framework indicators. The project has included baselines and is expected to implement data collection activities that can inform progress reporting on expected results. At the project performance level, relevant measurements for behavioural change have been integrated which are essential to understand, learn and deliver the expected project results.

76. Regarding the SAP, funding proposal section D and annex 2(b), the overall logical framework complies with GCF standards and has been cleared through Secretariat Review.

77. The funding proposal theory of change would benefit from further details reflecting on the causal pathways at the project level and in relation to the climate rationale (which ideally

are tested in implementation, either with project performance management indicators or impact assessment data/evidence generated to attribute changes to GCF investment).

78. Under section D.4, the information provided is generic, primarily per accreditation master agreement obligations, and would benefit from inclusion of information on the anticipated project monitoring and evaluation activities and budgeting planned to collect essential project-level data for adaptive management and results reporting. It is recommended that the AE provide linkages and clarity as to what finances and activities will be allocated to monitoring and evaluation so that the Secretariat can ensure sufficient budget is allocated for evidence generation, which is essential for project-level data on results reporting and to enable adaptive management.

79. Under section D.4 the AE references a “question-driven” approach to evaluation, however, it does not identify the anticipated type of evaluation and identification of methodologies to be applied. It is advised that this is clarified prior to the first annual performance report.

3.6 Legal assessment

Has the AE signed the accreditation master agreement (AMA)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Date of AMA execution: 8 June 2018
Has a bilateral agreement on privileges and immunities been signed with the country where the proposed project/programme will be implemented?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a certificate of internal approval been submitted?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

80. The accreditation master agreement was signed with the AE on 8 June 2018, and it became effective on 4 October 2018.

81. The AE has provided a legal opinion/certificate confirming that it has obtained all internal approvals and it has the capacity and authority to implement the project.

82. The proposed project will be implemented in Côte d’Ivoire, a country in which the GCF is not provided with privileges and immunities. This means that, among other things, GCF is not protected against litigation or expropriation in this country, which risks need to be further assessed. The Secretariat submitted a revised draft privileges and immunities agreement to the Government of Côte d’Ivoire on 12 October 2018.

83. The Heads of the Independent Redress Mechanism and Independent Integrity Unit have both expressed that it would not be legally feasible to undertake their redress activities and/or investigations, as appropriate, in countries where GCF is not provided with relevant privileges and immunities. Therefore, it is recommended that disbursements by GCF are made only after GCF has obtained satisfactory protection against litigation and expropriation in the country or has been provided with appropriate privileges and immunities.

3.7 List of proposed conditions (including legal)

84. In order to mitigate risk, it is recommended that any approval by the Board is made subject to the following conditions:
- (a) Signature of the funded activity agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to the Secretariat within 180 days from the date of Board approval; and
 - (b) Completion of legal due diligence to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.

Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment of SAP015

Proposal name:	Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)
Accredited entity:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Country/(ies):	Côte d'Ivoire
Project/programme size:	Small

I. Assessment of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

1.1 Impact potential *Scale: N/A*

1. Côte d'Ivoire, with a population of over 26 million people and an extension of 322,463 km², has one of the world's fastest rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the world. The country passed from having 7.8 million hectares (ha) of forest in 1990 to only 2.77 million ha of remaining forest and almost no pristine forest outside the national parks at the time of the forest reduction emissions level (FREL) report in 2017. Agriculture accounts for 62 per cent of deforestation, 38 per cent of which is from cocoa cultivation (Bureau National d'Études Techniques et de Développement, Ecterra, 2016).
2. The funding proposal will contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the implementation of the REDD-plus mechanism for future access by Côte d'Ivoire to the results-based payment system. The project will focus on the main reasons driving deforestation and will therefore scale up innovative agroforestry models, including zero deforestation agriculture and organic cocoa aiming at reducing GHG emissions while providing adaptation co-benefits as well. The project will be implemented in three regions (Agnéby-Tiassa, La Mé and Sud-Comoé), and will select 30 villages based on social, environmental and economic criteria.
3. The project comprises two components: one to support the REDD-plus architecture by building institutional capacities for effective implementation of REDD-plus at the national level; the second component will use data evidence to reduce the country's GHG emissions through the implementation of innovative, low carbon land use models in the selected villages.
4. In terms of the first component, the project will enable the finalization and operationalization of the REDD-plus national architecture through four elements in the Warsaw framework: (i) updating the national investment framework; (ii) updating the FREL that will be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for technical assessment by January 2022, including degradation as the main element identified in the FREL for technical improvement; (iii) updating the national forest monitoring system, improving it with existing cloud-computing technologies to monitor changes in forest cover at regular intervals; and (iv) supporting the development of the Safeguards Information System, a tool that will support the country to report the status of the safeguards at national level using different indicators, to support submission of the safeguards summary of results to the UNFCCC. By doing so, the project aims to implement a successful REDD-plus mechanism that will eventually contribute to reduce emissions at the country level.

5. To achieve the second component, the project will learn from the pilot experience in La Mé, that effectively developed agro-systems and food crop plantations with a focus on organic and fair-trade production, reducing the pressure on gazetted forests. The agroforestry systems selected will enable the reduction of emissions from the business as usual scenario and will improve productivity and crop diversification, which will in turn increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts on cocoa production.¹
6. The project will generate 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) during its lifetime through the activities of component 2, which focuses on changing current models to low carbon emission agroforestry models. These emission estimates derive from the assumption that the proposed activities will increase forest cover by 5,150 ha using agroforestry and forest restoration techniques in selected areas. From this, 3,650 ha will be devoted to agroforestry and 1,500 ha to forest restoration.
7. The country-specific emission factors used in the Ex-Ante Carbon balance Tool (EX-ACT) are those from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) publication of 2017 “Forest data for REDD-plus in Côte D’Ivoire – Forest Biomass Inventory for the estimation of emission factors”. The EX-ACT estimates were carefully revised, checking the available literature, as the country has not yet submitted a REDD-plus proposal (FREL or forest reference level) to the UNFCCC. Most of the emission factors applied by EX-ACT are very similar to those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The responses to a request for clarification by the independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) were satisfactory and clarified the values used. The EX-ACT tool calculation is therefore well justified and adequate.
8. Activities in both components will target 7,550 smallholders and three cooperatives as direct beneficiaries, and 600,000 smallholders as indirect beneficiaries. From this number, 3,650 smallholders will increase their productivity by producing organic certified cocoa by regenerating their plots, providing added value to their fields and supporting the organic certification scheme. The overall goal is to build the capacities of small producers in agricultural techniques and those of cooperatives in the development of business models that bridge private investors and allow them to support a sustainable business.
9. In terms of adaptation, the project proposal will strengthen the agricultural production of at least 3,750 small producers, reducing ecosystem vulnerability and increasing their resilience thanks to agroforestry, restoration and reforestation. Finally, by planting trees, the project will ensure more ecosystem services, including water flows and the provision of habitat and food for local people living around the restored forest areas, allowing better microclimates that will support rural livelihoods under climate change.
10. If the activities in component 1 are finalized and implemented, the project will have a high impact in terms of emission reductions in the country at large. The second activity is limited to 30 villages and few stakeholders. However, it has the potential to create a model that could be scaled to support other communities in the country at large, and eventually to achieve higher CO₂ emission reductions.

1.2 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: N/A

1.2.1. Innovation

11. Much of Côte d’Ivoire was densely covered by forests when it achieved independence in 1960, boasting one of the highest levels of biodiversity in Africa, with thousands of endemic species. However, the cocoa industry’s sourcing practices have eliminated much of this forest. Many of Côte d’Ivoire’s national parks and protected areas have been entirely or almost entirely cleared of forest and replaced with cocoa growing operations. Deforestation for cocoa has a

¹ See EX-ACT tool for details about emission reductions.

significant impact on climate. A single bar of dark chocolate made with cocoa from deforested lands produces the same amount of carbon pollution as driving 4.9 miles in a car.²

12. Côte d'Ivoire needs to ensure through effective legislation that the cocoa value chains in the country not only stop deforestation but promote restoration. It is also important to unite small producers into equitable and deforestation-free value chains that could support their livelihoods. Smallholders are planting cocoa as a source of income in areas that have been deforested. They sell their products at a very cheap rate to middlemen and cooperatives that resell to big cocoa companies.

13. The project will address the legislation by developing an effective REDD-plus mechanism at both the national and local levels to achieve three transformative effects: (i) strengthened institutional and regulatory systems; (ii) improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emission reductions; and (iii) reduction of emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. The project will also support rural livelihoods of small cocoa growers by increasing access to finance by building a business case for profitable community-based cocoa production, as well as supporting the design of innovative financial schemes/products.

14. It should be mentioned that Côte d'Ivoire already had different sources of finance to ensure the REDD-plus architecture through a participatory approach, but the process took longer than initially planned and expected, and it generated high costs that were not covered by available funds at the time. The project proposal provides a detailed estimated schedule to undertake the selected activities to finalize the task. Even though developing activities to finalize the REDD-plus architecture is not a paradigm shift, it would be important to establish a strong architecture that is implementable. The end results in terms of ensuring that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is able to control and enforce zero deforestation value chains and to promote regeneration could result in a paradigm shift.

15. The project will scale the small Agence Française de Développement pilot REDD-plus project in Le Me, which successfully promoted agroforestry schemes. The model promoted intensification of agricultural activities in the cocoa value chain and promoted other permanent crops that are relevant to rural livelihoods, such as coffee and rubber. The project will support the creation of three cocoa cooperatives with different activities to support their institutional, managerial and market capacity.

16. However, the main drivers of deforestation in the country are mostly driven by big agricultural actors in cocoa, rubber and palm oil production, and not only small-scale farmers. Therefore, the project will not be acting on the main drivers of deforestation but will mostly support rural livelihoods, and it will have a small target in terms of the number of hectares of deforestation and regeneration.

17. The possibility of influencing bigger actors in the cocoa sector in the adoption of zero deforestation cocoa production seems vague as the only activity planned to raise awareness of larger off-takers and producers is that of advocacy. Moreover, the feasibility study explains that several companies are not in agreement on the enforcement of deforestation-free certifications.

18. The project is still at an early stage for presenting a paradigm shift in terms of changing the conditions for rural communities to be included in equitable and regeneration schemes capable of changing the deforestation trajectory of the country. However, it has the potential to set up a scalable model.

19. The theory of change is well presented to align with the Côte d'Ivoire national REDD-plus strategy goals of reducing deforestation and forest degradation to conserve the remaining forests and avoid loss of forest cover in protected areas, as well as the goal of heightening

² See <http://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/chocolates_dark_secret_english_web.pdf>.

attention around wood and forest cover through the promotion of sustainable agriculture and effective reforestation mechanisms.

1.2.2. Potential for knowledge and learning

20. The project will learn from the experience of La Mé, including villages of two other regions, scaling up agroforestry models that will lead to community appropriation of low carbon emission agricultural practices. Zero deforestation cocoa value chains will be promoted, adding value per hectare, and food production will be diversified to sustain community livelihoods.

21. The project will work with communities to support their technical capacities to achieve the agroforestry targets on mitigation measures with agroforestry and forest restoration to generate emission reductions and decrease pressure on surrounding forests. 3,650 small producers will develop agroforestry systems as well as food cropping to achieve 3,650 ha of agro-systems in which organic and fair-trade cocoa production will be partly developed.

1.2.3. Contribution to the creation of an enabling environment

22. The project will create an enabling environment for the development and enforcement of the REDD-plus scheme in the country. It will contribute to create a successful REDD-plus mechanism on land-use planning and indirect land tenure (World Bank Land Policy Improvement and Implementation Project, or PAMOFOR), institutional and legal framework and governance.

23. The project will produce local land use plans (three in La Mé region, nine for Agnèby-Tiassa and nine for Sud-Comoé) that could potentially be enforced to ensure that some agricultural production is prohibited in areas not suitable for that purpose and to set priorities on areas for restoration.

1.2.4. Contribution to the regulatory framework and policies

24. The main contribution to the regulatory framework will be in the development of the REDD-plus architecture. In order to start an investment phase, policies and measures should be in place and local authorities must fully understand REDD-plus issues. For this purpose, local authorities will have their capacities reinforced to acquire a better understanding of the mechanism and capacities to develop project proposals to implement activities in the field. The project will support three REDD-plus regional committees in their functioning as they will have to monitor policies and measures.

25. The Côte d'Ivoire Government is implementing its land policy through the National Land Use Plan, Regional Land Use Plans and Local Development Plans (national to local). Since land tenure security is key to secure lands and investments on these lands, the project is partnering with the World Bank Land Policy Improvement and Implementation Project (PAMOFOR) for activities that aim to build the capacities and institutions necessary to support implementation of the national rural land tenure security programme and to register customary land rights in selected rural areas. As many of the PAMOFOR targeted villages overlap with those proposed under the GCF project, and land tenure is necessary to secure investments, some resources of the proposed project will be dedicated to sensitization on land tenure aspects.

26. However, awareness-raising will be limited to developing 60 information sessions in 30 villages with the involvement of sectoral ministries as well as civil society organizations. A typical session will be one day long, led by the chief of the village, and will target all community members. Various adapted communication tools will be designed and distributed during the sessions. To the comment of the independent TAP, that this intervention is very limited, and that more support could be given to the selected communities to ensure that at the end of the project the cocoa small holders have land titles, the project proponents added that one of the

project results is the issuance of land certificates or a lease agreement, issued by the government for at least a total of 1,950 ha. However, this outcome needs to be explained with clear activities to be undertaken.

1.2.5. Scalability and replicability

27. Scalability and replicability will largely depend on the availability of resources to promote other REDD-plus projects in other regions of the country. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire could invest more resources in coordination with the private sector to ensure that agroforestry systems and regeneration models become a common practice. Supporting rural livelihoods and bringing more resilience to the system is needed throughout the country.

28. In terms of ensuring markets for the three cooperatives in each region, there is a need to assess the type of market and financial agreements that could be achieved by the project, in order to understand if there is a commercial appetite to scale the model.

1.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: N/A

1.3.1. Environmental co-benefits

29. Since average temperatures in Côte d'Ivoire are projected to increase because of climate change, evapotranspiration and thus plant water demand are also expected to increase, leading to greater drought stress for cocoa trees. The project expects to restore 1,500 ha of forest and improve 3,650 ha of agroforestry system. This will in turn reduce soil erosion and will also improve water catchment and the evapotranspiration regime to support water provision during the year. It will also limit the effects of floods.

30. Restoration at large will also increase biodiversity, supporting natural habitats to allow forest species to regrow, animal species to increase and ensure ecosystem services as important as pollination, pest control and the provision of food and non-timber products.

31. If the REDD-plus scheme is implemented, the project will allow further ecosystem services, with more forests conserved and protected in the country at large. The connectivity of natural forests is essential as the country has isolated remnants of forests.

1.3.2. Economic co-benefits

32. Improved and diversified agricultural production systems will ensure food security and will provide opportunities to connect to markets, generating revenues to achieve a better quality of life for the communities. There are also new possibilities to create on-farm employment and to ensure efficient value chains able to support local economies. By diversifying crop production, the communities will be able to have more stable income throughout the year.

33. The restored forests will provide non-timber products that will serve to provide alternative medicines, building materials and to produce crafts. The provision of water will in turn improve the sustainability of the agriculture systems, intensifying productivity and reducing risk of crop failure while providing benefits to the most vulnerable communities.

34. The project will increase and diversify food production and will enable 7,550 cocoa growers to improve their production with organic techniques that would improve their income and standard of living. Moreover, property rights will allow people to remain in the areas, care for their land and will enable them to negotiate better contracts with buyers who need guaranteed production.

35. The project will support banking solutions to allow the economic activities to be more sustainable and prosperous in time. Individuals who have land titles will be able to access credit for their projects. Diversified production will allow households to deal with loans as they will have other sources of income.

1.3.3. Social co-benefits

36. Households will ensure more food security with the implementation of agroforestry systems and will have a better standard of living as a result of increased income. At the same time communities will be more resilient to the effects of climate change as restored forest and agroforestry systems will improve microclimates around the selected towns.

37. Property rights will allow communities to have a sense of ownership and to care for their ecosystems as they will provide benefits to their future livelihoods. Communities will also learn more about land use planning and will be able to understand the value of avoiding deforestation.

38. The communication and information activities could support more social cohesion and greater community responsibility to support their development plans.

39. The project will also support the involvement of women in developing food systems and improve their ability to support their households with skills to negotiate fair trade agreements.

1.3.4. Gender-sensitive development

40. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1995 and its Optional Protocol in 2012.

41. The Constitution of 8 November 2016 includes a formal framework for gender equality. The country also has a new law enacted in August 2019 that requires a quota of 30 per cent women candidates in elections. The National Policy on Equal Opportunities, Equity and Gender was updated in 2018 but has not yet been adopted. Despite recent efforts, Côte d'Ivoire remains one of the countries with the highest gender inequality rates in the world according to the World Bank overview.³ A national strategy for the empowerment of women is being finalized.

42. The project presents a gender assessment and action plan with a good description of the gender situation in the country. The project also includes a special emphasis on understanding the role of woman in agriculture and forestry, and the responsibilities and challenges they have within their households.

43. The action plan is derived from a table of strengths and weaknesses, and proposes four axes of work: (i) involvement of women in the establishment and maintenance of cocoa agroforestry systems and forest restoration; (ii) women's empowerment; (iii) strengthening the capacities of actors to systematically take gender into account in all development strategies and activities; and (iv) monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan.

44. The initial descriptions of the activities under each axis was limited. To the request of the independent TAP, FAO submitted a revised Gender Action Plan. The plan states that the activities detailed in the action plan will be adjusted and negotiated with beneficiaries and key stakeholders at the beginning of the project implementation. It also explains that the project will have a gender specialist.

45. The project presents a consultation table in which 165 people were consulted, though only 35 per cent were women. The effort to make gender transversal to all the project activities

³ See <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cotedivoire/overview>>.

will be a challenge, as the country is only recently moving to develop a national strategy, and the level of detail of the action plan needs further definition.

46. Child labour has been one of the main issues in Côte d'Ivoire related to the cocoa business as the work is often performed under extremely difficult conditions on the plantations. The project should make an effort to tackle this concern with concrete measures.

1.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: N/A

1.4.1. Vulnerability of the country and vulnerable groups

47. Côte d'Ivoire is classified among the most vulnerable countries to climate change (145 out of 178 countries in the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative). Rainfall has decreased by 23–29 per cent between 1940 and 2010 and temperatures have increased by 1.6 °C between 1960 and 2010 (Yao et al., 2013; MINEDD, 2019), the reduction in pluviometry being caused by the massive destruction of forest. Projections indicate a mean temperature increase of 2 °C for the whole country, with a peak of 3.5 °C in January. Moreover, rainfall variations are expected to decrease by 9 per cent for the April–May period and increase by a similar amount in October (World Bank, 2018).

48. The nationally determined contribution (NDC) indicates that climate change will have a significant impact on cocoa production with financial losses estimated at USD 202 million and a 10–20 per cent reduction in production by 2020, resulting from increased temperatures and decreased soil fertility.

49. According to the World Bank overview for the country, the economy of Côte d'Ivoire has expanded by an average of 8 per cent per year since 2011, making it one of the fastest growing countries in the world. However, the country's gross domestic product growth has gradually declined from 10.1 per cent in 2012 to 7.7 per cent in 2017, and it is estimated to fall to 7.4 per cent in 2018. However, this excellent performance has been to the detriment of social inclusion. In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire ranked 170 out of 189 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index and has a low human capital index score (0.35) according to World Bank rankings.

50. As stated, gender inequity is one of the highest in the world and there are complex social performance levels in terms of education, women's mortality rate and malnutrition.

51. The country is currently the leading producer of cocoa in the world, representing almost 40 per cent of world production. However, it only receives 5–7 per cent of the profit generated by this sector globally. This profit is essentially concentrated in the processing and distribution phases. As a result, although this sector employs close to one million producers and provides income to one-fifth of the population, it has not contributed much to the country's wealth.⁴

52. The agricultural sector accounts for 14 per cent of gross domestic product, but more than half of its residents continue to depend on a primary activity for their livelihood. The low yield productivity of most food and cash crops and the failure to diversify production adding greater value to agricultural activities is part of the reason for the sector's low performance. It is estimated that 54.9 per cent of Ivorian cocoa producers and their families currently live below the poverty line.

53. Furthermore, the devastation of forests has resulted in the decrease in soil productivity and rainfall, with evident effects on cocoa production. The conversion of forest to agricultural production, including coffee and cocoa production, and the extraction of timber, which for many

⁴ See <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cotedivoire/publication/cote-divoire-economic-outlook-why-the-time-has-come-to-produce-cocoa-in-a-responsible-manner>>.

years was one of the highest sources of earnings, has caused enormous damage.⁵ According to the feasibility study, despite deforestation-free cocoa commitments made during the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties in 2019 by leading chocolate companies and States, through programmes such as the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, the trend continues even inside protected areas and national parks.

54. To address this, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has made modernization of the agricultural sector a priority in its new national development strategy, in particular the cocoa sector, as it is by far the country's biggest foreign exchange earner. The country is also willing to diversify crop production. In the view of the independent TAP, there could be a contradictory vision of change, if the country is prioritizing economic revenues from this large agricultural sector without positioning restoration and conservation efforts as an evident priority. The value chains of the main crops (cocoa, coffee and palm oil) could continue to drive deforestation and small community cocoa growers will remain marginalized.

55. The REDD-plus architecture, and, hopefully, its implementation, could be a counterbalance to the potential increase in deforestation. However, a great effort should be made to ensure that modernization means "regenerative agriculture" with a stronger priority to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

56. Consumers have gained awareness of environmental and social issues in Côte d'Ivoire and have become more demanding, following numerous investigations that have shed light on the negative role played by cocoa production in terms of deforestation as well as child labour. Without a doubt there is a great need to work in supporting cocoa communities to develop regenerative cocoa production that will in turn support better rural livelihoods with more equitable distribution of benefits.

1.5 Country ownership

Scale: N/A

1.5.1. Alignment with national climate strategy

57. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the importance of addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges within the country and internationally. Côte d'Ivoire signed the UNFCCC in 1992 and ratified it in 1995. The country submitted its Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2000 and its Second National Communication in 2010. Côte d'Ivoire is Party (Non-Annex 1) to the Kyoto Protocol (by accession 23 April 2007, entry into force in July 2007) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire signed the Paris Agreement in October 2016.

58. In 2012, Côte d'Ivoire set up the National Climate Change Programme for the country to coordinate, propose and promote measures and strategies to combat climate change. As a result, the National Strategy for Combating Climate Change for the 2015–2020 period was adopted at the end of 2014.

59. In December 2015, the country adopted its national development plan from 2016 to 2020 (Ministère du Plan et du Développement, 2016), aiming to consolidate emerging economic pathways towards a more diverse economy and industrialization. The national strategy to combat climate change needs to be mainstreamed as part of the development plan, ensuring that the country achieves the industrialization pathway with low emissions and climate compatible development.

60. Through its NDCs, submitted in 2016, Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 28 per cent by 2030 compared to its baseline scenario. Even though the deforestation, degradation and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector is recognized as

⁵ New Agriculturist. Available at <<http://www.new-ag.info/en/country/profile.php?a=2317>>.

the driver of historical and current GHG emissions, this sector was not included in the NDC due to a lack of data availability at the time of submission.

61. However, since loss of forest cover and associated GHG emissions are important challenges, the country has been involved in the REDD-plus mechanism since June 2011, with the support of several projects listed in the funding proposal. Côte d'Ivoire is currently finalizing its readiness phase – it has had a REDD-plus national strategy since November 2017, and it submitted its FREL in 2017. The Third National Communication and the second Biennial Update Report (BUR) are planned to be submitted in July 2020, but the country will assess first, in the framework of the project, potential emission reduction results before submission of the BUR. The submission of the next BUR and its potential REDD-plus technical annex could be delayed to 2021.

62. The REDD-plus national strategy aims to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by 80 per cent compared to 2015 in order to conserve remaining forests and avoid the loss of forest cover in protected areas. A further objective is to highlight the need for wood and forest cover through the promotion of sustainable agriculture and effective reforestation mechanisms, aiming to restore 5,000,000 ha by 2030. To achieve such objectives, the National Investment Framework proposes a budget of USD 5.37 billion to undertake REDD-plus national strategy activities from 2018 to 2040 (USD 244 million per year). Based on National Investment Framework projections, by 2040 the strategy is expected to generate emission reductions of USD 8.2 billion from more than 1.6 billion tCO₂ sequestered over the same period.

63. Considering these projections, the current investment is just a very small fraction of what is needed per year, both in terms of restored hectares and investment. Resources invested by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and by donor partners have been very limited so far. The independent TAP believes that the REDD-plus targets set by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire are very difficult to achieve and that the country needs to align its economic objectives with the REDD-plus strategy, investing much greater resources to achieve its potential and goals.

1.5.2. Capacity of accredited entities and executing entities to deliver

64. FAO will serve as the accredited entity and executing entity for the project. As such, FAO will be responsible for overall management of the project. FAO is the United Nations agency specifically involved in agriculture and forestry issues, and it is also accredited by GCF. The organization has a solid reputation in the fields of forestry, agriculture and food with a long history of climate change-related knowledge and innovation, particularly in terms of the fundamental objectives of the strategic intervention areas of GCF. FAO has been established in Côte d'Ivoire since 1987, where it has implemented over 300 projects and programmes, such as the national REDD-plus programme supported by UN-REDD, the national agriculture investment plan 2017-2015, and a national climate-smart strategy.

65. The Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, represented by the Permanent REDD-plus Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD) in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD), will also act as executing entity and co-financer.

66. The project proposal gives little information on the capacity of MINEDD to deliver the project. The proposal states that a capacity assessment of MINEDD has been performed in 2016 by an independent audit firm. The audit firm assessed the financial management capacity and procedures risk of the SEP-REDD as moderate. Since then, MINEDD has taken active measures to address the recommendations indicated in the assessment through recruitment of personnel, capacity-building and strengthening of internal mechanisms. According to the project proposal, these two elements have been the basis for identifying SEP-REDD as a reliable co-executing entity.

67. The independent TAP asked FAO why the previous resources given to Cote D'Ivoire were not enough to finalize the REDD-plus architecture. The answer was that the process took

longer than initially planned and expected, and it generated high costs that could not be covered by available funds at the time. The independent TAP believes that there is a need to strengthen the capacity of MINEDD to deliver the current project and to reinforce the SEP-REDD. It is also felt that the Government of Cote D'Ivoire needs to ensure that the project management unit personnel and the knowledge gained remain at the Ministry after project completion to be able to scale the REDD-plus scheme to other regions in the country. To the request of the independent TAP, MINEDD issued an agreement letter stating the willingness to continue strengthening the institutional capacities of SEP-REDD.

68. FAO and MINEDD will establish a project management unit for the project, which will handle coordination and implementation of the project (day-to-day management). This unit will be based in the SEP-REDD-plus premises and will include a mixed team of FAO and SEP-REDD-plus specialists. One technical expert per region will be based locally in order to ensure a presence in the field.

69. The project will be directed by a project steering committee, which will act as a decision-making organ and provide guidance by ensuring that links and appropriate coordination are maintained with relevant national programmes and projects and the national REDD-plus committee. The project steering committee will be co-chaired by the government representative and FAO, and will include representatives from different implementing partners, GCF focal point, sectoral ministries involved, representatives from technical and financial partners, and from civil society and the private sector.

70. The independent TAP believes that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should be much more involved in the project, as its entire purpose is to ensure that agricultural development and extension services are carried out in a sustainable manner, and that mainstreaming climate change in all agricultural activities should be their responsibility.

71. Moreover, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is composed of 36 ministries of which the Ministry of Water and Forest, the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Women, Family and Children and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises should also be part of the project steering committee.

1.5.3. Engagement with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders

72. The project presents a stakeholder consultation annex in the feasibility study (in French). Consultations were led by SEP-REDD-plus and the NDA during the concept note development phase and during the development of the funding proposal. At a subnational level, sessions were organized from 22 to 24 of October 2019 to discuss the project's activities and goals as well as to refine activities where needed. Following these consultations, a national validation workshop for the project document was organized with all stakeholders on 29 October in Abidjan. Besides discussing the project activities and goals, the targeted villages were also revised.

73. Additional meetings were carried out with national institutions such as the Coffee Cocoa Council, l'Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Sustainable Trade Initiative-Cocoa and Forest Initiative, the Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire, and SODEFOR (a state-owned company that manages forests) for the identification of future collaboration and enhancement of the consistency of interventions during project implementation.

74. The independent TAP asked the project proponents for a much clearer indication of consultations with the private sector and with the financial institutions and their agreements to support the project. The proponents replied with a document on the "Strategic Way Forward for Private Sector Engagement in the GCF PROMIRE Project, Cote d'Ivoire".

75. The document lists the main private sector stakeholders including cooperatives, traders, grinders, chocolate manufacturers and microfinance institutions (MFIs) with their credit offers. The document also clarifies the low level of engagement and agreements reached at the formulation phase of the project, and sets some targets to achieve better consultations and agreements in the implementation phase, including engagement with small producers and cooperatives and the need to develop strong business plans and market assessments.
76. In terms of engagement with the business sector, the document proposes to actively contribute to the national technical exchange and dialogue including the development of deforestation-free cocoa production principles and criteria (in line with future European Union regulations among others) and advocacy for the adoption at national level of a principle of a “premium price” for deforestation-free cocoa production. It also proposes to establish regular meetings (every three months) with Sustainable Trade Initiative-Cocoa and Forest Initiative and member cocoa companies to expand on forestry and agroforestry interventions and to seek additional opportunities for the establishment of purchase contracts based on national and international market development and dynamism.
77. Furthermore, the document refers to the need to develop an in-depth analysis of the three micro-finance institutions available in the three regions with a gap analysis that will lead to the identification of possible MFIs willing to develop financial options for the cooperatives with accurate financial instruments.
78. The independent TAP welcomed the additional information and would like to see a strategic plan to better engage with the private sector actors, reaching agreements in the first years of the project.

1.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: N/A

1.6.1. Cost-effectiveness and efficiency

79. The proposed project is requesting total GCF financing of USD 10,000,000 grant to implement all project activities. The total amount for the project is USD 11,754,000. MINEDD is contributing USD 1.2 million in in-kind contributions (staff time and related operational costs), in addition to USD 0.554 million in the form of grants contributed by the Global Environmental Facility through FAO.
80. The project will result in 5.5 million tCO₂eq of emission reductions over the 20-year project lifetime. This equates to a mitigation cost to GCF of USD 1.81 per tCO₂eq.
81. The project states that the private sector will leverage USD 10 million, but the proposal does not explain the type of activities or the outcomes expected from this investment. The independent TAP has requested the project proponents to take out this amount until they reach a real commitment with private sector actors with concrete letters of co-financing agreements.
82. The project proposal contains many comments referring to the lack of resources to achieve REDD-plus results. First, as explained above, in spite of some international community support to the REDD-plus architecture, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire was not able to finalize the task because it took longer than planned and the costs were higher than the available funds. Moreover, the Government and relevant stakeholders developed a policy on zero deforestation agriculture in 2015, but due to lack of resources, this has not yet been fully implemented.
83. According to the funding proposal, implementation of the REDD-plus strategy requires a financial mobilization of USD 5.37 billion between 2018 and 2040. This represents approximately USD 244 million to be invested each year. This investment has not so far been forthcoming, and it is very improbable that it will be. Therefore, there is an urgent need to revise the National Investment Framework.

84. Despite the good economic growth of the country, the project does not offer a meaningful contribution by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to achieve REDD-plus results, but it mainly explains the efforts made by the international community in the form of grants. There is no evidence that investments from domestic sources are aligned with REDD-plus objectives.

85. Furthermore, it seems that the cocoa private sector actors that have been negotiating the cocoa and forest initiative are not advancing in their commitments and are not fully engaged in supporting the current project. As explained above, the proponents have included a new annex to explain the strategic engagement actions during project implementation.

86. The project is planning to implement a scheme for payment for environmental services that will be managed at the beginning of the process by using customary land ownership as one of the conditions to enter into these agreements. During project implementation, customary owners will be encouraged to formalize their land title and will be prioritized in the process led by the PAMOFOR project (activity 2.1.2. in funding proposal/private funding sources). However, the project is not at all clear on where the funding to sustain a payment for environmental services scheme will come from.

87. The project will ensure that farmers continue to sustain non-deforestation practices in the medium and long term through incentives, in particular by promoting organic and fair-trade cocoa production with the global growing niche market and by developing partnerships with cocoa production off-takers working in a sustainable niche market, with a premium market price. The traceability system, which will be developed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) SCOLUR-CI (Scaling up cocoa-based food systems, land use and restoration transformative innovations in Côte d'Ivoire) project will also support this objective as the system will attract off-takers who work in the non-deforestation cocoa value chain.

88. To the independent TAP question regarding the involvement of the bigger cocoa, rubber and palm oil companies in avoiding deforestation, the proponents replied that by working with the most vulnerable group of the targeted value chain, the project will also influence bigger actors in the cocoa sector, such as larger off-takers, in the adoption of zero deforestation cocoa production. However, the project does not effectively show the connections and means to involve real private sector stakeholders. Moreover, the project has not presented any consultations with the private sector companies nor with financial intermediaries able to support the small cocoa farmers.

89. To the independent TAP question on how the cooperatives will sustain their business after project completion, the proponents replied that cooperatives will adopt the approach developed in the exit strategy: first the production of organic and fair-trade cocoa will be strengthened and developed, thus targeting an emerging niche market with premium price. Second, the project will support the cooperatives to manage their accounts and to invest in strategical needs. The example given is that cooperatives will be encouraged to constitute a de-risk fund for a potential access to MFI credits. However, it does not include any explanation on how this theoretically de-risked fund will be developed or managed. Finally, the project expects to leverage additional funding from the private sector and MFIs that will be reinvested in the cocoa sector allowing cooperatives to continue working after the project. However, these agreements are yet to be seen.

90. The independent TAP believes that this explanation is very weak, and that the project needs further development in terms of a sustainability strategy.

II. Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel

91. The independent TAP recommends that the Board approve the project subject to the following condition:

-
- (a) Prior to the second disbursement of the project, the accredited entity shall submit to the Secretariat a report, in a form and substance satisfactory to the Secretariat, that contains:
- (i) A sustainability plan including the details of the agreements reached with the cocoa private sector companies and the Micro-financial Institutions willing to support the project; and
 - (ii) A detailed plan on the way that the project activities will complement those of PAMOFOR, which is developing systems for land titling in the host country.

Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment (SAP015)

Proposal name:	Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)
Accredited entity:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Country/(ies):	Côte d'Ivoire
Project/programme size:	Small

Impact potential

FAO takes note of the assessment.

Paradigm shift potential

FAO takes note of the assessment. FAO would like to reconfirm that the project area was chosen due to the carbon mitigation potential (including avoided deforestation given the high rates of deforestation of remaining forest as reflected in the GHG emission calculations for the FP). In the project area, the large companies do not produce their own cocoa but rather buy cocoa from smallholder producers. Therefore, the project targets the supply chains of the large cocoa buyers and will promote a paradigm shift in their practices by promoting zero deforestation cocoa among producers who sell cocoa to them, which are the ones PROMIRE is targeting. This is reflected in the participation of main cocoa producers in the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) which the project is engaging with.

Sustainable development potential

FAO takes note of the assessment. FAO is committed to eliminating child labour and as per FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards guidelines and as per the Environmental and Social Action Plan. FAO reconfirms that beneficiaries who potentially use child labour for their production will not be eligible as recipient of the project technical and financial support. In the case of child labour in cocoa value chains, that is closely related with environmental degradation and economic (household poverty) and functional (harsh working conditions and labour intensive work) dependency of small-scale farmers upon child labour, the project intends to address this concerns with concrete measures integrated within the planned activities: (1) develop and deliver child labour sensitive messages within its communication and outreach, as well as capacity development activities aiming at increasing safety in farm settings with specific messages about hazards and health consequences for children (see for example a typical visual tool used to raise awareness at community level on hazardous pesticides and child labour - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3527e.pdf>) (2) opportunity cost and

trade-off considerations related to child labour will be included in the implementation of the financial empowerment of the members of the producers' organization and cooperatives. Additional information is available at <http://www.fao.org/childlabouragriculture/en/>

Needs of the recipient

FAO takes note of the assessment.

Country ownership

FAO takes note of the assessment. FAO would like to reconfirm that during project implementation FAO will strengthen the capacity of MINEDD. FAO would also like to reconfirm that the Ministry of Agriculture was strongly engaged in the formulation of PROMIRE and will play a key role in the project, in particular to support the activities related to agroforestry trainings, establishment of nurseries and long term supervision and monitoring of the agroforestry activities. FAO would also like to reconfirm that the Ministry of Water and Forest, the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Woman, Family and Children and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Promotion of SME will be part of the Project Steering Committee.

Efficiency and effectiveness

FAO takes note of the assessment. As per the information note shared earlier (and attached herewith for ease of reference), FAO would like to reconfirm that several meeting have been held with private sector companies and related initiatives: MFIs, The sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), Cocoa Coffee Council, World Cocoa Foundation, Mondelez, Mars, and CEMOI among others. PROMIRE will concretely engage small producers and cooperatives as well as the private sector cocoa companies and MFIs in zero-deforestation cocoa production through a two-pronged strategy, detailed in the "Strategic way forward for Private Sector Engagement in the GCF PROMIRE project, Cote d'Ivoire" document. In particular, PROMIRE will: i) engage with MFIs to enhance their capacities in the provision microcredit lines taking into consideration the specific features of investment needed in the forestry and agroforestry sector (e.g. tenor, flexibility for the interest rate); ii) engage with cocoa companies and traders in Cote D'Ivoire to include the project sites in their supply of zero-deforestation cocoa production based on the sustainable forestry and agroforestry activities to be implemented by the project; and iii) engage with small producers as most of the production of cocoa is produced by poor rural farmers who remain mostly unorganized (only 8 % belong to cooperatives) and do not usually have access to credit (only 11 % have access to credit lines).

Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel:

FAO thanks the iTAP for its review of the proposal and confirms it can comply with the conditions.

Gender documentation for SAP015

**Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in
Côte d'Ivoire
(PROMIRE project)**

**Annex 4
Gender assessment and Action plan**

Table des matières

Introduction	4
1- General background	7
1.1. General development context of the country	7
1-2- Specific context related to gender issues	8
1-3- Context related to the environment and climate change	9
2- Presentation of the role of women in agriculture, agroforestry development and forest conservation	12
2-1- Women in agriculture and agroforestry.....	12
2-1-1- Contribution to agricultural work.....	12
2-1-2- Land rights and access to land.....	18
2-1-3- Production factors	18
2-1-4- Positioning women in value chains	18
2-1-5- Benefit sharing from agricultural activities	20
2-2- Women in forest management.....	20
2-2-1- Access to and use of forest resources	20
2-2-2- Sharing of profits from forestry activities.....	21
2-3- Strengths and weaknesses analysis.....	21
2-4- Mission recommendations	22
3. GHG emissions related to women's activities in REDD+ project areas.....	23
4- Gender action plan	26
4-1- AXIS 1: Equal opportunities and benefits for women in the establishment and maintenance of agroforestry systems based on cocoa and forest restoration	26
4-2- AXIS 2: Women's Empowerment.....	27
4-3- AXIS 3: Capacity building of actors to mainstream gender in all development strategies and activities	28
4-4 AXIS 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan	29

List of tables

Table 1: People met during the mission's interviews	5
Table 2 : Order of priority in the choice of agricultural crops grown by men and women in the different regions.....	13
Table 3 : Statistics on labor input in Côte d'Ivoire.....	13
Table 4: Statistics on Female Head of Household	15
Table 5: Constrains for young people.....	16
Table 6 : Presentation of the most common speculations in the departments of Agboville and Aboisso	17
Table 7 : Species and non-wood forest products per region.	20
Table 8: Matrix of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats	21
Table 9: GHG emissions related to women's activities in the project regions.....	25
Table 10 : Action plans	30
Table 11: Number of consulted people.....	36

List of figures

Figure 1: Presentation of women's skills in farmers' organizations.....	14
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Introduction

Sustainable forest management is a major concern in Côte d'Ivoire. The loss of forest cover and associated GHG emissions are important challenges for the country. GHG emissions from the forestry sector represented 13.75% of total GHG emissions in 2014. To address this problem, Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 28% by 2030 compared to its baseline scenario. To this end, the country has been involved in the REDD+ mechanism since June 2011. As part of its REDD+ process, it has complied with the requirements of the Warsaw Framework and has so far adopted a National REDD+ Strategy (REDD+ NS), submitted to the UNFCCC with the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) and the summary of the safeguards information system. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was also developed

The project *Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire* (PROMIRE) aims to strengthen the implementation of REDD+ for an effective reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in line with Côte d'Ivoire's mitigation objectives which are part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its voluntary report on sustainable development objectives, but also to access to future results-based payments (RBPs). The project has a significant mitigation impact potential that will result in an estimated direct emission reduction of 5.5 million tCO₂eq over the project lifespan.

To this end, the project is subdivided into two main components with outcomes, outputs and activities, including the following aspects:

- Local and territorial governance with gender aspects,
- Women's involvement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local development plans related to REDD+,
- Presentation of monitoring & evaluation activities of REDD+ actions differentiated by gender,
- Improving agricultural productivity and greater diversification of the livelihoods of small local producers, including women, by targeting high value-added links in agricultural value chains and enhancing entrepreneurship opportunities in the regions targeted by the project.

In the long term, activities will have a significant impact on the sustainable development of the beneficiaries, with a particular focus on women. Indeed, women and other vulnerable groups have limited adaptive capacity due to their dependence on climate-sensitive resources such as agriculture and natural resources (water, forests, land; etc.). Men and women involved in these sectors are disproportionately affected by existing gender inequalities, hence the importance of an efficient gender analysis.

Gender actions are integrated into all components of the project. Component 2 will aim to restore degraded land in the targeted regions with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities and the private sector to achieve local green economies. This will include:

- a zero-deforestation agriculture approach through agroforestry,
- a restoration of forests and degraded areas.

Concerning the methodology, three techniques were used for data collection:

- documents review through desk study,

- interviews conducted during the preparation of the project document by the forest project development consultant with key informants and resources people in the project areas,
- a field mission in the targeted areas of the project from 10th to 14th of December.

Table 1 gives details on the people met in the different regions during the mission.

Table 1: People met during the mission's interviews

Location	Village	Date	Number of participants
Sud-Comoé region			
N-E area	Sanhoukro	10-12-2019	14
Maféré area	Maféré	11-12-2019	14
Adiaké area	Eplemlan	11-12-2019	06
Total Sud-Comoé			34
Agneby-Tiassa region			
Agboville	Guessiguié 2	12-12-2019	32
Agboville	Aboude-Mandeke	13-12-2019	20
Total Agneby-Tiassa			52
La Mé region			
Adzopé area	Diasson	12-12-2019	36
Yakassé-Attobrou area	Bieby	13-12-2019	35
Akoupé area	Affery	14-12-2019	35
Total la Mé			106
TOTAL	8		192

Thanks to this mission, 70 persons in Sud-Comoé, 81 in Agneby-Tiassa and 121 in la Mé region were met, i.e. a total of 272 persons¹ of which 192 were interviewed with a questionnaire survey instead of the 150 planned at the beginning.

At the level of guidance structures (ANADER zones), decentralised administrations and local authorities 43 people, including 10 women and 33 men, were consulted through semi-structured interviews. Five (5) women's NGOs of 10 women were consulted through structured seed meetings. 15 Customary authorities (chiefs and notables), all men were consulted through semi-structured interviews; Five Cocoa cooperatives with 22 people met, of which 12 women and 10 men were consulted by focus group and survey with structured questionnaire.

Women cassava processors and other women's cooperatives and associations were consulted in focus groups and were surveyed using a structured questionnaire; 68 people, including 62 women and 6 men, were consulted.

Mission's results are related to the socio-demographic characteristics of the actors, work distribution between men and women, agricultural organization, land allocation, agroforestry, promising sectors

¹ The mission met with 272 people, including 137 women and 135 men. The types of stakeholders met are :

- Guidance / technical structure (ANADER zones)
- Customary authorities (Chiefs and notables) ;
- Decentralized administrations
- Territorial authorities
- Women's NGOs
- Women's cooperatives and associations
- Cassava processors
- Cocoa Cooperatives
- Head of Household

for the empowerment of women, the main barriers and needs of women in the project areas as well as the presentation of potential REDD + project partners.

1- General background

1.1. General development context of the country

Côte d'Ivoire has an estimated population of 25.8 million in 2019,² 51.7% being male and 48.3% female, and therefore a sex ratio of 107 men per 100 women. 75.5% of the population lives in forest areas and 49.7% in rural areas. In terms of electricity, 4,500 localities were electrified in 2017 compared to 2,800 in 2011, representing a growth rate of 57%. With regard to access to water, 80.7% of households are connected to drinking water.³ The population is also relatively young with 36.2% being between 15 and 34. In 2016, the fertility rate remains high with an average of 4.6 children per woman, with differences between rural (6.0 children) and urban (3.4 children) areas.⁴

The National Development Plan 2016-2020 (NDP) was built around five (05) strategic axes which are:

- i. Strengthening the quality of institutions and good governance;
- ii. Accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being;
- iii. Accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization;
- iv. Developing infrastructure that is harmoniously distributed throughout the country and preserving the environment;
- v. Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation.

The 2017 report on the implementation of the NDP indicates that Côte d'Ivoire has achieved generally satisfactory macroeconomic performance and according to the IMF, the Ivorian economy is resilient to endogenous and exogenous shocks. Despite this positive economic performance and the gradual strengthening of its stability, Côte d'Ivoire remains classified as a low human development country with a ranking of 170th out of 189 countries in the world⁵ - poverty remaining high (46.9%, 2015).⁶ In addition, the illiteracy rate for people over 15 years of age is 56.1%.⁷ Proportion of women concerned is 63% and that of men 49%.⁸ As a result, the average length of schooling in 2015 was 4 years for women compared to 6.2 years for men. Education remains key if a country wants to achieve gender equity.

Life expectancy in the country is, in average, around 54.1 years⁹ and higher for women (55.7 years) than for men (52.7 years).¹⁰ Maternal mortality rate is 614 per 100,000 live births, while the birth rate for adolescent girls (15-19 years) is estimated at 132.7 per 1,000 live births over the period 2015-2020.¹¹

According to the World Bank, women's participation in the labor market stood at 64% in 2015, mainly in the informal sector.¹² They represent 29 out of 255 or 11.37% of the Deputies elected in 2016, 19

² INS, population projection

³ 2017 PND Implementation Report

⁴ Social Indicators by the National Statistical Institute

⁵ UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018.

⁶ Survey of Living Standards, 2015.

⁷ UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P57.

⁸ General Census of Population and Housing (RPGH), 2014.

⁹ UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P24.

¹⁰ UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P36.

¹¹ UNFPA Report, 2010.

¹² World Bank, Economic Situation of Côte d'Ivoire, "and if emergence were to be a woman", July 2017.

out of 99 Senators or 19.19% of Senators and 7 out of 41 or 17.57% of Women Members of the Government in July 2018. Such data indicate that women are still under-representation.

1-2- Specific context related to gender issues

At the international level, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995 and its Optional Protocol in 2012. Côte d'Ivoire has also participated in all the major meetings leading up to the Beijing conference and the country produces all its periodic reports on the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing recommendations. It was the first country to operationalize resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in Africa. It is also a State Party to the Solemn Declaration of African Heads of State and Government on Gender Equality in Africa adopted in July 2004.¹³ The country has committed to implement the recommendations of international and African conferences, including those of Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), Cairo (International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, 1994), Beijing+5 (2000), the African Women's Decade Programme 2010-2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the voluntary report of which was made in July 2019 at UN Headquarters in New York.

At the national level, the formal framework for gender equality is established by the Constitution of 8th of November 2016, which enshrines the principles of gender parity in the labor market and equal opportunities in employment and elected assemblies in articles 36 and 37.¹⁴ Pursuant to this new Constitution, the country has embarked on a process of implementing specific measures to promote gender equality in access to elected office. This process took the form of the adoption by Parliament on 02nd of August 2019 of a law requiring political parties to present a quota of at least 30% women on the lists of candidates for single-member and multi-member elections.

The National Policy on Equal Opportunities, Equity and Gender was updated in 2018 but has not yet been adopted. A national strategy for the empowerment of women is being finalized.

It should be noted that the National Development Plan addresses the gender issue with a dedicated budget. In the process of domesticating the country's international gender commitments, the Ivorian legal system has been enriched by new laws that are more favorable to gender issues, in particular the Marriage Act, which maintains the abolition of the notion of head of family and force spouses to jointly manage their household,¹⁵ the Compulsory School Act for all children (girls and boys) from 6 to 16 years of age.¹⁶ However, gender inequalities, both *de jure* and *de facto*, persist at several levels and in all areas of activity.¹⁷ For example, resources and factors of production are unequally delivered between women and men. This situation is likely to create an imbalance in the evolution of Ivorian society.

¹³ Maputo Protocol

¹⁴ Law No.2016-886 of 8 November 2016 on the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

¹⁵ Law No.2013-33 of 25 January, 2013 on marriage in Côte d'Ivoire as amended by Law No. 2019-570 of 26 June 2019 on marriage

¹⁶ Law No.2015-635 of 17 September 2015 on amendment of Law 95-696 of 7 September 1995 on Education

¹⁷ Gender Inequality Index: 0.663 ranking Côte d'Ivoire 155th out of 160 in 2017

Côte d'Ivoire's Gender Profile, prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in September 2015, states that the country is committed to the promotion of gender and the empowerment of women, making remarkable progress in this area in recent years. However, challenges still need to be addressed. The World Bank report *"If the emergence were a woman"*, produced in July 2017, states that gender equity can help Côte d'Ivoire achieving emergence: *"If Côte d'Ivoire were to improve gender equity, its economy could benefit from gains in the order of \$6-8 billion in the long term, when most discrimination against women would be eliminated"*.

Despite constitutional provisions that enshrine equality among all citizens, concerted efforts by national and international organizations and a fairly favorable legal context, socio-cultural practices that are unfavorable to gender equality persist. According to the National Observatory on Equity and Gender (ONEG), in the context of the study carried out from October to December 2018 on Gender and Climate, gender mainstreaming continues to be treated as a separate issue and a fashionable effect whose added value is not well perceived.

Challenges in the AfDB's strategy paper include a better knowledge of the gender approach, its tools for national actors being taken into account, the development of gender equality measurement indicators, and the establishment of a gender-responsive budgeting mechanism. In this national context of a persistent gap between international and national commitments, policies, strategies and results, one of the current challenges will be to review progress achieved, roles of the mechanisms attached to management and governance bodies in the country, with a view to improve managerial and operational practices related to the collection, planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of gender equality.

1-3- Context related to the environment and climate change

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1995 took into account the difficulties of men and women. Social issues previously overshadowed by political and security priorities have begun to be part of international meetings. A new dimension was highlighted: one that recognizes that women are more often victims of inequality, but also that they are effective agents of natural resources management (Agenda 21) and sustainable development.

The 2030 Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2015, promote the implementation of reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control of land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and property rights. Natural Resources (MDG 5 on gender equality) have an objective to double agricultural productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers through secure and equal access to land, knowledge, financial services, markets and value-added opportunities (Objective Zero Hunger2).

The 2015 Paris Declaration on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, following COP20 in Lima (2014) and the G8 Gender Equality Action Plan in Bonn in 2017, aims to (i) ensure women's participation in the COP of conferences; (ii) develop gender-sensitive climate policies and implement gender-sensitive adaptation and capacity building measures.

Despite the existence of many texts calling for the integration of a gender approach in all areas of development, human rights and the environment, this approach is still weak in international climate change policies. However, the UNFCCC falls within the UN normative framework, therefore, General Assembly decisions and gender conventions and treaties are binding. If climate change responses have to take into account vulnerabilities and capacities of both men and women, then climate change debate must take into account development and human rights issues.

Currently, international negotiations on climate change are mainly focused on reducing greenhouse gases through the UNFCCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and other related mechanisms. These negotiations have not concretely addressed the gender dimension in adaptation and mitigation and therefore do not provide sufficient legal framework as required to provide equitable responses to climate change for both men and women. Thus, general analysis of the Ivorian context reveals the following weaknesses:

- Female illiteracy rate still high (about 63% according to RGPH 2014)
- Persistence of low representation of women in decision-making spheres
- Insufficient enforcement of laws (customs often take precedence)
- Persistence of socio-cultural burdens and the effects of climate change
- Women's low land tenure security
- Weak involvement of women in decision-making processes in national REDD+ policies and strategies.
- Poor consideration of women's interests in actions to combat climate change, including the REDD+ process.
- Insufficient promotion of women's income-generating activities
- Insufficient proven expertise on gender issues and natural resource management.

Gender mainstreaming ensures the effective participation of women and men in development actions and opportunities; to this end, it is important to:

- Create national expertise on gender and climate change issues,
- Enhance women's knowledge of climate change mechanisms such as REDD+,
- Strengthen women's organizational capacities,
- Provide women with alternatives for sustainable forest management.

Gender based violence (GBV)

Shocks, disasters and impacts from climate change can contribute to an increase in gender based violence.

The formulation of local development plans in the context of territorial planning and land security should include aspects of gender based violence as secure land access and the improvement of land security – the issuance of land certificates – could be source of gender based violence ; the agro-forestry initiatives and financial services that would enhanced by the project could increase violence against women; the household dialogue mentioned under activity 2.2.3: strengthening social cohesion of households /couples dialogue for men and women (related to activity 2.1.1) should contribute to the reduction of the risks for the increase of GBV;

Upstream, prevention mechanisms through awareness campaigns for all stakeholders (especially men) will be organized. The *Ecole Des Maris* (EDM) and forum theatre are tools that have proved very effective in field experiences.

Downstream, actions to address GBV cases through existing mechanisms at the national level will be implemented. The GBV platforms that have been set up in several regions have the capacity to provide medical, psychosocial, legal, judicial, security and socioeconomic support to GBV victims (in South Comoé, there are some in Ayamé).

The prevention and management of GBV will be included in the project's terms of reference for the gender resource person.

Social centers and front-line organizations where GBV can be reported should be involved in local development planning and the topic of GBV should be clarified (including information about where GBV can be reported); women's groups and women leaders should be informed about where GBV can be reported. The project should train the staff in charge of implementation as well as the beneficiaries on gender issues, including GBV and mechanisms for recourse and management. There is a national strategy to fight GBV that provides all the guidelines for prevention and management, including complaints.

There are several ways for women to access complaints mechanisms:

- They can go to social action structures that now have the capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and children to accompany them.
- They can go to the gender reception offices that have been set up in police and gendarmerie units to receive judicial services adapted to deal with cases of violence appropriate to their situation.
- They can be listened to in the platforms against GBV or the listening desks in police stations. This is an annex office, isolated from the central building, run by an officer assisted by a non-commissioned officer, all of whom are trained. For the other police stations that do not yet have a gender desk, there is an officer designated as a gender focal point. GBV platforms have been set up in several regions for the medical, psychosocial, legal, judicial, security and socio-economic management of GBV.
- GBV focal points in courts and appeal courts can also accompany them.
- With the help of the project, women victims of GBV can, through community mobilization, make their voices heard.
- There are legal clinics that function as listening and referral centres. Counselling is free of charge, with the aim of enabling people to better understand and, above all, claim their rights and to facilitate access to justice for victims of sexual violence in order to lodge complaints.
- Caravans and mobile legal clinics also criss-cross the entire country and the project will be able to organize a synergy of action with these caravans.
- There is also a Legal Assistance Unit, which is a mechanism to ensure equal access to justice. (Decree 2016-781 of 12 October 2016 establishing local legal aid offices). Women can make use of this assistance.

All these measures presuppose that gender and GBV training has been provided to project stakeholders. Depending on the extent of GBV (see the baseline situation to be established at the beginning of the project), the project will adapt the appropriate strategy.

2- Presentation of the role of women in agriculture, agroforestry development and forest conservation

Objective of this analysis is to give basic information on the situation of women in Côte d'Ivoire, including their socio-economic situation, an analysis of their role in the context of the project and REDD+ (particularly in the agriculture, agroforestry and forestry sectors), as well as the main findings and recommendations to guide the development and implementation of the project. As such, it will imply:

- A census of the women's groups relevant to the project,
- A report on potential stakeholders and key recommendations to ensure that project activities contribute to gender equity, women's empowerment, communication and their full participation,
- A detailed analysis of the needs, interests, issues and barriers of women in agriculture, agroforestry and forestry in the targeted areas, related to the following topics:
 - Their contribution to the work;
 - Land use;
 - Wood energy;
 - Access to and use of agricultural and forest resources (e.g. non-timber forest products, food security);
 - Value chains and financing tools;
 - Women's land rights and access to land and forests (formal and customary);
 - Sharing of benefits related to agricultural and forestry activities;
 - The main recommendations to be included in the project.

2-1- Women in agriculture and agroforestry

2-1-1- Contribution to agricultural work

In agriculture, women and men have different contributions to adapt on speculation and socio-cultural contexts. In general, people are involved in export crops and high value-added perennial crops. Women, on the other hand, are involved in both perennial and food crops. At the level of agricultural operations, men are in charge of all operations related to tree felling and land preparation, while women are more involved in self-employment, seeding, weeding and other field maintenance.

In the three study areas, women interviewed are mostly farmers or producers. Some women are traders or working in handicraft (seamstresses for instance). Trade remains the dominant secondary activity. Women agricultural producers are sometimes found individually or in cooperatives. There are many women's organizations, the Agneby-Tiassa region has for example nearly 254 with more than 13,000 members (ANADER, 2017). The groups that are subject to technical supervision are less (the ANADER zones of Agboville, Adzopé and Aboisso respectively supervise 25, 18 and 32 women's organizations as part of the advisory support for intelligent agriculture).

These women generally grow manioc, rice, bananas and all kinds of market gardening in small areas due to land constraints. The most common crops are cassava, bananas and market gardening - in addition to their interventions in cocoa. 61% of women interviewed work in food crops while 40% work in cash crop. Recent Oxfam and FLA reports highlight how women's contribution and participation in the cocoa sector remains largely unnoticed and unrecognized. This is despite the fact that 93% of the women interviewed in the FLA study were found to be directly or indirectly involved in cocoa production. Table 2 gives interesting information on crops related to sex of individuals.

Table 2 : Order of priority in the choice of agricultural crops grown by men and women in the different regions.

	SUD-COMOE		AGNEBY TIASSA		LA ME	
N°	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man
1	Manioc	Rubber	Manioc, attiéké, placali	Cocoa	Manioc	Cocoa
2	Plantain banana	Palm tree	Vegetables (gombo, chili, tomato)	Rubber	Plantain banana	Rubber
3	Vegetables (chili, eggplant)	Cacao	Fish trade, bananas, thrift shop	Cola	Vegetables (chili, eggplant, gombo)	Coffee
4	Ignames	Coffee			Corn	Manioc
5	Taro	Corn, rice			Cocoa / Rubber	Bananas

There is an important link in food security for families by producing, procuring and preparing food, marketing agricultural products and their primary processing. They all perform these roles in agriculture in addition to their domestic roles (within the household), which also takes into account the care of children and people sick. Indeed, women also engaged in other activities, depending on the realities of the regions, to meet the costs related to the education of children. Situation of women is therefore characterized by a difficult and heavy workload that project interventions must ensure that they alleviate. A large part of women's work (unpaid work) remains invisible because it is not captured by statistics. According to mission results, nearly 85% of women surveyed carry out a main activity but do not receive remuneration for this activity. However, for those receiving incomes, average income perceived in the main and secondary activities is respectively CFA 39,375 and CFA 29,500 (USD 78 and USD 59).

Moreover, in the working population, the rates are 66.2% for men and 48.1% for women (estimates modelled by the ILO and included in the 2018 report of UNDP indices and indicators). In agriculture, 90% of the working population is made up of women. According to the World Bank, women's participation in the labor market stood at 64% in 2015, mainly in the informal sector.¹⁸ As Table 3 shows it, women generate lower incomes than men.

Table 3 : Statistics on labor input in Côte d'Ivoire

EMPLOYMENT

¹⁸ World Bank, *Economic Situation of Côte d'Ivoire, "And, if emergence were to be a woman", July 2017*

Net activity rate	F : 42,1% H : 79,5%
Unemployment rate	F : 3,5% ¹⁹ H : 2,3%
probability of being employed	F : 24 % H : 43 %
average salary	F : 68,801 FCFA (USD 137) H : 93,829 FCFA (USD 187)

In addition, women's work is characterized by a low level of organization and functioning. Women's groups have a basic level of organization. According to the results of the survey, women tend not to integrate an OPA compared to their male counterparts (only 19% for women against 25% for men²⁰). This situation is linked to the fact that men are in the majority of cases in the production of export crops, must rely on takeover crops to benefit from adequate inputs for their culture and to facilitate the marketing of their products. Social objectives often take precedence over economic objectives. Their management is very approximate. Box 1 shows that in 50 women's organizations observed in Côte d'Ivoire, administrative documents are not kept. This situation is partly due to the low level of education of women leaders. The REDD+ project will be able to contribute to the improvement of the management of women's organizations.

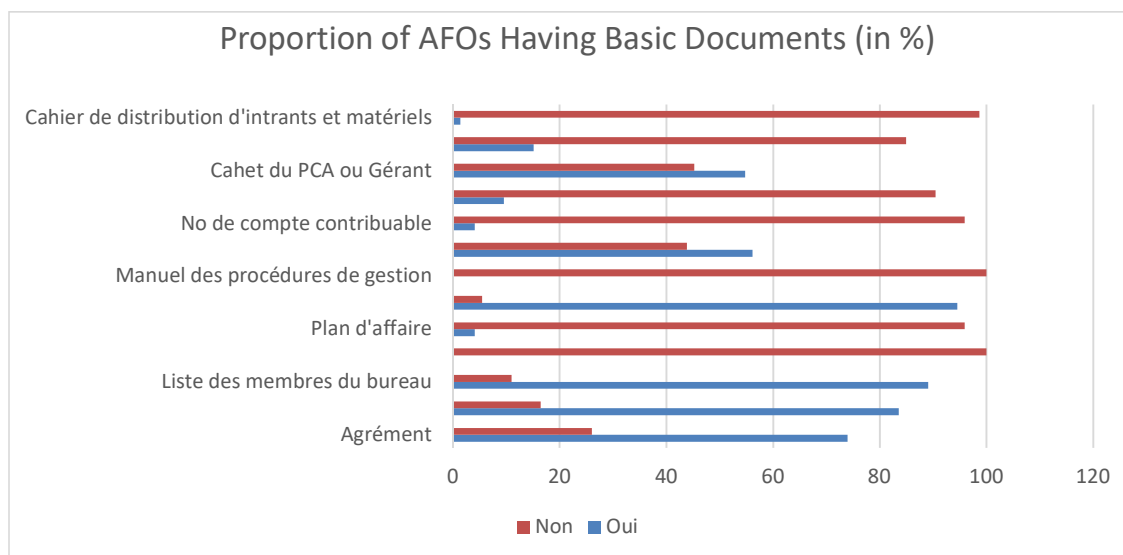


Figure 1: Presentation of women's skills in farmers' organizations

Female headed households (FHH) in the intervention zone:

¹⁹ ENSESI 2016

²⁰ Women belonging to take-over organizations receive services from them, the most important of which would be training (62%); product sales (34.5%); agricultural work (24%) collecting and transporting products (24%). Regarding input supplies, loans and social services, the rates are lower and respectively 20.69%; 13.79% and 6.90%.

Women heads of household generally have the entire burden of family expenses (health, education, food) and often do not have land (inheritance disadvantages women).

Women heads of household have an average household size of 4.3 persons (South) and 5.1 (South-West) (EDS-MICS, 2012). Female headed household represent between 19 and 28% of the households in the intervention zones. Their households are composed of an average of 2.88 to 3.00 individuals. Because of their work burden they are less often member of community organizations and associations. They should be specifically targeted as beneficiaries.

The 2015 Living Standards Survey (ENV 2015 data) provides information on the proportions of female heads of household (see table 4).

Table 4: Statistics on Female Head of Household

Some statistics on Female Head of Household (data in brackets refer to men)	Sud- Comoé	Mé	Agnéby-Tiassa
Percentage of female heads of household (based on ENV 2015 data)	28% (72%)	25% (75%)	19% (81%)
Size of female-headed households (average number of individuals)	3,00 (3,26)	2,78 (3,07)	2,88 (3,37)
Enrolment (percentage of women to be enrolled once in school) among female heads of household	47% (52%)	51% (57%)	46% (56%)
Percentage of female-headed households owning arable land among female-headed households	15% (23%)	28% (43%)	33% (53%)

To be noted that there is no indigenous women as per the definition of Indigenous women by the United Nations (globally, there is no indigenous people as for UN definition on Côte d'Ivoire).

The population of Comoé District is characterized by the presence of several major ethnic groups (Agni, N'Zima, Abourés, etc.). The territory is mainly dominated by the Agni, who represent the main ethnic group of the District. The rest of the population is made up of the other ethnic groups of Côte d'Ivoire and foreigners coming mainly from countries of the West Africa sub-region (Burkina Faso, Ghana, etc.). Many of the non-native families are involved as agriculture labour in the cocoa and rubber farms, Ghanaian in fisheries and their women processing the fish.

In Lagoons district the populations is made up of native people (Odjoukrou, Abbey, Attié, Ebrié, Krobou...), and non-native people (from other districts of Côte d'Ivoire and other countries). In both districts the non-native people should be benefiting from the project interventions.

Elderly :

In Comoé district , the proportion of persons aged 60 and over is low with 3.8% and 3.6% in the regions of Indénié-Djuablin and Sud-Comoé, respectively (source Monography of the district).

In Lagoons district the proportion of people aged 60 and over is low in the three regions of the District, with 4.5%, 4.3%, and 5.1%, respectively for the regions of Grands Ponts, Agnéby-Tiassa and Mé.

Challenges of the elderly

Data collected during the field mission showed that elderly people face specific challenges and view the contributing factors to the constraints as follows: there are deteriorated road infrastructures and related to this the problem of marketing agricultural production (traders set derisory prices that are demotivating for producers).; low rubber prices and delays in payment procedures; the unavailability of arable land for agro-forestry and an important number of land disputes ; the fact as well that access to land is reserved for men and the lack of labourers with the aging of the agricultural population (average age is 45 years). Another factor is the lack of team spirit and important misunderstandings amongst the community.

Challenges for Youth:

In Lagoons district with a total population estimated at 1.2 million in 2014, or 5.3 per cent of the national population; the youth represents more than 40 per cent (under the age of 15).

In Comoé district the under 15 age group represents 42.8 % of the population.

During the project development, the field survey shows that, as in general, the challenges differ according to age and gender.

At the level of young people, the challenges are of several kinds: access to land, access to other factors of production, access to credit, organization, level of education, etc.

The major challenge seems to be linked to the mentality and lack of interest of young people in agriculture. It is important for the project to identify models of young people who practice environmentally friendly agriculture and who are successful in their community ("successful activity") in order to raise awareness among other young people, but also among older people who need to give more credit and motivation to encourage young people in agriculture. The following table (5) shows the constraints faced by young people:

Table 5: Constrains for young people

Identified Youth Constraints and Threats	Level of Importance of Constraint / Threat to Youth
1- Limited access to land	★★★★☆
2- Difficult access to selected plant material and other specific inputs	★★★★★
3- Lack of mechanization, protective equipment and the drudgery of production work	★★★★☆
4- The lack of interest of young people in agricultural activity	★★★★★
5- The high cost of agricultural labour force	★★★★☆
6- The low level of supervision of actors	★★★★★
7- The high illiteracy rate of producers	★★★★☆

8- The infidelity of producers towards their cooperatives	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
9- Lack of funding for plantation creation projects	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
10- The low level of bankable players	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

The questionnaire in Annex 2 allows the targeting of beneficiaries and the assessment of their degree of vulnerability (beneficiary and household). This questionnaire is to be filled in at the start of the project, at mid-term and at the end to assess the targeting and vulnerability reduction carried out by the project. The gender resource person who will be assigned to the project should have the capacity to carry out this targeting and related analysis.

The below table (6) presents the most common speculations in 2 departments of the targeted area.

Table 6 : Presentation of the most common speculations in the departments of Agboville and Aboisso

Rank	Collective Farming (in % of OPA visited)	Individual Farming (in % of OPA visited)
1	Cassava (67.92%)	Cassava (60.38%)
2	Rice (33.96%)	Market-gardening crops (32.07%)
3	Market-gardening crops (32.07%)	Maize (26.42%)
4	Yam (18.87%)	Groundnut (26.41%)
5	Maize (18.87%)	Rice (13.21%)
6	Groundnut (11.32%)	Fish (9.43%)
7	Pawpaw (7.55%)	Yam (5.66%)
8	Plantain (5.66%)	Plantain (5.66%)
9	Palm Oil (1.89%)	Palm Oil (3.89%)
10	Fish (1.89%)	Pawpaw (1.88%)

Interviews with ANADER in areas of Aboisso, Agboville and Adzopé revealed that services in the field for agroforestry and climate change are provided to producers and their cooperatives. These services are supported by various partners sensitive to the question of gender (CARGILL, GIZ; Cocoa coffee advice, etc.). The exchanges also made it possible to make other observations:

- Poor accessibility of information on low-carbon technologies and practices as well as funding for women's projects,
- Low participation of women in mixed meetings (they do not speak in public; their domestic workloads limit their availability for meetings),
- Funding opportunities are not always accessible to women (distance from MFIs, difficult procedure, etc.),
- Weak capacity of the institutions visited to address gender issues (no training received in Gender; no objective formulated for taking gender into account. Taking gender into account is not one of the results specifically expected for the projects and programs implemented in the mitigation and / or adaptation to climate change.

2-1-2- Land rights and access to land

In all three project areas, access to land is based mainly on customary rules rather than positive law. These customary rules are not generally to the advantage of women. Indeed, traditionally, women in most customs have only indirect access to land. They generally benefit from land acquired through the intermediary of a third party (usually a man: husband, lineage chief, other relative with the consent of the spouse, etc.) for their production, but have no control over resources. They are allocated degraded and remote land, which still has an influence on the working time already spent on household. In the project area, it was noted that for the creation of their own plantations, customary practices exclude them from inheritance tax in the majority of the potential regions of the project. However, among certain peoples like the Agnis of Aboisso, women have the possibility of inheriting land. In Agboville, it was reported in the Guessigué focus groups that some of them can inherit the land, provided that they assume the responsibilities of men, such as sacrificing an ox on the death of a close relative (father or mother).

Given the importance of women in agricultural work, it is necessary to improve their access to land and productive capital as well as their agricultural income to address some of the gender issues. This requires strengthening women's productivity to make them a powerful leader. In addition, ensuring secure land rights for women and men, promoting sustainable forest management and alleviating poverty is also necessary. As a reminder, at the global level, FAO estimates that women own only 2% of the world's land.

Constraints and concerns of women in the three areas regarding land can be summarized in several points:

- Lack of property rights and especially control over the land due to their traditional social status;
- Lack of useful information to improve their land situation;
- Poor access to technologies to intensify agricultural practices on allocated degraded land;
- Reinforcement of the precariousness of the land situation of some women due to the increase in the needs of families for fertile land, needs that are increasing with the segmentation of family farms, urbanization but also the arrival of new actors in the agricultural sector.

2-1-3- Production factors

In terms of production factors, rural women represent a resourceful economic force and contribute to family incomes. On family farms, they perform most of the work without perceiving any salary.

2-1-4- Positioning women in value chains

In Côte d'Ivoire, women play a central role in the supply chains, especially in crop production, food crops and market gardening. Food production in Côte d'Ivoire represents about 70% of agricultural added-value.

At the production level, the workforce is generally “family-based”, with a workload shared between men, women and children. The woman's work consists of sowing, weeding, harvesting, transporting, storing, managing the attic and processing. Men contribute to the plot preparation work (weeding, cleaning, etc.), which can have a greater impact on deforestation and forest degradation, and also contribute to the uprooting of tubers at harvest time.

Cassava is mainly processed into *placali* and *attiéké* by individual women or women in groups. The motorized crushers used belong either to private individuals or groups, which in most the case receive them as donations from development partners. After grinding, the process of transforming the dough into *attiéké* can be family, cooperative, entrepreneurial, artisanal, semi-industrial or industrial. For the market gardening in the project regions, the processing system remains traditional. Two types of processing are available at this level: either drying and then making the powder, or using the crushers to transform it into paste.

On the commercial side, women are more represented than men. Despite this, they perceive fewer financial resources from their efforts than men. The marketing of agricultural products (cassava, vegetables) is still informal. For cassava and market gardening products, women are almost entirely responsible for marketing. Sales prices are very volatile and depend on supply and demand. The actors involved in marketing are:

- Wholesalers or semi-wholesalers: These large rural traders manage part of the local market through their control over the sector. They temporarily employ collecting agents and have storage facilities and sometimes means of transport. This organization gives them a great deal of speculative capacity
- Retailers: Trade in locally produced fresh cassava is mainly carried out by rural traders, usually women. These local traders often have few financial resources, which forces them to quickly put the product back on the market without any real possibility of speculation.

For *placali* and *attiéké*, retailers obtain their supplies from processing units or wholesalers. They buy bags from 120 to 140 kg (for *placali*) and 40 kg bags or baskets for *attiéké* to repackage them in bags or by ball.

For the cocoa value chain, women's activities are more concentrated at the production level, from land development to the transport of nurseries, interviews, harvesting and post-harvest activities. Indeed, the work of Kossonou et al (2018)²¹ with 268 women involved in the management of cocoa-based forest systems showed that women are the main actors in plantation maintenance (91.4%) during the first year. They are active in the creation of nurseries (28%), planting (37.7%), pods harvesting (48.9%) and bean maintenance (36.4%). Their impacts on deforestation and forest degradation are thus less important than men.

Finally, in all areas visited during the mission, marketing problem was raised in the focus groups. In Sanhonkro (Aboisso) and Guessigué (Agboville), failure of road infrastructure exacerbates marketing problems. In general, producers have no commercial education. Women's productions are fragmented and their associations and cooperatives are not strong enough to organize the marketing of their members' productions and influence prices and marketing methods. In addition, difficulties in accessing credit and poor financial education are exacerbating these marketing problems. Associations and cooperatives are not financially capable of buying their members' production for cash and then marketing it. Mentalities and a weak cooperative spirit do not allow production to be regrouped for after-sales payment. This becomes a vicious circle in which women are engulfed with regard to marketing problems, especially among native women. Non-native women have mentalities and

²¹ Kossonou, Vroh, Tra et Al (2018), *Involvement of women in the family management of cocoa farms agroforestry systems in the Center of Côte d'Ivoire*

practices (tontines, grouping of productions, agreement on sale prices, etc.) which alleviate their marketing problems.

2-1-5- Benefit sharing from agricultural activities

Women often play an important role in agricultural production, they do not always have control over their shares of agricultural income and are frequently trapped in a cycle of low agricultural productivity and poverty, thus contributing to food security and nutrition problems for women and youth.

There are several possibilities regarding profit sharing. Generally, the husband is responsible for managing the income generated by agricultural activities in households, however in women's cooperatives, profit sharing can be done between members according to established internal rules. In the study area, recurring practices in this area consist in saving the group's income in a fund (or account) to finance a community project.

2-2- Women in forest management

2-2-1- Access to and use of forest resources

Forest harvesting is the use of wood, non-timber forest products and food products. Rural women are involved in several activities related to the use, harvesting and conservation of natural resources. They practice agriculture, non-timber forest products (NTFP) collection or fishing. These activities, while contributing to women's economic development, family food security, and improved livelihoods, often degrade forest areas and emit GHGs. Emissions of these gas related to women's employment are presented in the following section. However, women are involved in agroforestry, community forestry, and the rehabilitation of degraded areas through reforestation and forest restoration. Women and youth are responsible for collecting and using wood for family needs.

It is recognized that women play an important role in the management of natural and particularly forest resources. Most of them derive resources necessary for their survival and for their families from agriculture but also from food and market gardening production and the exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

At the local level, women's involvement in forest governance is still a challenge. Although women in rural areas are involved in a range of important forest-related activities (fuelwood collection, harvesting of non-timber forest products, etc.), they are almost non-existent in decision-making regarding the management of forest resources. Here as well, with education, this aspect needs to be solved if the country wants gender equity.

During focus group interviews, proposals were made for existing local species and those of interest to women. Table 7 shows identified species by region. In the 3 targeted areas, the Apki, the Kplé, and the fruit trees were mentioned. Non-wood products of these essences are used for consumption by most of the women. Some women are selling these products. Some lianas are used for medicinal purposes; around twenty women in Agboville, in the village of Guessiguié, are already practicing this activity as a profession.

Table 7 : Species and non-wood forest products per region.

Area	Sud Comoé	Agneby Tiassa	La Mé
Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teck, - Fruit tress (Avocado, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Akpi, - Cola, - Kplé or « boubouri », - Mushroom, - Lianes Akpi, - Petit cola, - Fruit trees (avocado, mango, orange) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frake, - Akpi, - Pklé, - Iroko, - Fruit trees (colatier, avocado, mango, orange)

2-2-2- Sharing of profits from forestry activities

They are poorly included in timber harvesting activities and do not influence income use decisions, which does not allow them to ensure that their needs are taken into account when implementing simple management plans.

2-3- Strengths and weaknesses analysis

During the implementation of the project, steps will be taken to specifically target smallholder farmers with the aim of improving their livelihoods through improved productivity and decision-making power.

Table 8: Matrix of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Important role in agricultural and cocoa production, - Role as guardians of traditions, - Sensitive to environmental issues, - At the institutional level, there is a real willingness to take gender into account in governance, - Women as backbone of the rural economy and Key role in household management and involvement in community management, -The important role of women in the production of dried and fermented cocoa (involved in 12 out of 19 farming groups), - Women bear the main responsibilities for agriculture, agroforestry and forestry in rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - laws and conventions are not always applied - the capacities of development actors are still weak in formulating measures and policies to truly transform the source of inequality at the grassroots level, - Low access to land and productive resources (inputs, financing), - Agricultural work and in particular in cocoa not recognized at its fair value, - Low representation in local governance, - Low organizational capacity of women, - Women also participate in the destruction of forest resources through the use of wood energy, - Socio-cultural norms and feminist stereotypes forged by community members about the distribution of tasks and burdens in families negatively influence women's well-being,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A high vulnerability of women to environmental degradation with an exposure ratio of 90% to the total population, - A weak capacity for gender mainstreaming by institutions in charge of training and supervising cocoa farmers, - Gender mainstreaming is not systematized in all parts of the cocoa value chain. Institutions involved in cocoa production do not always have the numbers and positioning of women in decision-making positions to set an example of gender-sensitive institutional integration, - Various initiatives have been undertaken in the cocoa sector without taking into account the needs of women, - The illiteracy rate is higher among women, - Socio-educational infrastructures in cocoa communities need to be strengthened to provide better environments for enhancing cocoa production. (Schools and health centers, etc.) in insufficient number and/or far away.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women in the target regions are receptive to environmental and forestry issues, - There is a strong political and institutional will for gender mainstreaming in Côte d'Ivoire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men remain dominant in the sector and show a reluctance/fear of losing their authorities if women are emancipated and/or empowered

2-4- Mission recommendations

Among this analysis, some recommendations can be made on the basis on field mission results which are listed below and have been used to enrich gender action plan:

- Empower women in awareness-raising actions on reforestation,
- Define quotas for taking women into account in projects and programmes, in particular those implemented by ANADER with its various partners and those to be implemented in the context of REDD +,
- Facilitate women's access to finance,
- Facilitate women's access to land,
- Continue raising public awareness of the land certificate,
- For the empowerment of women, and at their request promote the following activities:
 - o Functional literacy,
 - o Acquisition of large-scale grinders to improve the production conditions of attiéké,
 - o Improve the productivity of food crops (Cassava, plantain, chili, eggplant),
 - o Inform women about funding opportunities,

- Formalize and strengthen the capacities of women's groups (start with activities aimed at bringing about changes in mentality on the need for a cooperative spirit for the resolution of common / collective problems),
- Popularize agricultural equipment saving labor,
- All women use the mobile phone. It's an opportunity to popularize information,
- Take into account the entire value chain in supporting women (from production to marketing through processing),
- Provide accompanying measures (acquisition of inputs, seeds, etc.),
- Raising awareness of the cooperative spirit and the organization of producers,
- Strengthen the capacities of women on well identified needs aligned with the needs of traders (market needs) and on opportunities and capacities for transformation,
- Better organize the value chains by taking into account all the actors in the value chain,
- The common sites (community field) must serve as a training site (school field) and not constitute the foundation of the organization. The organization must serve to unite the forces for more power in terms of prices, organization of supplies and marketing, influence on strategic decisions.

One of the main issues in logic of the interventions will be to increase the number of women in decision making bodies in terms of local development plans and in establishing/ defining and budgeting the pathways for forest restoration and agroforestry: the crops that will be chosen and the investments in a number of value chains will have major implications on women's empowerment in the process:

- Choosing cassava and banana as source of livelihoods diversification in restoration; investing in certified processes for producing attiéké, flour of banana and cassava that could be used in the production of bread in cities (Abidjan);
- Cola, Gliricidia (potential for animal feed and IGA or women) as associated shade trees for cocoa (agro forestry).

For forest restoration interventions, there should be a preliminary assessment on male and female interests in the restoration and how to make sure that 30% of the beneficiaries will be women.

3. GHG emissions related to women's activities in REDD+ project areas

In project areas, women are most often wives or relatives of cocoa farmers. They are aids, often unavoidable, on family farms. As a result, they cultivate food crops on small areas outside the family field or they practice animal husbandry. In the five communities visited in Agboville and Aboisso (Fair labor, 2015), women are the first responsible for food production and are the backbone of this activity.

Individually or in association, women still cultivate food crops. In general, women produce the food in association with perennial crops in the family field. However, outside family farms, women often also own food gardens. They grow vegetables, groundnuts and/or cassava. Regarding GHG emissions from agriculture related to women's activities in the project areas, they can be described as low. Indeed, women's crops are grown without turning the land upside down and with low use of chemical

fertilizers due to financial constraints and land insecurity. As a result, nitrous oxide emissions from women's subsistence agriculture are relatively low.

As for men, only a tiny part of them grow food products. They are mainly used in the production of maize, rice, manioc and tomatoes. In tomato production in particular, chemical inputs are used, contributing to GHG emissions.

Livestock, commonly considered as a GHG emitting sector (specifically methane), is practiced by women in a traditional way. Indeed, they raise on a small-scale animal species such as pork, goat, sheep and traditional chicken commonly known as *bicycle chicken*. In the Agboville and Aboisso areas, a few men are also trying, but women largely dominate this activity. Large ruminants, such as cattle that contribute significantly to methane gas emissions, are not among the animals raised by women in the project areas.

Commercial-scale fisheries production is negligible in the five communities visited in Agboville and Aboisso (Fair labor, 2015). No women interviewed mentioned their involvement in this activity. Nevertheless, due to the existence of natural watercourses in both regions, some young men are involved in fishing activities and women are involved in the marketing of fishery products as mentioned in the study report. Fishing is traditionally carried out by pirogue or fishing rod and the products produced from it are very marginal and are primarily intended to feed the households of those who practice it. When catches are large, the surplus is used to supply the market. In this case, women are the main distribution channels in the markets. Food processing and conservation methods remain traditional and limited. These techniques use wood from forests as fuel. This use of wood energy can contribute to increasing GHG emissions through the release of previously stored CO₂.

In addition, it should also be noted that, at the marketing level, there are women wholesalers in the Agboville, Aboisso and La Mé areas. They collect crops from food crops and take them to urban centers. This marketing activity requires vehicles (vans or trucks) that consume fuel (fossil fuel). So indirectly, marketing contributes to CO₂ emissions.

Extension workers offer service packages to improve productivity while reducing GHG emissions and deforestation to women and men producers. Many constraints reduce women's ability to apply these responses. These include low access to land ownership, illiteracy, overburdened and difficult work for women (archaic tools and materials), poor access to information on availability (where to find improved seeds?), poor access to finance, low decision-making power of women within the household on resource allocation, priorities and family budget.

In summary, GHG emissions from women's activities can be described as relatively low, given the low use of inputs in crops and non-intensive livestock production focused on chickens and small ruminants. Table 4 provides a summary of activities and perceptions (low to high) of GHG emissions and women's constraints.

Table 9: GHG emissions related to women's activities in the project regions

Type of activity of women	Characteristics of the activity	GHG emissions	Technologies recommended by ANADER extension	Women's constraints on access to low-carbon practices and technologies
Food crop cultivation	No or low intensification: - No turning of the soil, - No or low use of chemical inputs	Low	High yielding variety resistant to drought and disease - Burying of plant debris - Bio-pesticide based on local products	Low access to land ownership does not motivate investment Poor access to information on low-carbon technologies and practices Lack of money/no access to credit Low time available to participate in training and practice time-consuming technologies
Marketing of food products	Use of freight transport vehicles that consume fossil fuel (fuel)	Low to Medium	Prior information on marketing channels Contracts with merchants	Women's illiteracy Spray production Need for an organization for sales consolidation and price negotiation
Breeding	- Small-scale breeding of chickens and small ruminants, - Absence of large ruminants in women farmers	Low methane emission	Not documented	Not documented
Fishing	Processing and conservation of fishery products using wood energy	Low	Improved wood-efficient and energy-efficient furnaces	Poor access to information
Meal preparation	Use of wood energy	Low	Promotion of improved stoves, Processing of agricultural residues	Time constraints that limit participation in training

4- Gender action plan

The gender strategy proposed under the project, which aims to reduce GHG emissions through REDD+, is organized around four (4) axis:

- Axis 1: Equal opportunities and benefits for women in the establishment and maintenance of cocoa agroforestry systems and forest restoration;
- Axis 2: Women's empowerment;
- Axis 3: Strengthening the capacities of actors to systematically take gender into account in all development strategies and activities; and
- Axis 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

The activities detailed in the action plan will be adjusted and negotiated with beneficiaries and key stakeholders at the beginning of project implementation. The Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager will be responsible for leading the consultations to strengthen and finalize this plan. The project aims to take into account the complex dynamics in the project zone between Ivorian nationals and immigrants and to identify strategies to promote social cohesion within the framework of the project. Migrants to the area are primarily from Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Many migrants work in the maintenance of plantations (cocoa, palm oil, rubber) and thus may be part of the project's target beneficiaries. A research analysis will be conducted in the inception phase to review this issue.²²

4-1- AXIS 1: Equal opportunities and benefits for women in the establishment and maintenance of agroforestry systems based on cocoa and forest restoration

Under Axis 1, actions are aimed at equalizing women's opportunities and benefits by improving agricultural and cacao productivity, developing agroforestry systems, restoring forests and mangroves, and increasing women's access to land. The engagement of women in Axis 1 includes:

- **Environmentally friendly agricultural intensification.** The project will provide training on techniques for agricultural intensification. Rather than expanding production at the expense of forests, women and men will be trained on how to grow cocoa and other crops in co-existence with forests. Yields will be increased without depleting soils.
- **Organic cacao production techniques.** Since the project will promote organic cacao products, an ecosystem/integrated pest management approach will be used to manage pests. Women will be trained in the use and production of organic fertilizers and biological techniques for the control of pests (i.e. techniques using plant residues and animal excreta).
- **Agroforestry techniques.** Training will be provided in agroforestry techniques and crops inserted in the agroforestry system according the project plan. Particular attention will be paid to women's needs.
- **Restoration of forest and mangrove landscapes.** An in-depth analysis of the options for forest restoration and the benefits they could provide to women will be conducted in the inception phase. These activities will include the restoration of mangroves (in Sud-Comoé and La Mé). Women will be involved in planting activities through reforestation contracts with both husbands

²² Initial data collection indicates that Lagon district is populated mainly by Ivorians (71.4%, 1998). Sud Comoé district also has a significant number of migrants, with -migration continuing from the 1970s. Comoé District, with a population of approximately 30% migrants, is one of the most attractive districts in Côte d'Ivoire for foreigners, particularly because of its proximity to the city of Abidjan.

and wives (as opposed to only heads of households). Attention will be paid to the risks of increased GBV resulting from women's increased autonomy and financial independence.

- **Improving women's access to land.** While Côte d'Ivoire's legal framework guarantees women's inheritance rights, in practice, women's access to land and productive assets is limited. The project will address this issue through awareness raising on the issue through training and support to the territorial development planning process. New plans will be developed with a gender responsive approach, ensuring that women are part of the local decision making process and that guarantees for their access to land are included in the plans.

4-2- AXIS 2: Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment requires not only improving agricultural productivity - since agriculture is the most important livelihood activity for women in rural areas - but also diversification and skills development beyond agriculture. Thus, the following actions will be included in Output 2.4 *Strengthened agricultural financing structures and business capacities for cocoa cooperatives and smallholders* specifically in activity 2.4.2. *Development of business models and financial literacy for cooperatives and producers* and activity 2.4.3. *Development of partnerships with private sector and micro-finance* institutions:

- **Increasing market access through diversification of activities.** The project will improve incomes for women by providing support on access to markets. Activities will focus on diversification of activities and business planning. Based on the zone-specific options for agroforestry, support will be provided to women to develop business plans for: (i) cassava processing; (ii) fruit processing; (iii) fish processing; (iv) banana plantain processing; (v) bread-making with the use of cassava flour and plantain flour. Attention will be paid to the risks of increased GBV resulting from women's increased financial independence;
- **Access to finance.** Women's access to finance is constrained by lack of financial literacy. The project will address this issue through the development of business plans and the link the project will trigger between cooperatives and micro-finance institutions / local banks as well as savings groups and facilitation of entrepreneurship dialogues;
- **Capacity building on organizational development and leadership.** The project aims to increase women's leadership, management and decision-making roles in the key sector organizations, such as cacao cooperatives. The project will support training and capacity building on leadership and organizational management for women and youth. In addition, exchanges of experience (e.g. field visits) will be organized to build grassroots networks and mentorship. Women will learn skills related to entrepreneurship, managerial activities, facilitation, and conflict resolution;
- **Promoting social cohesion, respect, and cooperation.** Gender based violence (GBV) is recognized as a significant problem in the project zone and poses risks to the project implementation if not adequately addressed. The project will take a proactive role to address the problem of GBV by organizing couples dialogues for men and women to make decisions together and reduce GBV. In addition, the issue of GBV will be included as a session in all relevant training courses. Consultations and discussions will be organized to design strategies for building mutual respect and greater social cohesion at the community and household level;
- **Gender balanced staff and gender expert in the team.** The recruitment of project staff and consultants will promote gender balance. Women will be encouraged to apply for all positions. The aim will be to have up to 30% female staff, with women also playing a role in management. In addition, the project will employ a full-time gender expert (Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation

Action Manager). He/she will play a key role in leading the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

In general, attention will be paid to the time burdens of women as part of economic and social empowerment. To alleviate women's time burdens, the project will consider child care solutions as well as time and labor saving technologies related to fuel wood and water collection.

4-3- AXIS 3: Capacity building of actors to mainstream gender in all development strategies and activities

In the institutions visited during the field mission, very few development practitioners (i.e. project managers) had received any form of gender training. Gender has generally not been taken into account in projects and programmes in the area despite the fact that women face many constraints to participate in and benefit from development projects and programmes. Poor access to land reduces women's investment in productive activities; their time constraints and limited access to information coupled with high rates of illiteracy limit their participation in training and skills development. The threat of GBV may be another factor holding women back from achieving their full potential. Capacity building on gender will be carried out at both institutional and producer levels. As such, the following actions have been integrated into Component 1 (which includes capacity strengthening of REDD+ Executive secretariat) Output 2.1.1. *Territorial planning and land security strengthened* and Output 2.1.2. *Local governance reinforced*. The project foresees a number of interventions to boost capacity to mainstream gender:

- **Training and awareness on gender for the project team and partners.** All members of the project team and its partners will participate in training and awareness-raising on gender. This training will not only sensitize staff to gender related issues such as GBV, but it will also give them the knowledge and skills to integrate gender throughout their work – from planning to facilitation to reporting.
- **Capacity strengthening of the REDD+ Executive Secretariat on gender.** Gender is an important dimension in actions to tackle deforestation and forest degradation, as well as to improve the well-being of communities. For example, organizers of consultation processes must be aware of gender issues and strategies to overcome gender barriers in order to make these processes inclusive and effective. The project will provide support to the Secretariat with training, awareness raising, and coaching to mainstream gender in its activities.
- **Engagement of female forest technicians and extension workers.** The project will engage female forest technicians and extension workers in the project activities to facilitate both the identification of women's concerns and changes in their perceptions when women are available for these expertise (related to activity 2.1.1 and activity 2.3.1.). As much as possible, women will be involved not only for execution of activities but will be involved in decision-making process.
- **Gender awareness and capacity building for producer groups / cooperatives.** The project will also support gender awareness and capacity building for members of producer groups and cacao cooperatives in order to overcome gender inequalities and promote women's autonomy. Topics may include women's organizational capacities and leadership, natural resource management processes and mechanisms, and sustainable forest management alternatives for women. Awareness-raising campaigns on gender and GBV will also be directed towards men through tools

such as the *Ecole des Maris* "Husbands' School". Gender capacity building will increase men's willingness to facilitate women's access to productive capital.

4-4 AXIS 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan

Under Axis 4 of the project, the focus will be on monitoring and evaluation of progress in implementing this Gender Action Plan. The following actions are planned:

- **Gender-monitoring support system.** To ensure an effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan, a gender-sensitive database system will be set up with the support of the full-time Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager. In addition, periodic monitoring and field support missions will be organized, with regular visits by this officer. He/she will prepare periodic reports to take stock of activities, to identify strengths and weaknesses of the project actions in relation to gender, and to guide adjustments as necessary. Gender disaggregated data will be collected for all activities with project beneficiaries. Attention will also be paid to tracking women's participation in relevant decision-making bodies and governance structures (e.g. agricultural/cacao cooperatives, business organizations, forest management committees). Evaluation studies carried out in relation to Activity 2.3.1 will incorporate a gender dimension to identify strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities for improvement.
- **Grievance redress mechanism.** A project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be established that is accessible to all stakeholders, with sensitivity to women's needs and constraints. The GRM will clearly describe who project beneficiaries can safely turn to in the case of a grievance or complaint. Any reports of GBV in relation to project activities will be acted on immediately and in an appropriate manner according to the GRM as well as FAO policy. Furthermore, all project staff will know the procedures for taking action on reports of GBV. Issues of child labor related to project activities may also be reported and dealt with through this mechanism.
- **FAO gender mainstreaming policies.** Under FAO's policies and obligations related to gender mainstreaming, each staff will be responsible (as defined also in their job description/terms of reference) for mainstreaming gender during the implementation of his/her work. Furthermore, all staff will be required to participate in gender training at the beginning of the project. Advice and support will be available to staff as needed to boost their capacity on gender and help them to overcome any constraints or obstacles encountered in these efforts.
- **Full-time gender expert.** The Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager, a dedicated full time staff, will track progress and provide coaching and feedback to staff to ensure that gender mainstreaming is a continuous commitment throughout project implementation. All staff will be obligated to report on gender aspects as part of back-to-office reporting and gender will be a standing agenda item in team meetings. Finally, noteworthy achievements on empowering women and reaching gender equality in the project activities will be duly recognized and shared. This multi-faceted methodology will ensure the inclusion of gender and active participation of women throughout implementation of the project.

Table 10 : Action plans

Activities	Indicators and objectives	Period 1: Mid-term	Period 2: End of the project	Responsibilities	Costs
Impact Statement: Efforts to reduce deforestation are more effective due to women's empowerment and increased capacities on gender					
Results statement: Women's opportunities and benefits in forest restoration and agroforestry system management improved. Indicators: Increase in the number of forests restored by women by the end of the project; Increase in the percentage of women practicing zero deforestation agriculture by the end of the project; Rural women empowered through increased decision making authority. Indicators: Increase in women's average income by at least 10% by the end of the project; Increase in the number of women participating in decision making bodies of the agricultural/cacao cooperatives. Capacity on gender among project team, partners, and institutional actors increased. Indicators: Number of gender-sensitive local development plans.					
Statement of outputs: Axis1 : Equal opportunities and benefits for women in the establishment and maintenance of agroforestry cocoa systems and forest restoration					
Activities	Indicators and objectives	Period 1: Mid-term	Period 2: End of the project	Responsibilities	Costs (USD)
1-1-Improvement of agricultural productivity.	Percentage of women using agricultural intensification techniques that respect the environment and forest landscapes.	20%	60%	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	2,707,394
1-2-Restoration of forest landscapes by women (related to Activity 2.3.1 of the funding proposal)	Percentage of women practicing zero-deforestation agriculture Forests restored by women (# hectares)	20% 40 ha (2.5% of the 1500 ha to be restored)	20% 115 ha (8% of the 1500 ha to be restored)		

1-3 Women's access to land increases (related to Activity 2.1.2 of the funding proposal)	Women's tenure rights (% application for land titles)	15% of the application for land titles by women	30% of the application for land titles by women		
Axis 2: Women's empowerment					
2-1-Diversification of activities and income to increase market access	Improvement of women's average income by 10%.	2%	10%	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	590,720
2-2-Capacity building on organizational development and leadership	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	20%	50%		
(related to Activities 2.3.1 and 2.4.1. of the funding proposal)	Number of women participating in decision making bodies of agricultural/cacao cooperatives	3	5		
	Number of training sessions and couples dialogues covering the topic of GBV.				
	Existence of a full time Gender expert in the project team.				
Axis 3: Strengthening the capacities of actors to systematically integrate gender into all development strategies and activities.					
3-1-Gender capacity building of institutional actors and project beneficiaries, incorporating awareness on GBV to reduce risks.	Number of gender training courses received by beneficiaries and project managers	3	5	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	1,013,660
3-2-Gender-sensitive local territorial planning (related to Activity 2.1.1 of the funding proposal)	Number of gender-sensitive local development plans	13	23		

Axis 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan						
4-1-Monitoring and continuous evaluation of progress towards gender equality throughout the project	Existence of a monitoring and evaluation unit	0	1	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manage (M&E officer)	434,880	
4-2 Management of the grievance redress mechanism (including procedures for addressing GBV related to project activities)	Number of field missions and gender-sensitive studies carried out					
(related to all activities, and throughout the project)	Existence of grievance redress mechanism	1	1			
List of activities						
Axis 1: Equal opportunities and benefits of women in the establishment and maintenance of cacao agroforestry systems and forest restoration						
Output 1-1-Improvement of agricultural productivity						
Activity 1-1-1-Training in environmentally friendly agricultural intensification techniques, agroforestry techniques (related to activity 2.3.1.)	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manage	125,000	
Activity 1-1-2-Training women in the production and use of organic fertilizers (from plant residues and animal excreta) and biological pest control techniques (related to activity 2.3.1.)	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manage	107,394	
Output 1-2-Restoration of forest landscapes by women						
Activity 1-2-1-Restoration of forest landscapes with the involvement of women in planting activities (related to activity 2.3.1.)	Number of women directly benefiting from forest restoration activities (individual or collective)	50	150	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	400,000	

Activity 1-2-2- Mangrove restoration (south Come and La Mé) (related to activity 2.3.1.)	Restored mangrove areas with women's involvement (# hectares)	1% of the total area of restored mangroves	5% of the total area of restored mangroves	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	100,000
Output 1-3- Women's access to land					
Activity 1-3.1- Advocacy for women's land allocation (related to activity 2.1.2.)	Number of gender sensitization process including sessions related to women's access to land	5	20	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	40,000
Activity 1.3.2- Development of local development plans with a gender perspective and guarantees of women's access to land (related to activity 2.1.1.)	Women's tenure rights (i.e. land titles, # of hectares managed or owned)			Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	127,000
Axis 2: Women's empowerment					
Output 2-1-Diversification of women's activities and incomes					
Activity 2-1-1- Support for the implementation of Income Generating Activities (IGA) (related to activity 2.3.1.)	Number of IGAs implemented by women	2	4	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	50,000
Activity 2-1-2- Access to financial resources (related to activity 2.4.1.)	Number of women who received financial support	1%	25%	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	75,000
Output 2-2 Organizational development and leadership					
Activity 2-2-1- Training for women on digital literacy, personal development, leadership, entrepreneurship and managerial activities (related to activity 2.4.1.)	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	50,000
Activity 2-2-2- Strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of women and youth, individually and	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	50,000

collectively (related to activity 2.4.1.)	Number of women taking on new leadership or management roles in relevant governance structures				
Activity 2-2-3- Strengthening social cohesion of households / Couples dialogue for men and women to make decisions together incorporating also awareness on GBV (related to activity 2.1.1.)	Number of training courses for women or with at least 30% women participating	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manage	25,000
Activity 2-2-4 Gender balanced project team including gender expert (related to all activities, and throughout the project)	Proportion of women and men in the team (at least 30% women) Existence of gender expert in the team	 1	30% 1		150,000
Axis 3: Strengthening the capacities of actors to systematically integrate gender into all development strategies and activities.					
Output 3-1-Gender capacity building of institutional actors and project beneficiaries					
Activity 3-1-1- Training and awareness-raising of the project team on gender (including issues of GBV) and harmonization and better understanding of gender by project operators and producer communities (related to activity 2.4.2.)	Number of training courses	3	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	360,000
Activity 3-1-2- Involvement of forest technicians and female extension workers to facilitate both the identification of women's concerns and changes in their perceptions (related to activity 2.1.1 and activity 2.3.1.)	Number of female technicians and extension workers involved in the project	5	10	Project Team	526,660

Output 3-2-Gender-sensitive local and territorial planning						
Activity 3-2-1- Development of gender-sensitive local development plans (related to activity 2.1.1)	Number of gender-sensitive development plans	13	23	Project team and Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	115,000	
Axis 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan						
Output 4-1-Monitoring and continuous evaluation throughout the project						
Activity 4-1-1- Establishment of a gender-sensitive reference database (related to activity 2.3.1)	Existence of the reference database and disaggregated data for participation in all project activities	1	1	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	134,880	
Activity 4-1-2- Carrying out evaluation studies (related to activity 2.3.1)	Number of evaluation studies conducted	2	5	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	100,000	
Output 4-2-Management of the REDD+ grievance redress mechanism						
Activity 4-2-1 Establishment and operationalization of a grievance redress mechanism accessible (related to activity 1.2.3.)	Existence of the grievance redress mechanism	1	1	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	255,000	
Activity 4-2-3 Development of procedures to handle reports of GBV accompanied by awareness raising and capacity building for staff on the issue and procedures.	Existence of procedures to handle reports of GBV	1	1	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation Action Manager	50,000	

Annex 1: Gender-differentiated data of stakeholder consultation

The following table summarizes the gender-differentiated data according to the types of stakeholders and types of consultation carried out

The tables below give details by region of the various meetings held and the number of people met.

Table 11: Number of consulted people

Stakeholder type	Number of consulted people			Consultation type
	Total	Men	Women	
Guidance structure ANADER zones	30	13	7	Exchange meeting
Customary authorities (Chiefs and notables) ;	15	15	0	Exchange meeting
Decentralized authorities	5	5	0	Semi-structured interview
Local authorities	8	5	3	Semi-structured interview
Women's NGOs	11	1	10	Semi-structured interview
Women's cooperatives and associations	52	3	49	Focus group And quantitative survey
Cassava processors	16	3	13	Survey with structured questionnaire
Cocoa cooperatives	22	10	12	Focus group and Survey with structured questionnaire
Head of Household	165	106 (64,3%)	59 (35,7%)	Survey with structured questionnaire

Annex 2: questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE : CIBLAGE DES BENEFICIAIRES ET EVALUATION DU DEGRE DE VULNERABILITE DU BENEFICIAIRE ET DU MENAGE

- 1) Fiche d'Evaluation du Degré de Vulnérabilité des membres (EDVM) des OPA bénéficiaires

N° : _____ Date : _____

Nom de l'enquêteur : _____

IDENTIFICATION ET LOCALISATION DE L'OPA

1. Région : _____

2. Département : _____

3. Commune : _____

4. Village : _____

CARACTERISATION DU MEMBRE DE L'OPA ENQUETÉE

4. Nom du membre de l'OPA enquêtée ? _____

5. Nom de l'OPA d'appartenance : _____

6. Nom chef de l'exploitation ? _____

7. Age chef de l'exploitation ? _____

8. Sexe du chef de l'exploitation ? 1. HOMME 2. FEMME

9. Situation matrimoniale ? a. Marié(e) b. Célibataire c. Divorcé (e) c. Concubinage

10. Ages du chef du ménage : a. moins de 18 ans b. 18 à 30 ans c. + 30 ans

11. Nombre de conjointes (si polygame) :

12. Age de / des conjointe (s) :

13. Niveau de scolarisation du chef de l'exploitation : a. Primaire b. Secondaire c. Supérieure
d. Arabe e. Alphabétisation f. Autres

14. Taille du ménage : a. 0 enfant b. 1-2 enfants c. 3-5 enfants d. + 5 enfants

15. Nombre d'enfants scolarisés : a. 0 enfant, b. 1 enfant c. 2 enfants d. 3 enfants

e. 4 enfants f. 5 enfants g. plus de 5 enfants

16. Tranche d'âge des enfants du ménage :

Enfants du ménage	< 1 an	1-5 ans	6-10 ans	11 – 15 ans	15 – 18 ans	19 – 25 ans	26 – 30 ans
Garçon							
Fille							
TOTAL							

17. Tranche d'âge des autres membres du ménage :

Autres membres du ménage	< 1 an	1-5 ans	6-10 ans	11 – 15 ans	15 – 18 ans	19 – 25 ans	26 – 30 ans
Garçon							
Fille							
TOTAL							

18. Niveau de scolarisation des enfants (enfants du ménage + autres membres)

Enfants du ménage	Non scolarisé	Islamique	Alphabétisation	CP	CE	CM	1 ^{er} cycle	2 nd cycle	Supérieur
Nombre de Garçon									
Nombre de Fille									
TOTAL									

19. Aides agricoles et actifs agricoles

Aide agricole	Moins de 15	15 – 18 ans	19 – 30 ans	+ 30 ans	Actifs agricoles	Parcelle (ha)	Petit Outillage	Equipement	Moyen de transport (vélo,
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	ans						agricole		moto, tricycle, camion)
Hommes					Bien propre				
Femmes					Bien de l'OPA				
TOTAL					Location				

PS : Matériels agricoles possédés par le membre ? a. Semoir b. Houe occidentale c. Houe sine
d. Motoculteur e. Tracteur

20. Identification des moyens d'existence du ménage

MOYEN D'EXISTENCE	Parcelle de culture maraîchère (ha)	Parcelle de culture vivrière (racine, tubercule, céréales) (ha)	Nombre de tête de volaille (poulet, canards, pintade, etc.)	Nombre de tête de caprins	Nombre de tête de ovins	Nombre de tête de bovins	TYPE D'HABITAT	Maison en terre	Maison en dur
Bien propre							Nombre de pièce		
Bien du / de la conjoint (e)							Bien propre		
Bien de la famille élargie							Location		

21. Accès aux services sociaux de base

A) **Accès à l'eau** : a. Cours d'eau b. Puits c. HVA d. SODECI

B) **Eclairage** : a. Lampe à pétrole b. Lampe solaire c. Panneaux solaires d. Electrification rurale

C) **Soins de Santé** : a. Médecine traditionnelle b. Automédication c. Centre de santé d. Autres

22. Revenus et activités économiques

A) **Superficie cultivée par an en cacaoculture** ? a. 0-1ha ; b.1- 2 ha ; c.2-3 ha ; d.3-4ha. e.4-5 ha ; f.6-10 ha ; g. plus de 10ha

B) **Superficie cultivée par an (autres cultures)** : a. 0-1ha ; b.1- 2 ha ; c.2-3 ha ; d.3-4ha. e.4-5 ha ; f.6-

10 ha ; g. plus de 10ha

C) Autres cultures pratiquées : _____

23. Estimation du revenu individuel par an en FCFA :

a. 50 000-100 000 ; ☐ b. 100 000-200 000 ; ☐ c. 250 000 - 350 000 ; d. ☐ 350 000 - 500 000 ; e. ☐ + 500 000

24. Principale source de revenu membre ? _____

25. Autres sources de revenu du membre ? (À préciser) _____

26. Si l'enquêté est une femme adulte, préciser contribution à la vie de son ménage :

27. Si l'enquêté est un jeune homme préciser contribution à la vie de son ménage : _____

SECURITE ALIMENTAIRE

28. Quelles sont les périodes de soudure dans l'année ? _____

29. Le ménage de l'enquêté a-t-il des difficultés à traverser les périodes de soudure ?

1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐

30. Si oui Quelles sont les difficultés rencontrées ? _____

Si non, comment y fait-il face ? _____

31. Nombre de mois pendant lesquels la production du ménage arrive à couvrir les besoins alimentaires : a. 0 - 3 mois ; ☐ b. De 3-6 mois ; c. De 6 à 9 mois ; d. 9 à 12 mois

DIVERSIFICATION DE LA PRODUCTION

32. Spéculations cultivées : ☐ 1. Maraichage 2. Autres vivriers

3. Elevage 4. Pisciculture 5. Agro-foresterie 6. Autres (préciser)

33. Rendement pour la spéculation / Production concernée ?

PERCEPTION DE LA PAUVRETE

34. Conception sociale du concept de « pauvreté »

- Pour vous, c'est quoi être pauvre ? _____

- Parmi les éléments suivants lesquels représentent pour vous un indicateur de pauvreté ?

- a. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en consommation alimentaire : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- b. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en santé : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- c. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en logement : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- d. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en habillement : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- e. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en revenu : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- f. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en éducation : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- g. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en dépense cérémoniale : 1. Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- h. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins en dépense bien matériel : Oui ☐ 2. Non ☐
- i. Incapacité de satisfaire ses besoins dans autres domaines (à préciser)

STRATEGIE D'ADAPTATION FACE AUX CRISES

En cas de crise comment faites-vous face ?
