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PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Increasing local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through forest landscape restoration
Countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea
Thematic Focal Area[1]: Food security
Type of Implementing Entity: MIE
Implementing Entity: African Development Bank (AfDB)
Executing Entities: **Côte d'Ivoire**: *Ministry of Urban Sanitation, Environment Sustainable Development, Ministry of Water Resources and Forests*
Guinea: *Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests*

Amount of Financing Requested: 14 000 000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project / Programme Background and Context:

It is increasingly recognized that environmental degradation is impacting forest resources and livelihoods as well as other social and economic activities that depend on tree and forest products and services in West Africa. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, about 80% of the developing countries population uses forest products on a daily basis and about 75% of poor people that live in rural areas depend on forests for subsistence, agriculture, employment and related income generation activities; and FAO (2015)[2], estimated that 14% of the 217.8 million undernourished people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in Western Africa. Poverty is known to be more acute in rural areas than in urban areas.

The dependence of rural households on fuelwood for cooking is generally over 90% but there is increasing scarcity associated with increasing population and other environmental exigencies. The major impacts of deforestation in West African countries include erratic rainfall resulting in prolonged dry seasons, reduction in crop yields as a result of serious soil erosion, scarcity of tree and non-tree products/services, disappearance of some species, and degradation of grazing lands. The complex nature of these recurrent and emerging challenges of environmental degradation implies that rather than a single solution approach, a multi-dimensional strategy should be used to enable local communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change effects.

It is also recognised that the aforementioned challenges create additional demand for capacity development and the need to work through more comprehensive partnerships and targeted support to rural and forest-dependent households. Risks associated with agricultural crop failures need to be considered in the light of promoting more resilient and diversified livelihood strategies in rural areas. National planning needs to be undertaken in a coordinated approach to derive value from the utilization of natural resources and ecosystems to support social, economic and

[1]Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.
2 FAO, 2015. Regional overview of food insecurity: African food security prospects brighter than ever. Accra, FAO.

environmental objectives of development in line with national legislative frameworks and policies, global multilateral environmental agreements and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve long-term sustainable use of the environmental resources, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea have recognized the need for increased coordinated and collaborative partnership between public and private stakeholders and are committed to the restoration of their degraded lands. Cognisant of forest degradation in many Africa countries, the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea were among the 18 African countries that made great commitments at the Bonn Challenge[3] meeting to restore large degraded forest areas by 2020 and 2030.

See Table below
Table 1: Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea's commitments to the Bonn Challenge

Country	Area committed (million ha)	Potential Economic Benefit (Million USD)	Potential Climate benefit (GtCO2 Sequestered)
Côte d'Ivoire	5	1570	0,47
Guinea	2	628	0,19
Total Africa	**75,36**	**23663**	**7,13**
Africa's share(%)	**50,23**	**50,23**	**50,28**

Source: Compiled from Bonn Challenge Commitments: www.bonnchallenge.org/commitments

Guinea:

Guinea is a Least Developed Country that is located in West Africa, with a surface area of 245857 km^2. The country is endowed with significant natural resources with population of 10.523.261 habitants (www.stat-guinee.org) as per the 2014 census. However, on average, 55% of the Guinean population or 5.8 million people live below the poverty line, and unemployment is high, particularly among youth and women. Around 17.5% of the population or about1.8 million people are food insecure and overall, chronic malnutrition rates are at 25.9% nationwide (WFP http://www1.wfp.org/countries/guinea). Its economy is predominantly based on agriculture and mineral exploitation.

The dense humid forest of Guinea that previously stood at 14 million hectares is nearly gone with only small islands of classified forests remaining under management by the Forestry Centre in N'Zérékoré (CFZ). These forests are contiguous with the forests of Liberia and with those located South of Côte d'Ivoire. There are four natural regions in Guinea: (1) a Coastal region (Basse Guinée), (2) Midlands (Moyenne Guinée), (3) Highlands (Haute Guinée), and (4) Forest region (Guinée Forestière). These present huge contrasts in terms of climate, socio-economic conditions, hydrological patterns, land distribution, fauna and flora etc. The populations in these regions are differently exposed to climate variability and climate change impacts (reduced/changing rainfall patterns, recurrent droughts, floods, increased deforestation, and reduced agricultural productivity).

Guinea was among the first countries to sign the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and later its Kyoto Protocol in 2008, but the implementation of climate initiatives have not achieved desired results due to limited capacity and financial resources. Guinea produced its National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) in 2007, its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) in 2011, and submitted its Intended Nationally Determined

3The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. This initiative underpins Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to restore degraded land to its ecological functionality as well as enhancing human well-being.

Contributions (INDC) in October 2015. Guinea is working on its National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The Main Human Vulnerabilities and Livelihood Impacts identified in Guinea's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) include: agriculture, water resources, forests and coastal regions.

The primary interest of this project is on forest restoration for improved livelihoods. The Government of Guinea committed 2 000 000 hectares of its degraded forest lands to restoration by 2030 during the Bonn Challenge meeting in 2016.

Côte d'Ivoire:

Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa and has a total surface area of 322463 km^2. It is bordered by Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, and Ghana to the east. To the south, its long coastline of 550 km runs along the Gulf of Guinea. The country is divided into two main geographic regions: a forest zone in the south (48.2% of the surface area), and a savanna zone in the north (51.8% of the surface area). The population, which was estimated at 6.7 million in 1975, increased to 22.7 million in 2014 (RGPH, 2014), with an average annual population growth rate of 2.6% in 2014. This demographic dynamic has put increasing pressure on natural resources, especially in the forest zone, where the vast majority of the population lives (75.5%) compared to 24.5% in the savanna zone. Forest cover was 16 million hectares in 1900, 7.8 million hectares in 1990, 5.1 million hectares in 2000 and only 3.4 million in 2015 (SEP-REDD+, 2016). With an average annual deforestation rate estimated at 250 000 ha/year between 1990 and 2015, it is documented that in about 50 years, Côte d'Ivoire will have lost almost 90% of its natural forests. The main drivers of deforestation include extensive agriculture with the creation of cocoa plantations, of which the country is the first producer in the world.

The dilemma is to ensure agricultural production that sustains rural livelihoods in combination with sustainable management of remnant forests. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has engaged in a number of international processes including: its NAPA in September 2014, Readiness Proposal in 2015, INDC in 2016, Forest Investment Plan (FIP) in May 2016 and the National REDD+ Strategy in November 2016. These efforts are geared at the development of national capacities to adaptation measures, the promotion of agroforestry and restoration of degraded areas, the fight against poverty, the promotion of zero deforestation agriculture as from 2017 and the vision to increase forest cover to 20% of the national territory. For the restoration aspect, Côte d'Ivoire committed 5 000 000 hectares for restoration by 2030 during the Bonn Challenge meeting in July 2016. The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. This initiative underpins Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to restore degraded land to its ecological functionality as well as enhancing human well-being.

Project / Programme Objectives:

The project aims to contribute to rural development, poverty alleviation and resilient livelihoods, restoration of degraded areas, green jobs and forest resources conservation. The overall goal of the project is to improve livelihoods and the standard of living of rural poor forest-dependent households in the targeted countries, while reducing deforestation and strengthening regional collaboration in the development and use of forest products. The expected impact of the project include improved rural communities 'livelihoods from forest landscape restoration and increased forest cover.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Increase the resilience of households and forest ecosystem through the planting of desirable trees, including fruit trees in degraded forest areas.
- Improve the resilience of rural households by increasing revenue for rural men and women based on the production and commercialisation of key value added forest products
- Improve entrepreneurial and marketing skills of small scale forest producers.
- Improve access to technical knowledge, market information and networking.
- Provide an enabling policy and institutional environment for forest landscape restoration with desirable trees.

Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1. Planting trees of choice for increased resilience among communities to climate change effects	Sustainable production and use of forest trees, products and services are supported in degraded areas for increased household resilience to climate change in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea	1.1. Trees species of choice among different communities are determined for different ends 1.2. Innovative techniques to boost economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of trees to local communities are determined. 1.3. The needs and challenges for tree planting in selected communities determined 1.4. At least 5% of the committed areas in each project country supported for restoration with desirable trees species to meet different end uses	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea	6 0380 000
2. Value addition and marketing of forest products for increased resilience to climate change effects on agricultural productivity	Targeted households are successfully organised and supported to engage in value addition and marketing of tree products	2.1. The value chains of prioritized tree products are strengthened and promoted through capacity development of target groups 2.2. Value addition techniques are strengthened and disseminated 2.3. Best value addition techniques are made available to local pilot groups	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea	3 000 000
3. Institutional/ policy strengthening and networking	Local, national and regional policies, laws, institutions and organizations support the promotion forest landscape restoration	3.1. Institutions responsible for forest landscape restoration are strengthened 3.2. Land tenure impediments to forest landscape restoration identified and solutions proposed	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea	1 500 000
4. Capacity development and learning for up scaling lessons learnt	The capacities of local, national and regional actors are reinforced in forest landscape restoration	4.1. Exchange visits and sharing of experiences are organised 4.2. Germplasm procurement and deployment pathways and networks are identified, created, supported and shared in each country 4.3Technical training of staff (data collection, indicators of well-being,	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea	600 000

		etc.)in charge of managing and protect the forest 4.4 Trainings on sustainable forest use alongside agricultural production 4.5. National and regional communication networks on forest landscape restoration are put in place and supported		
5. Project/Programme Execution cost (10%)				1 330 000
6. Total Project/Programme Cost				11 480 000
7. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				1 190 000
Amount of Financing Requested				14 000 000

Project Duration: 5 years or 60 months

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION[4]

Based on the above understanding, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea have been selected among the 18 African countries that made commitments at the Bonn Challenge meeting as pilot countries to support them in achieving their pledges on respectively restoring 5 million hectares and 2 million hectares of degraded forests. This will involve the implementation of a handful of project components in pilot local communities on the promotion of climate resilient livelihood activities for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. Key activities in selected forested areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea will include:

- Planting trees desired by rural communities in degraded landscapes and agro-ecosystems
- Value addition and marketing of forest products/services,
- The development of entrepreneurial capacities of rural men and women.
- The provision of technical training tools and financial supports and
- The improvement of policy and institutional frameworks

The above mentioned activities are subject to field confirmation that will constitute climate resilient interventions in degraded areas as well as agricultural productive systems such as cocoa agroforests, home gardens, buffer zones of protected areas, community forests and woodlots and fallows for the benefit of rural men and women in the countries.

Local community livelihoods depend on ensuring food security, income, employment, shelter and environmental sustainability. Planting trees and ensuring that the derived benefits are enjoyed by men and women in local communities can go a long way to contribute to their capacities to adapt to climate change, environmental degradation and other global shocks. It has recently been realized that simply focusing on traditional agricultural crops may not sustainably reverse the trend of food insecurity because of the understanding that food security can be complemented by other non-agricultural activities such the promotion of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in farming and other tree related productive systems (community-based natural woodland management,

[4]**Notes to the reviewers**: It is important to note that this section will better be articulated into components after the consultation process during the project preparation. It is envisaged the full proposal preparation will employ a three steps process: 1. Consultations at regional level with the national partners to determine the scope and focus of the project, including target pilot area within the countries; detailed community level consultations in the pilot areas, including with men and women groups, vulnerable groups within the communities and key community informants, as well as, national consultations in each of the target countries to obtain stakeholder support and validation of the project design.

around home planted trees, agroforestry, school tree planting, tree seed collection, storage and sale, indigenous tree nurseries etc.). This leads to an evolving food security paradigm that is multidimensional and committed to achieving the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) and adaptation to climate change.

The production, value addition and commercialization of NTFPs from natural and agro ecological systems have been well documented, albeit poorly supported to enhance their contributions to the adaptive capacities and resilience of local communities to climate change and other global shocks. The technological, marketing, financing, legal and institutional arrangements that support tree planting systems and agroforestry have been, at best, weakly developed in most of Africa including in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. In all these countries, adaptation action plans and INDC strategic directions are geared at smart agriculture, zero deforestation cocoa agroforests, enhanced energy use and reforestation of degraded landscapes with a focus on helping communities adapt to the impacts for climate change. The emphasis on the environmental resilience of tree-based systems and agroecosystems associated with trees is still embryonic with limited or no financial supports for their concretization on the ground.

This project aims at filling this gap in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea where forest is believed to sustain the health of the environment by mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, sustaining and enhancing land productivity, and providing timber, fuelwood, medicines and non-timber forest products. These products could serve as safety nets in crises or emergency situations such as when agricultural crops fail due to climate change-related droughts or floods. In times of crop failure, most people will rely on forest resources for their livelihoods through using trees in their vicinity to generate food and cash. This project will explore and promote the creation, management and utilization of forest stands, agroforestry and tree planting systems for increased adaptive and resilient capacities of local community livelihoods in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. It will constitute pilot sites for lessons to be learnt and shared across West Africa and beyond on forest landscape restoration. The main products from these tree-based production systems will be NTFPs, fuelwood, timber and their environmental services as standing trees. Tree planting guides will be produced and disseminated among populations in pilot and non-pilot sites of the project as well as in other countries of the sub-region.

Overall, existing efforts on the restoration of degraded lands, tree planting, establishment of nurseries, management of wildfires, and community-based natural resources management will be scaled up during the project. For instance, the promotion of NTFPs such as safou (*Dacryodes edulis*) in multi-strata agroecological systems and fallows have been shown to have great potentials for food security, income generation and restoration of degraded lands (Adesina et al. 1998[5], Tchoundjeu et al. 1999[6], Sonwa et al. 2002[7], Gockowski et al. 2004[8]). Good growth rates

[5]Adesina, A. A., Nnama, A. and Nkamleu, B. G. (1998): Dynamics of the coffee and cocoa agro-ecosystem in the Eastern Province of Cameroon: Farmers diversification strategies after the coffee and cocoa crisis. April. pp. 20.

[6]Tchoundjeu, Z., Duguma, B., Tiencheu, M. and Ngo-Mpeck, M. (1999): The domestication of indigenous agro-forestry trees: ICRAF's strategy in the humid tropics of West and Central Africa, in: T. C. H. Sunderland, L. E. Clark and P. Vantomme (Eds.), Current Research Issues and Prospects for Conservation, FAO, Rome, pp. 161-169.

7Sonwa D.J., Okafor J.C., Mpungi P.B., Weise S.F., Tchatat M., Adesina A.A., Nkongmeneck A.B., Ndoye O. and Endamana D. 2002. Dacryodesedulis, a neglected non-timber forest species for the agroforestry systems of west and central Africa. Forest Trees and Livelihoods. Vol. 12: 41-55.

8Gockowski, J., Weise, S., Sonwa, D., Tchatat, M., and Ngobo, M. (2004): Conservation because it pays: Shaded cocoa agro-forests in West Africa, Paper presented at the "Theobroma cacao: Ancient crop, medicinal plant, surprising future Symposium", held in February, at the National Academies, Washington, DC.

have been registered and the timing of fruiting in early rainy seasons coincides with the school year, thus, provides opportunities for supplementary income to farming households to buy books and pay children school fees. These systems also conserve carbon and ensure environmental sustainability. The promotion of foods from trees could enhance the culinary habits of local people and enable them to adapt and reduce the risk of crop failure.

The main predicaments expressed by the governments in realizing the activities and outputs of their restoration engagements include: lack of financial resources, lack of technical capacities/expertise, lack of a national climate change policy/strategy and poor public awareness on the wise use of forest resources. The Adaptation Fund (AF) thus provides an opportunity to reduce this financial gap. The target beneficiary groups of the project are community groups of men and women, farmer organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, regional institutions, business development services providers and national research institutions. Project impacts will be linked to socio-economic (number of SMFEs created and supported and number of beneficiaries segregated by gender), political/institutional (letter of appreciation from ministries in charge of forestry to the AfDB, revised laws and regulations in place, national strategies taking up lessons from project results), environmental (number of nurseries created and supported and number of hectares and tree seedlings planted and maintained), technological (value addition tools and technologies designed and market information systems promoted), scientific (number of national, regional and international conferences where project results are presented and shared, number of publications etc..).

- *How the project would promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms.*

Although the sustainable management and development of the forest products sector have been attempted for many years, integrated approaches involving local communities still remain elusive or done on an ad hoc basis, especially in terms of restoration initiatives of degraded areas with desirable tree species for the benefit of local people. In addition, several country reports and documents have highlighted the low level of innovation in the west African forestry sector as a result of inadequate financial resources, weak institutional settings, inadequate human capacity, poor technologies on processing forest products, lack of appropriate management guidelines and other scarce resources.

This regional project builds its strength and innovation on its ability to address these issues in a harmonized and coherent manner. With its direct support, participatory and consultative approach, the project will provide an important benchmark for achieving greater equity in the forest sector and increasing local communities' participation in the planning and implementation of restoration effects within the project pilot countries and within the entire region through regional dissemination workshops. Indeed, looking at national adaptation to climate change strategies, the project emphasizes the link between increasing forest areas, poverty alleviation, food security and resource sustainability. This is fundamental to forest landscape restoration and increased resilience to climate change in local communities, which has hitherto been weakly tackled in most of the targeted countries and the West African region at large. The project is transformative in a number of ways, involving direct participation of a wide spectrum of local stakeholders. Relevant steps towards this transformation include:

- Involvement of key national partners in the development of the proposal and in the subsequent implementation of project activities. This will increase national partner ownership of the project and partners' capacity to lead future efforts.

- Collaboration with private sector, research and civil society organizations, transferring practices and experiences from one country to another. This regional-level exchange will allow best practices to be disseminated and will strengthen regional platforms.
- Development of innovative forest management approaches that include local communities' values and inputs. This process will raise the awareness of policy makers and small-scale forestry entrepreneurs on local values and provide them with tools to generate a new way of "doing business" in the forest sector.
- At the local level, the project will increase the participation of communities in decisions regarding the choice of tree species to plant and market outlets. This will increase their capacity to integrate their views and needs in the formal forest sector.

    - *The cost-effectiveness of the proposed project / programme, explaining how the regional approach would support cost-effectiveness.*

As stated in the objectives above, the project will provide direct short, medium and long-term, social, economic and environmental benefits to men and women groups in local communities involved in the restoration of at least 5% of 7 000 000 hectares of degraded lands pledge by Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea at the Bonn Challenge Meeting in 2016. Although this project is in its pilot phase, there are great possibilities for multiplier effects and upscaling to ensure that over 40% of the commitments are made through additional supports before the 2030 target. Considering the huge number of farmers and people depending on forest resources in the two countries and within the West Africa region, it is expected that the project will trigger greater appreciation of the contribution of the forestry sector to food security, household incomes and resilience to environmental shocks such as climate change effects.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, participatory and gender sensitive landscape restoration approach that will be adopted by the project provides a low cost and sustainable adaptation option to ensure uptake by local actors far beyond the project life time. The involvement of women and men of all categories in planting trees and ensuring that simple value addition techniques are used in the processing forest products provide sustainable economic avenues for all beneficiaries. At the operational level, the cost effectiveness of the project concept is reflected through the use of the AF funding in the most efficient manner follow the AfDB's rigorous financial and administrative procedures in the competitive procurement components to ensure best value for money. The project will undertake a targeted effort to mobilize co-financing for forest landscape restoration of degraded lands for improved livelihoods and increased environmental resilience. The bulk of project financing will be directed to community-level activities on restoration efforts, value addition to forest products and local capacity development with direct connections to local opportunities for the procurement of goods and services.

National/regional study tours for major stakeholders (local authorities, government staff, NGO partners) at different levels will be organized as part of capacity-building activities. These will take place during the first, second and third year of the project to maximize early exposure to forest products development activities from the start of the project and strengthening it during implementation. Training will be provided to selected staff from project partners in the region through: one regional level training workshop/year (open for participants for all interested countries in the West African region), national and local level training workshops in the two project countries. The project will establish communication channels with the directors of forestry departments in each country as well as with regional forestry organizations and other politically relevant leaders. The information generated by the project such as policy briefs and factsheets will help decision makers understand the role of forests in food security, poverty alleviation and

contribution to state revenues as well as how to support and promote management approaches for adaptation to climate change. However, it must be recognized that a five-year forestry project can only begin to suggest and promote change in the behaviour of community groups and the policy and regulatory environment that govern their interactions. Upon successful implementation of the first phase of the project, a second phase may be required for more lasting impacts on the ground. During the project lifespan, a very solid foundation is expected to be established: a strong project team and partnerships developed in the five focal countries with research organizations and universities, and collaborations established with community groups and government Ministries that provide a strong foundation for sustained collaboration and development interventions.

- *How the project / programme would be consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist. If you wish and if applicable, you can also refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.*

The project is in line withCôte d'Ivoire and Guinea's National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs),Readiness Proposals and National REDD+ Strategies of the countries. Measures outlined in both countries are in support of adaptation efforts in rural communities for improved and sustainable productive systems through the diversification of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems the development of value added techniques for products within communities. The project is also in line with Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea's commitments at the Bonn Challenge meeting in 2016 on restoring 5 million and 2 million hectares of their degraded lands by 2030, respectively.This initiative underpins Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to restore degraded land to its ecological functionality as well as enhancing human well-being. For instance, the project will concord with the Forest Investment Plan (FIP)of the countries and their National REDD+ Strategies to develop national capacities to adaptation measures and to increase forest cover to 20% of the national territory in Côte d'Ivoire. The project is also in line with the national strategies for poverty reduction in the two countries and the countries' priorities for achieving sustainable management of natural resources. The project is first in line with Guinea's priorities on fostering agricultural production, increasing competitiveness and improving food systems and livelihoods as well as on sustainable management and use of natural resources for food security. Secondly, it is in line with Côte d'Ivoire's priorities such as sustainable management of natural resources and improvement of living standards of rural people, especially the vulnerable population in a context of climate change adaptation and support for improving the performance of the agricultural sector through zero deforestation agricultural practices as well as on the cross-cutting issue of reinforcement of the political and institutional aspects agricultural support to vulnerable populations. Overall, the project is also in line with adaptation priorities that feature in national policy documents on resilient livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

- *The learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.*

The project will start with an inception workshop for raising awareness about the project and end with a final project workshop to inform about the project implementation, findings/challenges and results. All interested partners will be invited to participate. Several meetings and workshops will be organized at national and regional levels to exchange about experiences and lessons in

implementing the project. Regular meetings will be scheduled with local authorities (at national level and in the pilot areas). A regional expert meeting will be organized by the project as well as neighbouring countries will be kept informed about progress in restoration efforts, value addition, policy changes and the development of forest products. Annual workshops shall be conducted to discuss the progress on the implementation of the project with the full participation of all stakeholders.

National and regional level training and consultation workshops will gather all partners in project implementation to exchange on the lessons learned during the project and integrate them into the development of forest policy and legal framework. Policy briefs, brochures, leaflets, posters, factsheets and draft scientific articles will be produced from the results of this project. The main conclusions from the project will be shared with neighbouring countries. The project will develop a web page linked to ANRC/ECNR of the AfDB to disseminate results and outcomes from all project activities as well as key reference publications and participation at international events will ensure worldwide visibility and dissemination. The possibility of establishing a regional platform and/or network on forest landscape restoration and the development of forest based small scale enterprises will be initiated by the project. Learning tools to be employed during project implementation will include but are not limited to local media news items in local language; school field visits; focus group sessions; public and school presentations; public debates, forest management briefs; government newsletters; awareness actions for parliamentarians; training workshops and short community forestry technicians; field excursions and exchange visits; email groups/websites and virtual fora/platforms; and best practice guidance materials and tools.

- *The consultative process, planned to be undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.*

During the project preparation and implementation processes, stakeholder consultation meetings and participation will be guided by Environmental and Social Standards on Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats, gender equality and indigenous peoples and cultural heritage. The approach to the project will employ a participatory, holistic, gender sensitive and integrated approach that will be characterized by the use of local initiatives and knowledge to ensure that the outcomes are replicable and scalable. To realise these, there will be effective training and consultation of all relevant stakeholders (Government ministries, specialized agencies, NGOs, local groups, associations etc.) and in the implementation of activities in local communities by men and women. Indeed, to ensure stakeholders' engagement, the AfDB will be committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation the project. This project will benefit both men and women since a gender sensitive approach shall be used in training and support men and women groups involved in the harvesting, value addition and marketing of priority forest products.

- **Local level:** Using the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) consultation approach, specific attention will be given to the most vulnerable people, women and children in particular to ensure additional income generating opportunities and insertions of tree planting exercises in school curricula. This process seeks to enhance transparency, two-way communication, information provision and enable fair and representative participation of all sections of affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalized. Local NGOs involved in livelihoods development will be approached for relevant input in this preparation especially if they are ultimately involved as important partners to help develop supportive livelihoods activities in pilot sites. The

beneficiaries of the proposed project are the local communities, civil society organizations and governments in the region. Local communities will benefit through improved entrepreneurial skills, a wider market access for their products, increased income, increased production, improved quality, improved legal access rights to forest gathered foods and for their legal commercialization.

- National level: The project formulation will involve all national stakeholders in the two project countries with validation of project activities in a regional workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. All stakeholder will be present at the inception workshop for the planning of annual project activities and budgets. The project will also relay requests for technical assistance, as appropriate, thus contributing to a better understanding of support needs. For example, experts on the development of small scale enterprises based on forest products, value addition, investments, forest legislation, rural extension and individual evaluation will be consulted for them to inform project preparation in strengthening local people's capacities on business management tools and prospects at the village grass-root level and ensure the response by government at the local, national and regional levels.

- Regional level: Possibilities for regional networks and collaboration will be explored through discussions with relevant national and regional stakeholders as part of the preparation of the full project proposal.

- *How the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes would be taken into account when designing the project / programme.)*

The continuity of project activities beyond the grant period will be ensured by: (i) project partners; (ii) involvement of local beneficiaries; and (iii) the project's links with policy makers in the countries and region. Pathways envisioned to foster project sustainability include:

- Ensuring stakeholders' engagement and partnerships from the beginning of the project to facilitate the building of well-established and stable partner institutions with high credibility and capacity to take up project results. These institutions are envisaged to continue their efforts towards the promotion of forest restoration beyond the life of the project.

- Local ownership of project outcomes by both women and men will be achieved by involving local government agencies, national NGOs and local communities as project implementation partners. Clear mechanisms for the participation of local stakeholders (men, women and the youth) are defined in the activities in order to enable project outcomes to be taken up directly by local beneficiaries.

- Project outcomes will also be sustained through capacity development and recommendations for management and policy. The project shall ensure the participation of several male and female graduate students in the research and development aspects in each country, which will give them the opportunity to learn how to carry out research on the use of forest resources by local communities and how to facilitate the development of enterprise developments plans for community groups based on forest products. It is expected that these students will act on these issues in their professional practice. Moreover, the project results and outputs will be shared with other students and academics through seminars and published in peer reviewed journals. These activities will contribute to the number of professionals in each country who will become more aware about these issues and be able to address them through their own future research and development work.

- The project will establish communication channels with the directors of forestry departments in each country as well as with regional forestry organizations and other politically relevant leaders. The information generated by the project such as policy briefs and factsheets will help these decision makers understand the role of forests in food security, poverty alleviation and contribution to state revenues as well as how to support and promote management approaches for sustainable production and harvesting of non-timber forest products that together provide incentives for sustainable forest management.

However, it must be recognized that a short research project can only begin to suggest and promote change in the behaviour of community groups and the policy and regulatory environment that govern their interactions. Upon successful implementation of the first phase of the project, a second phase may be required for more lasting impacts on the ground. During the project lifespan, a very solid foundation is expected to be established: a strong project team and partnerships developed in the two focal countries with research organizations and universities, and collaboration established with community groups and government Ministries that provide a strong foundation for sustained collaboration.

Environmental sustainability will be enhanced through support to the planting of desirable economic tree species, training on the creation and management of tree nurseries, thus, contributing to conserving, protecting and enhancing forest resources community lands and production systems.

- *How the project / programme would provide economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations, and how it would avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.*

The social, economic and environmental dimensions of the sustainability of the project will be explained including the involvement of local communities and indigenous people based on their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). The project is expected to contribute to economic benefits to local communities in terms of increased income from products, increased employment of women and men associated with the support and development of small scale forest enterprises. The project will link sustainability activities to evolving concepts such as green economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as to south-south cooperation. In doing so, the project will ensure technical, economic and environmental sustainability of the management of forest products-based enterprises in West Africa. Rural women and men dealing with forest products shall be organized, their technical, entrepreneurship and marketing skills enhanced and their role and involvement in the management of forests' resources strengthened. Men and women groups shall be formed and strengthened through the provision of both technical and small equipment supports for value addition to products and exposure to new marketing opportunities.

- *How the project / programme would meet relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and comply with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.*

The two countries were among the first signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and later its Kyoto Protocol in 2008. There have recently

finalised their National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs),Readiness Proposals and National REDD+ Strategies. These national initiatives and adaptation measures include among others the restoration of degraded forests, the promotion of agroforestry, the fight against poverty, the promotion of zero deforestation agriculture as priority areas of intervention against climate change effects. The project is in line with these measures in both countries in supporting adaptation efforts in rural communities for improved and sustainable productive systems through the diversification of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, the development of value added techniques for products within communities. The project is also in line with Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea's commitments at the Bonn Challenge meeting in 2016 on restoring 5 million and 2 million hectares of their degraded lands by 2030. The present project is expected to be classified under category B in accordance with the Social and Environmental Policy of the Adaptation Fund. A social and environmental assessment will be conducted as a preliminary step to the submission of the project request.

- *Duplication of project / programme with other funding sources.*

A preliminary review of on-going projects funded by development partners shows that there is no duplication of the proposed project with other funding sources or the adaptation fund at the national level. Forest landscape restoration efforts has its novelty in ensuring improved livelihood resilience to climate variability and environmental sustainability. The project is in line with the objectives of Bank's African Climate Change Fund, from which supplementary funding may be sought in the coming years to meet gaps in funding from the Adaptation Fund especially on actual restoration efforts in pilot communities and possible replication and up scaling of project activities in other parts of the countries.

- *Justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.*

The main predicaments expressed by the governments in realizing the activities and outputs of their NAPAs, REDD+ Strategies and their restoration commitments at the Bonn Challenge Meeting in 2016 include: lack of financial resources, lack of technical capacities/expertise and poor public awareness on the wise use of forest resources for increased adaptive capacities of local communities. The Adaptation Fund (AF) provides for a great opportunity to address the financial predicament.

The AF funding will be entirely used to implement the four components of the project as indicated above. For instance, trees species of choice among different communities will be determined for different ends to ensure their sustainable production and use; innovative techniques to boost economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of trees to local communities will be determined; the needs and challenges for tree planting in selected communities will be highlighted and solutions proposed and supported; at least 5% of the committed areas in each project country supported for restoration with desirable trees species; value addition techniques will be strengthened and disseminated to local pilot groups and their overall capacities enhanced.

The project will optimize its logistical and technical support through close collaboration and cost-sharing arrangements among selected pilot sites in the two countries for implementing its activities, such as sharing studies, or for scheduling/participation at (training) workshops. Some project activities in pilot sites such as local training will be implemented through contracted local NGOs/national technical entities. The project will recruit local and international consultants and experts to provide specific technical inputs needed at different stages of project implementation. A program for monitoring and evaluation practice based on learning and adaptive management

will be followed during project implementation. The project will produce a six month and annual progress reports as per AfDB and the Adaptation Fund requirements.

- *The environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project / programme.)*

The present project is expected to be classified under category B in accordance with the Social and Environmental Policy of the Adaptation Fund. A social and environmental assessment will be conducted as a preliminary step to the submission of the project request.

Some environmental and social risks associated with the project might include: Poor survival rates of seedlings and poor production of forest products associated with climate change effects, complex logistics of participatory actions, requiring a calendar of joint project activities that is flexible and tailored to community interests and availability and gender constraints with low participation of women in project activities. Potential external risks may include any political and social instability that may erupt in one of the targeted countries, insecurity in pilot sites, macroeconomic and inflation instability as well as climate change and adverse climatic conditions.

Internal risks within the project's domain may include possible delays (or minor deviations) in implementing intended project outputs and related activities and/or possible delays in reaching intended project outcomes. However, risk mitigation measures will be considered for this project and the assumptions for the proper implementation of this project are that there will be no adverse effects on the countries' political stability and/or security and that changes in government personnel will not disrupt project activities. It is also assumed there will be no catastrophic environmental and/or social related impacts on forest resources and depending household livelihoods.

Nonetheless, the timely implementation by appropriate bodies of legislative, policy and institutional change are outside project control. Project timeframe may be too short to fully test and implement project activities linked to trees, which may require requesting for a second phase for all outcomes to be realised on the ground. For greater efficiency, the project will recruit and ensure the presence of local project focal points to constantly monitor and report on the execution of project activities at pilot sites. This will avoid any risk, conflict or misunderstanding that may result from long absence of project staff from the field. Consistent interactions and gender sensitive collaboration with local communities in pilot sites will ensure trust in the possibility of achieving the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the project in the intermediate to long-run rather. Through continuous training and two-way communication, stakeholders, particularly local communities and groups will be better informed on the project objectives and periodic reporting to the project management team will be useful in responding to possible emerging concerns of stakeholders. National Project Steering Committees will be set up to ensure proper monitoring of project activities in each country.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

This is a regional project that will be implemented by the AfDB office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in collaboration with the participating countries. AfDB will provide technical assistance and management support to the project; promote linkages between the project and similar initiatives elsewhere in and beyond the region; and assist with monitoring and evaluation. This will greatly enhance collaboration and synergies, as well as providing cost savings by sharing common

facilities, expertise, staff and equipment (including using communication tools, equipment and office furniture). Within participating countries, national project offices will be provided as part of their co-financing to the project. Staff will be recruited and supported by the project. Specialized NGOs will be trained and contracted to implement and monitor specific project activities at the pilot sites. The ANRC/ECNR of the AfDB will provide the oversight function during project implementation by partners.

The institutional structure will involve a Task Force Manager (TFM) of the project at the level of the AfDB in Abidjan that will closely be supported by the Project Task Force (PTF) comprised of the regional coordinator and related AfDB units on climate change Adaptation Fund. AfDB is at the top and closely followed by the national project coordination that is guided by a National Advisory Committee (NAC) and a Steering Committee. Below the country project coordination will be the implementation partners such as the local NGOs and focal points at the pilot sites. To ensure and strengthen the capacity development aspect of the project, students/interns will be employed on a temporary basis to support the monitoring and reporting on field activities at the pilot sites. Implementation arrangements in relation of location, coordination unit and implementation agency, executing partners and the role and responsibilities of partners shall be defined in the project proposal document. The mechanism of coordination of the program shall follow the steering committee mechanism for consultation, national coordination units and technical/scientific committees. Program monitoring and evaluation will be based on the production of technical reports, annual work plans and performance reports.

At the national level in each project country; there will be a national counterpart agency responsible for project execution and for providing office space and facilities; and which could be the agency responsible for Forestry or Forestry Department (FD) in the ministries in charge of Forestry and/or Environment of each country. Each counterpart agency will propose a National Focal Point (NFP), as the Government Representative in the project to provide overall guidance, supervision and coordination for the implementation of project activities in the country. In each country, a National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be recruited following clear terms of references and AfDB guided hiring procedures and funded by the project to run the national and field level project activities. The NPC will manage project activities in the country with the direct support of and under the supervision of the TFM and the NFP, and will closely liaise with governmental agencies and local NGOs contracted for putting into operation pilot site activities. The NPC will be responsible for project delivery, smooth implementation of national and pilot zone activities and the day-to-day management of the project in the country with reporting to NFP and TFM. In addition, as many project activities promote small-scale enterprises, the NFP and NPC will closely liaise with the respective governmental agencies/ministries that support small-scale businesses.

To ensure national responsibility and project ownership, the governments of the participating countries are committed to collaborate from an administrative, managerial, technical and manpower support standpoint for effective project implementation. They will participate actively in the selection of the national counterpart agency, the NFP, NPC and the pilot sites. They will commit themselves to integrate within their national forest policy and rural development strategy the recommendations made by the project. The governments of the participating countries will ensure the assignment of the required technicians and field staff to participate in the project activities and will continue paying their salaries and normal honoraria during their work on the project activities.

The Management and administrative support within the project will involve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the project and the counterpart agencies in the two project countries. The MOUs will be elaborated during the first three months of the project to specify the

precise arrangements/ counterpart support within each country. With respect to reporting lines within the project, AfDB and with regard to the national coordination units (NFP, NPC) will be clarified, as well as oversight mechanisms involving the project team and the partner organization(s). Management and operational support to the project will be provided by the TFM who is designated by the Director of ANRC/ECNR.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[9] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

Mr. Jean Douglas Anaman Head of Adaptation Unit National Climate Change Programme *Ministry of Urban Sanitation, Environment, and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire*	Date*: August, 02, 2017*
Mr. Joseph SYLLA Climate Change Focal Point *Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, Guinea*	Date: *August, 04, 2017*

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Ayanleh DAHER ADEN  Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: *August, 06, 2017*	Tel. and email: (+225) 20 26 43 47; a.daheraden@afdb.org
Project Contact Person: **Modibo TRAORE**	
Tel. And Email: (+225) 20 26 33 08; m.traore@afdb.org	

[9] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.