

Cover Page for Project/Program Approval Request			
1. Country/Region:	Côte d'Ivoire	2. CIF Project ID#	
3. Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIP	<input type="checkbox"/> PPCR	<input type="checkbox"/> SREP
4. Project/Program Title:	Forest Cover Recovery and Resilience Improvement Project in the Center of Côte d'Ivoire		
5. Funding Request in million USD equivalent:	Grant: USD 2.64 million	Loan: USD 6.36 million	
6. Type of CIF Investment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
7. Implementing MDB(s):	African Development Bank		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF)		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	Headquarters – Leandro Azevedo lazevedo@afdb.org	TTL: Laouali Garba l.garba@afdb.org	
10. Project/Program Description (including objectives and expected outcomes):			
<p>The Forest Cover Recovery and Resilience Improvement Project in the Center of Côte d'Ivoire is one of the two projects under the Forest Investment Program (FIP) Investment Plan endorsed by the FIP Sub-Committee in June 2016.</p> <p>In order to achieve greater efficiency and economics of scale, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire decided to integrate the project as a component of the Integrated Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Niger Basin Program (PIDACC). The PIDACC Côte d'Ivoire is also one of the first programs within the framework of the country's National Determined Contributions (NDCs). The program include three components: i) Forest Cover Recovery and Resilience Improvement in the Center Region, ii) Improving the resilience of ecosystems and populations in the Niger sub-basin, and iii) project management activities. FIP is financing the implementation of all activities associated with component i) above.</p> <p>The program's goal is to help improving the population's resilience and increase the carbon sequestration capacity in the country. In particular, the objective are: (i) preserve the Niger Basin ecosystems by reducing the silting process in the Niger River; ii) improve the resilience of agro-pastoral production systems; iii) improve integrated and shared management of natural resources; and iv) increase the forest cover of the old cocoa basin. The selected technical solutions seek to replicate activities that have already been successful in other areas of the country that were facing the same issues.</p> <p>The proposed activities were designed to enhance the resilience of project areas to the effects of frequent and recurring droughts and other climate shocks, using an integrated approach to improving water and forest management, reducing erosion and silting, reducing the degradation of natural resources and strengthening people's adaptive capacities.</p> <p>The project's total cost is estimated at USD 30.2 million and will be jointly financed by the AfDB, FIP, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), European Union and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. AfDB will contribute with a loan of USD 4.26 million and a grant of USD 2.84 million from its ADF window.</p>			
11. Consistency with Investment Criteria¹:			
<p>The project will benefit, directly or indirectly, the entire population of the intervention zones which includes a total of 1,819,679 inhabitants (about 1,179,700 inhabitants for the Center and 640,000 inhabitants for the Niger Sub-basin), nearly half of whom are women. The direct beneficiaries targeted by the project are small producers and vulnerable groups (women and</p>			

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.

youth). The project will focus on the restoration of ecosystems and the valorization of agricultural value chains. The project will strengthen the capacity of small producers and women by training and staffing equipment for processing and valorization of agricultural products.

The way in which the project responds to the FIP investment criteria is summarized below. Further details are provided in the annex of the funding request:

- i) Climate Change Mitigation Potential: The carbon likely to be sequestered by the project over a period of 25 years is estimated to equal 7 million tons of CO₂ equivalent.
- ii) Demonstration potential at scale: The project will test a sustainable management model of tree plantations based not only on the ability of agroforestry plantations to sequester carbon but also on their ability to diversify the livelihoods of local populations in the context of adaptation to climate change. It will also demonstrate an approach of supporting small producers for the development of agricultural value chain. The model and the approach have a great potential for replication at local, national, regional and international levels.
- iii) Cost-effectiveness: Based on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions calculations and a FIP financing of USD 9 million, the cost effectiveness of the FIP funding is estimated at USD 1.5 / tCO₂.
- iv) Implementation Potential: The project will be executed by the Ministry of Water and Forest. Other involved national entities will include the National Steering Committee (NSC) and the Program Coordination Unit (PCU). The NSC will provide guidance and ensure the achievement of the objectives assigned to the Program while the PCU will be responsible by the direct implementation of the project. The implementation of the project will benefit from the existing cooperation between AfDB and the MINEF in the forest sector.
- v) Integrating sustainable development (co-benefits): In addition to climate change mitigation, the project will provide important environmental and social co-benefits, specially thought the support to the agroforestry and forestry plantations that will generate additional income to the targeted population. In addition, the project will lead to improved food security, improvements in land tenure, greater resilience to climate variability, and biodiversity protection.
- vi) Safeguards: The project is classified category 1 for significant environmental and social impacts. However, it will not lead to involuntary population displacement. The project will meet AfDB's guidelines and policies on Environmental and Social (E&S) safeguards and will also adhere to Côte d'Ivoire's regulatory, legal and institutional framework with regards to how E&S issues are considered. A full E&S Impact Assessment and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed in the context of the project and which implementation will be monitored closely during project implementation. A summary of the E&S will be disclosed up to 120 days before AfDB approves the project at its Board of Directors.

12. Stakeholder engagement:

The identification and design of this project was based on a participatory approach that allowed all stakeholders, both at the central and regional level, to be informed and to be contribute to the identification of the problems and envisaged solutions to be considered during the design phase of the project. The two regions concerned by the project were visited during appraisal and surveys with all the involved actors were conducted. In each of these areas, discussions

were held with prefectural authorities, the regional and/or divisional technical services (environment, forests, agriculture, animal production, education, mining, industry, construction, plan, tourism, culture, women, etc.), regional council, municipalities, regional chambers of agriculture, Non-Governmental Organizations and Village Communities. This approach has deepened the debate on the identification, design and implementation strategy of this project and the collection of documentation as well as statistical data.

The participatory approach will be advanced during implementation, in particular through the network of 30 rural advisor agents that will be implemented by the project for social intermediation and generation of subprojects requests.

13. Gender considerations:

Women make up almost 50% of the population in the project areas while young people make up about 75%. In a traditional way, women are involved in food-related activities and in gathering firewood. As part of the project, specific activities will be developed with the aim of reducing inequalities between men and women. The project will involve women and youth in the implementation of activities through their groupings or individually in project activities, including water and soil conservation activities, establishment and maintenance of nurseries, plantations and the exploitation of fuelwood (firewood or charcoal), the setting up of vegetable and cassava crops, the valorization of agricultural value chains, the production of cassava / attiéké and derivatives and the valorization of non-timber forest products. This will help improve their living conditions through increased incomes, but also, specifically for women, efforts in wood energy collection will be reduced. Lastly, the capacity building operations envisaged in the project will systematically involve women and young people. Job opportunities will be created by the project. Unemployed women and young people will find opportunities for improving their incomes. The project also includes a major capacity building program that will be particularly beneficial to women and youths in various fields (training on best practices and resilient agricultural technologies, improved collection, processing, storage and product market, organization, etc.). The project will encourage women to get involved and assume responsibilities in the decision-making bodies and committees that will be set up.

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

Core Indicator	Target
GHG emission reductions	7 million t / CO ₂
Livelihood Co-benefits	Rural revenue +25%
Biodiversity and Other Environment Services	Yes
Development Indicator: Number of Jobs Created (indirect)	25.000

15. Co-Financing (in USD million):

GCF	6.33
GEF	0.60
EU	1.75
ADF	7.21
Government	3.39
Beneficiaries	1.56
TOTAL	20.83

16. Expected Board/ MDB Management Approval Date

September 2018