



ADAPTATION FUND

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:	Food security
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE)
Implementing Entity:	African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
Executing Entities:	<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u> : Ministry of Urban Sanitation, Environment Sustainable Development, Ministry of Water Resources and Forests; <u>Guinea</u> : 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. Bearing in mind that poverty is known to be more acute in rural areas than in urban areas, FAO (2015)¹ has estimated that 14% of the 217.8 million undernourished people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in Western Africa.

The proposed project is expected to be implemented in two target countries which are Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, located in the Western part of the African continent. 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 these two 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.

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

¹ FAO, 2015, *Regional overview of food insecurity: African food security prospects brighter than ever*

among the 18 African countries that made great commitments at the Bonn Challenge² meeting to restore large degraded forest areas by 2020 and 2030.

The primary interest of this project is in forest restoration for improved livelihoods. Both the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea committed 5,000,000 and 2,000,000 hectares, respectively, of its degraded forest lands to be restored by 2030 as part of the Bonn Challenge meeting that took place in July 2016.

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.

Project / Programme Components and Financing³:

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	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 7000 ha ⁴ of the committed areas in each project country supported for restoration with desirable trees species to meet different end uses	7,380,000
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	2,000,000
3. Institutional/ policy strengthening and networking	Local, national and regional policies, laws, institutions and organizations support	3.1. Institutions responsible for forest landscape restoration are strengthened 3.2. Land tenure impediments to forest landscape restoration identified and solutions proposed	1,500,000

² 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.

³ The components indicated in the table will target both Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

⁴ This calculation is based on information obtained from the International Institute for Sustainability, 2014.

	the promotion forest landscape restoration		
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 4.3 Technical training of trainers (TOT) of staff (data collection, indicators of well-being, etc.) in charge of managing and protect the forest 4.4 Trainings (TOT) on sustainable forest use alongside agricultural production 4.5. National and regional communication networks on forest landscape restoration are put in place and supported	600,000
5. Project/Programme Execution cost (9.5%)			1,330,000
6. Total Project/Programme Cost			11,480,000
7. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8.5%)			1,190,000
Amount of Financing Requested			14,000,000

Project Duration: 5 years or 60 months

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION⁵

In West Africa, the production, value addition and commercialization of non-timber forest products (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.

Thanks to funding from the Adaptation Fund (AF), this project ⁶aims at filling this above 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 to generate food and cash. This project will explore and promote the creation, management and utilization of forest stands, agroforestry and tree planting systems

⁵ **Note to the reviewers:** It is important to note that this section will better be articulated into components after the consultation process during concept 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.

⁶ The project's mentioned activities are subject to field confirmation and consultations with stakeholders that are expected to be had as part of the concept note preparation.

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.

Given that Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea are neighboring countries and are part of the larger Upper Guinea Forest (UGF) ecosystem, the first **added value of the regional approach** to this problematic stems from the need to adopt a holistic treatment of environmental degradation, a problem that does not respect boundaries, while accounting for the particularities of each country. The forestry ecosystem (including transboundary water currents, biotic communities and wildlife) as well as the associated livelihoods (forest-based informal jobs, forestry derived products and small-scale trade) vulnerable to climate change effects tend to be transboundary. Secondly, given that the two countries are members of both the ECOWAS and the Mano River Union (MRU) and have officially endorsed the ECOWAS Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of the Forest Ecosystems in West Africa, the other added value of the regional approach is in increasing cooperation between the two countries, informing a harmonization of forestry policies, providing opportunities for cost savings and economies of scale, and maximizing lessons sharing between concerned stakeholders at local, national and regional level. It is thus believed that a regional approach will more effectively benefit target communities rather than implementing two disjointed and separate national projects.

The project is **transformative and innovative** in a number of ways, by including the following:

- 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.
- Use of agro-forestry techniques that will simultaneously enhance soil productivity and contribute to forest restoration are envisaged to improve and consolidate the sustainable use of forest goods and services. The introduction of these techniques shall be gender-sensitive and empower the vulnerable (including women) through the provision of a diversified livelihood base.
- Collaboration with the 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.

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 AF funding in the most efficient manner following AfDB's rigorous financial and administrative procedures in the competitive procurement components to ensure best value for money. 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.

Consistency with national/regional development strategies: The project is in line with Côte 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.

Project preparation and implementation will follow **a strong consultative process** with an approach to the project that shall be participatory, holistic, gender sensitive and integrated in nature and characterized by the use of local initiatives and knowledge to ensure that the outcomes are replicable and scalable. There will also be effective consultation of all relevant stakeholders (Government ministries, specialized agencies, NGOs, local groups, associations etc.). More importantly, using the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) consultation approach, specific attention will be given to the most vulnerable people, women and children to ensure additional income generating opportunities and insertions of tree planting exercises in school curricula.

The **sustainability 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, local ownership of project outcomes by both women and men and through capacity development and recommendations for management and policy. Environmental sustainability will be enhanced through support to the planting of desirable economic tree species, training (TOT) on the creation and management of tree nurseries, thus contributing to conserving, protecting and enhancing forest resources community lands and production systems.

Economic, social and environmental benefits and mitigation strategies: The project is expected to benefit local communities, and especially vulnerable communities and groups, in terms of increased income from forestry 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. Compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund will be ensured by incorporating the risk and impact assessments' recommendations into the design of each pilot project, including appropriate mitigation strategies for implementation.

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 at the national level. Throughout the preparation of the project, more detailed information on ongoing initiatives will be gathered to further ensure this.

The **justification for the funding requested** is linked to the main predicaments expressed by the Ivorian and Guinean governments in realizing the activities and outputs of their NAPAs, REDD+ Strategies and their restoration commitments at the Bonn Challenge Meeting in 2016. It includes: 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) thus provides for a great opportunity to address this financial predicament. The AF funding will be entirely used to implement the four components of the project as indicated above.

In terms of the relevant **environmental and social impacts and risks**, 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.

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 project areas; 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).

Concerning the coordination strategy, 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. At the national level in each project country; there will be a national counterpart agency responsible for project implementation 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.


More detailed information regarding the implementation arrangements in relation to the coordination unit and implementation agency, executing partners and the role and responsibilities of partners shall be defined in the full project proposal document.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁷ *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, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> 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	

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.