

Cover Page for Project/Program Approval Request

1. Country/Region:	Africa: Ghana	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:			
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: 9.75 million USD</i>	<i>Non-Grant:</i>	
7. Implementing MDB(s):	African Development Bank (AfDB)		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Forestry Commission, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (FC, MLNR)		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	Headquarters- Focal Point: Mafalda DUARTE m.duarte@afdb.org	TTL: Albert MWANGI a.mwangi@afdb.org	
10. Project/Program Description (including objectives and expected outcomes):			
<p>The objective of the project <i>Engaging Local Communities in REDD+/ Enhancement of Carbon Stocks (ELCIR+)</i> is to contribute to the increase of carbon stocks and poverty reduction in the off-reserve areas of the High Forest Zones by engaging communities in land management approaches that generate direct financial and environmental benefits. The project forms part of a coordinated investment plan to be co-financed through basket funding with the World Bank and the IFC. This will lead to emission reductions and the protection of carbon reservoirs as part of the REDD+ agenda. The Bank financed portion of the investment plan supports (i) restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes, (ii) climate smart agriculture, (iii) livelihoods improvement and (iv) capacity building. With a total cost of USD 15.8 million, the project will be implemented over 5 years. The main beneficiaries are local communities in the Brong Ahafo and Western regions.</p>			
11. Consistency with Investment Criteria¹:			

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.

The project will pilot a jurisdictional² approach to REDD+ at the regional level focusing on the Western and Brong Ahafo regions. Direct beneficiaries are estimated to be 12,000 people, with women representing at least half of the targeted population. Furthermore, the project is expected to indirectly benefit 175,000 people (5% of the population of the two regions). Direct beneficiaries will be supported with capacity building, inputs, equipment, and financial incentives through benefit-sharing agreements; to develop forestry, agroforestry and alternate livelihoods activities.

The way in which the project responds to the FIP investment criteria is summarized below. Further details are provided in Annex C4:

a) *Climate change mitigation potential*

The carbon benefits of the project over 25 years are estimated at 3.9 million metric tons of CO₂.

b) *Demonstration potential at scale*

The project will pilot the REDD+ investment phase in Ghana, especially :

- a jurisdictional approach to REDD+ in two regions, that will be helpful to implement REDD+ in the other 8 regions;
- the certification of carbon and co-benefits under VCS and CCBS standards, an experience that will be useful for other REDD+ initiatives.

c) *Cost-effectiveness*

Based on the GHG reductions calculations and the FIP financing of US\$ 9.75 million, the implied direct GHG reductions per FIP financing will be up to US\$2.5 /TCO₂, or US\$ 4.1/TCO₂ if considering total project cost (US\$ 15.8 million).

d) *Implementation potential*

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and implemented at the project sites level by the Forestry Commission (FC) of this Ministry. The Forestry Commission will take advantage of existing public capacities and be supported on the ground by various agencies.

e) *Integrating sustainable development (co-benefits)*

In addition to climate change mitigation, the project will provide important environmental and social co-benefits. Both regions of intervention are located in the High Forest Zone, an area that falls within the West African Biodiversity Hotspot where forest sustainable management can deliver significant benefits in terms of biodiversity conservation.

f) *Safeguards*

The project will be implemented in off-reserve areas in line with the Bank's safeguards. No involuntary resettlement is forecasted.

² Which means the carbon approach will be led by jurisdictions: the Brong Ahafo and Western regions.

12. Stakeholder engagement³:

The identification and development of ELCIR+ benefitted from extensive stakeholder consultations including those undertaken during the Voluntary Partnerships Agreement (VPA) process and the REDD+ Preparedness Plan (R-PP) process. The country's REDD+ readiness has progressed into the early stages of implementation. The FIP consultation process included discussions with the private sector (the timber industry, wood workers associations, plantation developers, cocoa farmers, and those involved in charcoal production, agriculture, and finance) and the civil society actors (forest fringe communities; NGOs specializing in environment, climate change, natural resource management, and community development). Stakeholder consultations led to the identification of priority actions in relation to the population's needs and the objectives of enhancing carbon stocks, land tenure and food security. The Implementing Agency will continue to collaborate with stakeholders during the implementation process.

13. Gender considerations⁴:

Gender equality and women's empowerment are considered critical in implementation of this project. Gender will be used as a selection criterion for project beneficiaries in order to ensure that the project will benefit women. Specific activities have been designed for women, especially promoting women's groups and enterprises, participation in the charcoal value chain, enhanced access to land especially for woodlots, training and support for alternative livelihoods activities. Gender consideration within the project relies also on awareness creation on gender equity/empowerment, promotion of their access to land, using gender disaggregated data for M&E. Capacity of gender focal persons in the implementing Districts will be strengthened to serve as liaison officers for the women and youth groups and initiate learning networks. Gender mainstreaming in the project will be supported by IUCN, which has extensive experience on this issue in Ghana, in particular in the context of REDD+.

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

Core Indicator	Target
(a) Reduced GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation; enhancement of forest carbon stocks	3.9 million tons of CO ₂ are projected to be sequestered over a 25 year period based on the achievements of the project
(b) Reduced poverty through improved quality of life of forest dependent indigenous peoples and forest communities	28% (percentage of populations living on less than 1.25 dollar a day from 38% reference level)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

15. Co-Financing:		
	<i>Amount (in USD million):</i>	<i>Type of contribution:</i>
• Government	0.75	In-kind
• MDB	4.8	ADF Grant
• Private Sector (please specify)	0	
• Bilateral (please specify)	0	
• Others (please specify)		
Co-Financing Total:	5.55 million USD	
16. Expected Board/MDB Management ⁵ approval date: October 2013		

⁵ In some cases activities will not require MDB Board approval.