

Cover Page for Project/Program Approval Request

1. Country/Region:	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	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:	<i>DRC Improved Forested Landscape Management Project (IFLMP)</i>		
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: \$36.9</i>		<i>Non-Grant:</i>
7. Implementing MDB(s):	<i>IBRD</i>		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Conservation de la Nature et du Tourisme (MECNT), Government of DRC		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	<i>Headquarters- Focal Point:</i> Gerhard Dieterle		<i>TTL:</i> Laurent Valiergue
10. Project/Program Description (including objectives and expected outcomes):			
<p>The Project Development Objective is to test new approaches to improve community livelihoods and forested landscape management, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in selected areas.</p> <p>Key results: specifically, this project aims to: (i) support community-level natural resources management and associated investments to improve rural peoples' livelihoods in the Plateau District of the Bandundu Province; (ii) address urban biomass energy needs from the supply side by providing "private" project owners the necessary financial incentives they need to make private agroforestry projects attractive a reality; (iii) promote the use of cleaner cookstoves in the Greater Kinshasa; (iv) promote agroforestry and innovative production systems as an alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture and a source of sustainable woodfuel in 7 selected areas of the Bas-Congo Province and on the rural side of the Kinshasa Province; and (v) fund and disseminate lessons learned by the project.</p>			
11. Consistency with Investment Criteria:			

(a) Climate change mitigation potential: the IFLMP will be transformational beyond the lifetime of the project through various approaches taken, such as the creation of new forest assets (afforestation / reforestation schemes) whose actual management benefits will mainly start upon the project's completion. Similarly, the improved cookstoves distributed in the greater Kinshasa will remain functional beyond the IFLMP end date, as well as the awareness of energy efficiency and its relevance. Based on these observations, it is possible that transformational sustainable changes can take place over a 15 year period with a climate change mitigation potential (restricted to below- and above-ground biomass) amounting to 23 million tCO₂ by 2029. Over the project lifetime of five years, 4.5 million tCO₂ are likely to be reduced and/or stored as a result of the project implementation. For further details see Annex 1 (results framework & monitoring) and Annex 6.

(b) Demonstration potential at scale: See Annex 6.

(c) Cost-effectiveness: is guaranteed in a number of ways:

- a) through close cooperation with local implementation agencies with strong track record and reputation for financial rigor—project funds will directly benefit concrete investments on the ground;
- b) by leveraging direct financial and in-kind contributions from private sector and local communities—the impact of the FIP funding will be multiplied;
- c) by concentrating the bulk of investments in activities implemented with proven technologies and methods—the risk of failure is significantly reduced;
- d) by helping create sustainable business models in agroforestry and improved woodfuel stove sector—these investments will need fewer or no subsidies in the future;
- e) through careful monitoring of emission reductions and other benefits generated under the project.

(d) Implementation potential: DRC is one of the most advanced countries in terms of REDD+ readiness preparation, and it is moving decisively into the REDD+ Investment Phase. The high-level political commitment to REDD+ in the country is demonstrated by the fact that REDD+ has a prominent place in the 2011-2016 National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (DSCR), and by the existence of a range of REDD+ pilot projects experimenting with a variety of implementation mechanisms. At the macro level, the project also fits within the government's core strategy of improved governance of natural resources management and employment generation. This makes it more likely that project results will be sustained. The proposed project investments on the ground, while seeking to enhance opportunities to contribute to global environmental services, focus strongly on local socio-economic incentives and benefits, which will also help guarantee the sustainability of the project results. The Emission Reductions Program planned in the Bandundu province and likely to enter the portfolio of the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), if successfully retained, would make the results of component 1 sustainable in the long term.

(e) Integrating sustainable development (co-benefits): Co-benefits from effective land and forest management will be varied and multiple. Household surveys will be conducted at the outset of the project to ascertain a baseline for the target villages related to income generating activities, income levels, and other measures of local socio-economic conditions. Follow-up surveys will be conducted toward the end of the project to measure the impact of the investments on livelihoods in the targeted communities. The project will also rely on the REDD+ information systems currently under development to measure key co-benefits.

(f) Safeguards: A full Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for REDD+ investments has been prepared with funding from the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant. This SESA, which has benefited from a country-wide consultative process, will be updated for the benefit of the Integrated Forested Landscape Management Project. The civil society platform "REDD+ and Climate Change Working Group" (GTCR) has been closely associated with the SESA preparation process, and will also be involved in the SESA update for the current project.

12. Stakeholder engagement:

Extensive consultations with potential project beneficiaries were undertaken at the national and provincial levels, during the preparation of the FIP Investment Plan (see para 20 of the PAD). These consultations were led by the National REDD+ Coordination Unit (CN-REDD) through the Thematic Coordination Groups (TCG) and various workshops and meetings, as well as by civil society groups representing different types of stakeholders (national, provincial and local administration, civil society, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and the private sector). The consultations in the Provinces involved more than 600 people in 16 sites located in six provinces and more than 50 people from the private sector (28 companies, 6 banks, and 2 business associations).

13. Gender considerations:

Special attention to the role of women will be systematically included in the project, with an interest in ensuring the full participation of women in every single project activity of the IFLMP. This participation shall encompass being part of the decision making process at all the stages of project design, as well as during project implementation. Benefit sharing plans will also place particular emphasis on women to make sure that women are fairly treated in any environmental payment scheme to be considered in the course of the project implementation.

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

Core Indicator	Target
Indicator One: GHG emission reductions (and removals) generated under the project	4.5 million tCO2
Indicator Two: Land area where sustainable land management practices were adopted as a result of the project implementation	110,000 hectares
Indicator Three: People in targeted forests and adjacent communities with monetary/non-monetary benefits from forests, as a result of the project implementation	120,000 (Women: 30%)
Indicator Four: New approaches designed and implemented, including 'technical approaches' such as community management planning, etc. as well as 'financial' approaches, such as performance-based payments, etc., and defined as practices which are not the business case as usual. The indicator is measuring a score to characterize how innovative the project is. To calculate the score, each of the following achievements will give 1 point: designing a new approach (1 point), implementing a new approach (1 point per year), satisfactory implementation of a new approach (1 point per year)	8

15. Co-Financing:

	<i>Amount (in USD million):</i>	<i>Type of contribution:</i>
•		
• Others (please specify)		
Co-Financing Total:	0	

16. Expected Board/MDB Management approval date:

On May 15, 2014