

Cover Page for Project/Program Approval Request

1. Country/Region:	Ivory Coast	2. CIF Project ID#:	(Trustee will assign ID)
3. Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIP	<input type="checkbox"/> PPCR	<input type="checkbox"/> SREP
4. Project/Program Title:	FOREST INVESTMENT PROJECT		
5. Type of CIF Investment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
6. Funding Request in million USD equivalent:	<i>Grant: US\$5.56 MILLION</i>	<i>Non-Grant: US\$9.44 MILLION</i>	
7. Implementing MDB(s):	World Bank		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Environnement and Sustainable Development		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	<i>Headquarters- Focal Point: Garo Batmanian, Lead Environmental Specialist and Meerim Shakirova, Operations Analyst.</i>	<i>TTL: Salimata D. Follea, Sr. Natural Resources Management Specialist</i>	
10. Project/Program Description (including objectives and expected outcomes):			

The objective of the Forest Investment Project for Ivory Coast is to conserve and increase the forest stock and enhance the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities in the project target zones. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the farmers and local forest dependent communities, a population of about 345,000 people within the target GFs and in their immediate adjacent lands.

The project level results indicators are the following:

- Emissions reductions resulting from avoidance of deforestation, forest degradation and investment in afforestation/reforestation and agro-forestry in the target zones (in tons of CO₂ eq.);
- Reforested and afforested areas (by ha);
- Communities adjacent to targeted GFs with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits (in percentage).
- Satisfaction of beneficiaries (level of engagement, by gender and age).

The two geographic regions of project interventions were selected for both their high rates of deforestation and their connection through the migration of cocoa producers from one region (center) to the other (southwest).

The Center region covers some 3.5 million ha (about 11% of the country's land area) and includes the administrative regions of Gbèkè, Bélier, Iffou, and N'Zi. The region contains 42 relatively small Gazetted Forests (GFs) with a total area of about 0.23 million ha, while the Rural Domain (RD) accounts for around 3.3 million ha of land. The Center region was once the most productive area, home to the former cocoa belt. However, due to overuse and unsustainable exploitation of resources, the area lost its attraction for both agriculture and forestry as trees gradually disappeared from the landscape and soil quality and biodiversity became degraded, and many among the region's rural population joined the heavy migration toward the southwest from the 1970s on. As a result, due to lower agricultural pressure, the Center region has today a major potential for regenerating its forest cover.

The South-West region covers an area of approximately 4 million ha (about 12.5% of the country's land area) and includes the five administrative sub-regions of San-Pedro, Gboklè, Guémon, Cavally, and Nawa. The region encompasses 17 GFs (for a total area of around 1.1 million ha) while the Rural Domain covers approximately 2.4 million ha. The last decades have seen a huge growth in populations through migration from both within the country (many from the Center, former cocoa belt) and from outside its borders for reasons both economic and political. This led to the exponential expansion of cocoa crop to the severe detriment of the GFs. Political instability in the years 2000-2010 created even greater incursions into the region and its Gazetted Forests.

The country has recently launched a new forest sector policy (*Déclaration de Politique Forestière 2017*) focused on a zero-deforestation agriculture and sustainable management of the country's protected areas (GFs and National Parks). The strategy encompasses in particular: (i) restoration of degraded GFs; (ii) concessions of highly degraded GFs by cocoa farming to the private sector for sustainable agroforestry (through introduction of trees and intensification on existing cocoa plantations); (iii) GF concessions for sustainable production of timber and fuelwood; (iv) agricultural intensification; and (v) creation of new protected areas or agroforestry protected areas in the rural domain.

The FIP is the first program to pilot the implementation of the new forest sector policy: While the ADB project supports the policy execution in the rural domain, the WB focusses on its implementation in protected areas (GFs and the Taï National Park).

11. Consistency with Investment Criteria¹:

The proposed project originates from the Forest Investment Plan developed to address key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire through agriculture intensification, agro-forestry, restoration of degraded forests, afforestation, and promotion of alternative to fuel wood extracted from gazetted forests. The project will follow international good practice guidelines for the implementation of sound agro-forestry and agriculture intensification in partnership with Bank financed support to the Agricultural Sector Project (PSAC). The project will also partner with IFC's work providing lending to women and agribusiness, particularly with regards to supporting women in agro-forestry.

More information could be found at the Project appraisal document (page 23).

12. Stakeholder engagement²:

Lessons Learned and Reflected in the Project Design

The project design benefits from a range of lessons learned from national, regional and international efforts to promote effective forest restoration, afforestation, conservation and enhanced livelihoods of communities. While the project incorporates a landscape approach in its design in recognition of lesson learned globally on the complex set of actors, activities and environments at play in a large-scale forest investment, it also incorporates lessons from well-proven forestry and agroforestry initiatives.

The importance of co-management with community and stakeholder involvement for successful implementation of restoration and conservation initiatives has been shown in several countries and regions over the past decades. Over the past 15 years, for example, Benin has shown itself to be a leader in successfully building capacity in communities and NGOs for co-management and surveillance as well as commitment within their own government agencies to these principles. Project design elements for co-management, community and stakeholder participation and independent oversight by NGOs are based on lessons learned from the Benin experience through direct cooperation between the two countries' forestry departments.

13. Gender considerations³:

¹ Please provide the information in the cover page or indicate page numbers in the accompanying project/program document where such information can be found.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

It is planned, to develop a gender strategy for the project in a participatory manner in order to ensure targeted gender actions are identified and implemented and women and youths not only participate in the project, but also benefit and are empowered by it (e.g. take leadership roles).

The project has many gender targeted activities in the project components/sub-components, for example:

Component on Participatory development and implementation of GFs management plans will pay a special attention to communication to women in the villages adjacent to the GFs so that they are fully informed of the objectives sought and take an active part in the establishment of the CLCG and hold key roles including leadership positions in the committees.

Under sub-component on Development and implementation of an incentive system to reduce pressure on forest resources. Contracts will be signed by both men and women and not be contingent on land ownership, which can exclude women from receiving benefits from the program. Furthermore at least 10% of incentive-based subproject funds will be directed to targeted gender activities.

Under sub-component on support to enhance park communities' livelihoods. In conjunction with surveillance activities inside the TNP, OIPR is engaged in several initiatives with local communities to reduce human pressure on the park, including awareness raising campaigns, capacity building of local communities to engage in alternative activities such as vegetable gardening, agroforestry, and reforestation with fruit trees, fodder, fuelwood trees and other nutritional tree species that benefit women.

14. Indicators and Targets (consistent with results framework):

Core Indicator	Target
GHG emission reductions (and removals generated under the project)	Baseline: (3,06%) 643,632 Target: (9,22%) 1,939,350
Reforested areas	Baseline: 13,200 Target: 18,200
Communities adjacent to targeted GF with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits (in percentage).	Baseline: 0 Target: 100
Satisfaction of beneficiaries (level of engagement, by gender and age).	Baseline: 0 Target: 70 %
Direct project beneficiaries, (of which female)	Baseline: 0 Target: 345,000 (50%)

15. Co-Financing:

	<i>Amount (in USD million):</i>	<i>Type of contribution:</i>
• Government		
• MDB		
• Private Sector (please specify)		
• Bilateral (please specify)		
• Others (please specify)		
Co-Financing Total:	0	
16. Expected Board/MDB Management⁴ approval date:		
The expected Board approval is January 25, 2018.		

FINAL Version
February 26, 2013

⁴ In some cases activities will not require MDB Board approval.