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INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PROJECT PAPER

ON A

PROPOSED GRANT

IN THE AMOUNT OF
US\$4.5 MILLION

FROM

THE STRATEGIC CLIMATE FUND FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM

TO

CIPVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO

FOR A

SUPPORT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

June 14, 2021

Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy Global Practice
Western and Central Africa Region

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Exchange Rate Effective July 31, 2020

Currency Unit = CFA Franc (CFAF)

CFAF 554 = US\$1

FISCAL YEAR

January 1–December 31

Regional Vice President: Ousmane Diagana
Country Director: Abdoulaye Seck
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Practice Manager: Sanjay Srivastava
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

B/C Ratio	Benefit-Cost Ratio
CDD	Community-Driven Development
CEFDHAC	Conference on Dense and Humid Ecosystems of Central Africa / Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts denses et humides d'Afrique Centrale
CEIG	Community Economic Interest Group
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CIPIVIE	International Committee for the Promotion of Investment, Valorisation, Innovation and Employment / <i>Comité International de Promotion de l'Investissement, de Valorisation, de l'Innovation et de l'Emploi</i>
CIPIVIE-CARITAS D'OWANDO	Consortium of CIPIVIE and CARITAS DIOCESE D'OWANDO / <i>Consortium de CIPIVIE et CARITAS DIOCESE D'OWANDO</i>
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission / Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CIF	Climate Investment Fund
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DGM	Dedicated Grant Mechanism
DPF	Development Policy Financing
DSSI	Debt Service Suspension Initiative
DURQuaP	Urban Development and Poor Neighborhood Upgrading Project
E&S	Environmental and Social
EIG	Economic Interest Group
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FM	Financial Management
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEA	Global Executing Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GSC	Global Steering Committee
HFS	High-Frequency Survey
IFR	Interim Financial Report
IGA	Income-Generating Activity
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPF	Investment Project Financing

IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities / Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales
Lisungi	Lisungi Safety Nets Project (P161154)
LMIC	Lower-middle-income Country
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NEA	National Executing Agency
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
ANPV	Annualized Net Present Value
NSC	National Steering Committee
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
ODK	Open Development Kit
PACL	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities / Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales
PADEC	Support to Enterprise Development and Competitiveness Project (P161590)
PANC	Northern Congo Agroforestry Project (P166189) / Projet Agroforesterie Nord Congo
PDAC	Commercial Agriculture Project (P159979)
PDO	Project Development Objective
PFDE	Forest and Economic Diversification Project / Projet de Foret et Diversification Economique
PND	National Development Plan
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation / Réduction des émissions issues de la déforestation et de la dégradation forestière
RENAPAC	National Network of Indigenous People in Congo / Réseau national des populations autochtones du Congo
REPALEAC	Regional Network of Local and Indigenous Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa / Le Réseau des Populations Autochtones et des Communautés Locales d'Afrique Centrale
RFP	Request for Proposal
RoC	Republic of Congo
SBD	Standard Bidding Document
STEP	Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement
UFA	Forest Management Unit / Unité Forestière d'Aménagement
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

BASIC INFORMATION

Is this a regionally tagged project? No		Country (ies)
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing		Classification Small Grants
Approval Date 08-Jul-2021	Closing Date 31-Mar-2026	Environmental and Social Risk Classification Moderate
Approval Authority RVP	Bank/IFC Collaboration No	

Please Explain

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objectives are to promote sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and strengthen their capacity to engage in sustainable natural resources management in the REDD+ processes

Components

Component Name	Cost (USD Million)
Promotion of traditional IGAs for sustainable management of natural resources	2,200,000.00
Capacity Building for IPLC	1,400,000.00
Project management, M&E, Audits, and Safeguards	900,000.00

Organizations

Borrower :	Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS d'Owando
Implementing Agency :	Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS d'Owando

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	4.50
Total Financing	4.50
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	4.50
Strategic Climate Fund Grant	4.50

Expected Disbursements (in USD Million)

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Annual	0.40	0.91	1.18	1.23	0.77
Cumulative	0.40	1.32	2.50	3.73	4.50

INSTITUTIONAL DATA

Financing & Implementation Modalities

Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints

☐ Fragile State(s)
 ☐ Fragile within a non-fragile Country
 ☐ Small State(s)
 ☐ Conflict
 ☐ Responding to Natural or Man-made Disaster

Other Situations

☐ Financial Intermediaries (FI)
 ☐ Series of Projects (SOP)
 ☐ Performance-Based Conditions (PBCs)
 ☐ Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)
 ☐ Alternative Procurement Arrangements (APA)
 ☐ Hands-on Expanded Implementation Support (HEIS)

Practice Area (Lead)

Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy

Contributing Practice Areas

Social Sustainability and Inclusion

OVERALL RISK RATING

Risk Category	Rating
Overall	● Substantial

COMPLIANCE

Policy

Does the project depart from the CPF in content or in other significant respects?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the project require any waivers of Bank policies?

☐ Yes ☒ No



Environmental and Social Standards Relevance Given its Context at the Time of Appraisal

E & S Standards	Relevance
Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
Community Health and Safety	Relevant
Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Relevant
Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Relevant
Cultural Heritage	Relevant
Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Covenants

Sections and Description

ESCP: the ESMF, IPPF and the SEP will be updated latest 6 months after project effectiveness and cleared and disclosed prior to the implementation of any activities.

Sections and Description

ESCP: CIPIVIE-CARITAS will prepare, clear, and disclose the LMP latest 6 months after effectiveness and prior to the implementation of any activities.

Sections and Description

ESCP: The grievance mechanism will be operational when the LMP is prepared, cleared and disclosed latest 6 months after effectiveness, and will be maintained throughout project implementation.

Sections and Description

ESCP: The GBV action plan will be prepared latest six months after Project effectiveness.

Sections and Description

Grant Agreement: Not later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, recruit and thereafter maintain at all times during Project implementation, a procurement specialist with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Bank.

Conditions

Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	Trust Funds	The execution and delivery of the Grant Agreement on behalf of the Recipient.

Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	Trust Funds	The Recipient has adopted the Project Implementation Manual in a manner satisfactory to the Bank.

PROJECT TEAM

Bank Staff

Name	Role	Specialization	Unit
Hala Ballout	Team Leader(ADM Responsible)		SAWS1
David Maleki	Team Leader		SAWE4
Lanssina Traore	Procurement Specialist(ADM Responsible)	Senior Procurement specialist	EAWRU
Francis Tasha Venayen	Financial Management Specialist(ADM Responsible)	Senior Financial Specialist	EAWG2
Albert Francis Atangana Ze	Environmental Specialist(ADM Responsible)		SAWE4
Fabena Divine Babindamana Nee Niemet Gampika	Social Specialist(ADM Responsible)	Social Safeguards	SAWS1
Asha Nequia Johnson	Team Member	Operations Specialist	SAWDR

Erwan Jean Georges Morand	Team Member		SAWE4
Immaculate Nafula Machasio	Team Member	Economic Analysis	EMNMT
Joseph-Antoine Ellong	Team Member	Operations	SAWS4
Josiane Maloueki Louzolo	Procurement Team		AWMCG
Kadar Mouhoumed Omar	Team Member		MNCDJ
Meerim Shakirova	Team Member		SENGL
Sibani Karki	Team Member	Gender	SENCR
Steven Jay Silverstein	Team Member		SAWE4
Extended Team			
Name	Title	Organization	Location

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF
 SUPPORT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
 MANAGEMENT

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I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context

1. **The Republic of Congo (RoC) is a lower-middle-income country (LMIC), strategically located on the western coast of Central Africa.** It has borders with Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gabon and provides access to the sea to several landlocked nations in Central Africa, such as Chad. The country has an estimated population of about 5.7 million (2021)¹, with approximately 51 percent women and 49 percent men.² With 12 departments, the RoC is strongly urbanized but sparsely populated with one of the least dense rural spaces in Africa, averaging 12.8 inhabitants per km². It is estimated that close to 74 percent of the Congolese population are below 35 years of age and concentrated in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, the two urban centers in the country where over 50 percent of the population live.³
2. **The Congolese economy shrank in recent years due to falling oil prices and the Coronavirus pandemic.** The RoC has been heavily reliant on oil for its economic growth, accounting for 82 percent of exports over 2015–17 and 32 percent of Government revenue. However, the fall of oil prices in 2014 created a contraction of its GDP and substantial fiscal and account deficits. The strong dependence on oil halted the development of other lines of businesses such as agriculture and forestry, despite two-thirds of the population remaining largely dependent on forests for their vital needs (food, energy, pharmacopeia, and so on). The poor productivity outside the oil sector and the low development of the private sector have not allowed for a sufficient reduction of poverty levels, which remain high especially in rural areas (69.5 percent, compared to 40.5 percent at the national level). In this context, the evolution of the Human Development Index has been slower than the indicators of economic growth: 0.574, placing the country 149th out of 189 countries in 2020.⁴
3. **Extreme poverty increased in recent years while inequality and exclusion remain a challenge.** The proportion of the population living below the international extreme poverty line of \$1.90 PPP per day has risen by about a third from 39.1 percent in 2015 to 52.5 percent in 2020⁵. Most of the poor are concentrated in urban areas, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, and in rural areas where remoteness and the lack of basic infrastructure are key constraints. The lack of access to service in rural areas, compounded by weak local government and slow progress toward decentralization, has further increased the country's fragility and the spatial divide between rural and urban areas.
4. **The RoC's human capital indicators remain below those of countries of similar income level.** The country scored 0.42 in the Human Capital Index (2020), below the LMIC average (0.48), and ranked 140th in out of 173 countries evaluated⁶. Malnutrition is rampant with high prevalence in rural areas. Due to low

¹ World Bank, Macro poverty outlook, March 2021, <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/240091492207273744/data-cog.pdf>

² Unless otherwise indicated, data in the Country Context are from World Bank. 2019. Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the Republic of Congo for the period FY20–FY24, Report No. 126962-CG. World Bank: Washington, DC.

³ Data from the National Institute of Statistics, 2018, Republic of Congo

⁴ Human Development Report 2020.

⁵ World Bank, Macro poverty outlook, March 2021, <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/240091492207273744/data-cog.pdf>

⁶ Human Capital Index, 2020, World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital#Index>



access to health services, unsafe water, a poorly diversified and micronutrient-poor diet, poor sanitation and hygiene, and inappropriate child feeding practices, stunting affects 21 percent of children under 5 years, affecting their cognitive development and their long-term productivity. The RoC has invested heavily to improve education in the last two decades, but it continues to be confronted with challenges of quality and disparities of access in rural and urban areas. The population's average number of years of school is low with 8.8 years considering their level of income and is affecting more women than men.

5. **The RoC is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change due to poor readiness to respond to climate and natural disasters - and agriculture and forests are among the most vulnerable sectors within the country.** The country is not well equipped to respond to climate and natural disaster-related shocks, ranking 163rd out of 181 in the 2018 rankings of the Notre Dame GAIN Country Index. Temperatures in the region are expected to increase in line with global averages. Temperature projections for the high-emission Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicate an increase of 0.5°C to 1°C by 2020, of around 1.5°C by 2040, and from 2°C to 3.5°C by 2070 for Congo. The annual number of hot days and nights is expected to increase, while the number of cold days and nights is expected to decrease. Mean annual precipitation has decreased between the 1950s and 1980s, and greater fluctuations in intra-seasonal precipitation patterns have been observed in recent years. By the middle to end of the 21st century, mean annual precipitation is expected to increase. The poor are particularly vulnerable to climate-related changes in living and livelihood conditions as well as climate-related shocks. Analytical work shows that during climate-related disasters, women face additional risks, due in large part to gender inequities that result in women bearing the disproportional brunt of disaster impacts. Women in poverty are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and have fewer resources to cope and adapt to climate shocks and natural hazards, such as hurricanes, food shortages, droughts, and landslides.

6. **Forest ecosystems are essential, at varying but significant levels, for the entirety of the population and are vital for indigenous people, in terms of food and sociocultural subsistence, as well as monetary economy.** The continuation of ecosystem services is crucial for future development, limiting the impact of climate change and offering adaptation possibilities to a part of these rural populations.

7. **The country is characterized by weak institutions, which have slowed progress on social and economic transformation.** The country's administration and accountability are significantly weakened, as are the publicly funded services. Additionally, the RoC's administration has been historically centralized, and this has limited the benefits of decentralization as well as the role of local communities in improving service delivery.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. **The National Development Plan (*Plan National de Développement, PND*) 2018–2022 provides a comprehensive vision for economic growth and poverty reduction in the RoC.** Approved in 2018, the PND focuses on (a) improving governance and institutional capacity; (b) strengthening human capital; and (c) diversifying the economy. The Government is strongly committed to social and economic inclusion of vulnerable population, including women, children, and indigenous population. The Government has also committed to protecting the environment and fostering sustainable development while also promoting the sustainable management of forest resources and fighting against climate change.



9. **At the national level, the RoC has made a strong commitment to protecting the rights of indigenous populations (box 1). On February 25, 2011, the ROC promulgated Law No. 5-2011 on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous populations, and, in 2019, it adopted a series of decrees related to its implementation.** The purpose and intent of this law is to provide for and ensure effective respect for the rights of indigenous peoples (rights to culture, education, justice, health, property with a focus on consultation and access to benefits for exploitation of natural resources, and so on). The law has been promulgated to protect the indigenous peoples and guarantees the establishment of indigenous peoples' consultation before considering any measure and/or project that affects them. Among other things, it guarantees cultural rights and a collective and individual right to property, the delimitation of land on the basis of the customary right of land occupation, and a right to income from the exploitation and use of their lands and natural resources. Moreover, at the national level, the law equally stipulates that any commitment or resettlement of indigenous peoples requires their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and that the indigenous peoples (including local communities) concerned have a right to income and profits from REDD+⁷ commitment.

10. **Despite the 2011 law, and 2019 implementation decrees, lack of national funding is hampering the implementation.** The implementing legislation is focused particularly on the modalities and level of indigenous peoples' participation in the forest resource management and forest classification process. Despite commitment to protecting the rights of indigenous populations, interventions remain timid. The most pressing need for human capital development of the indigenous population is boosting access to basic services (education, hygiene, nutrition, and health) and jobs. Overall, there are serious challenges with social inequalities in the treatment of indigenous peoples in the RoC. Indigenous people often engage in traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering food for subsistence. They also frequently work under precarious conditions as day laborers in exchange for cash or goods. Few have their own fields and, when they do, it is generally for their own consumption on small plots over which they have no legal rights. Decree no. 2019-200 of July 12, 2019, includes provisions related to the identification and mapping of their sacred and spiritual sites⁸, but these have yet to be implemented. Many live in extreme poverty and are subject to land chiefs where they live and work under difficult circumstances. Additional efforts are needed to (a) provide direct support to projects initiated by indigenous people, with an emphasis on capacity building and women's empowerment; (b) develop income-generating activities especially in the fields of agriculture, handicrafts, livestock, and retail; (c) strengthen the managerial capacities of indigenous leaders; (d) develop community information, education, and awareness programs for indigenous people; and (e) protect their assets.

11. **Decentralization has been slow, amplifying the spatial disparity in accessing services between rural and urban centers in the country.** The Government is renewing its effort to transfer competencies and resources to local collective governments. However, challenges remain to reach the outcome of decentralization and the promotion of local development including consolidation of the legal framework for decentralization, the strengthening of local-level administration with a view to more sustained support for local communities, improvement of access to local services, defining of a local development policy,

⁷ REDD+ refers to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

⁸ Per Decree no. 2019-200 of July 12, 2019



political and social ownership of decentralization and local development, and funding for decentralization and local development.

12. **Despite an important number of poor in urban areas, extreme poverty is mostly affecting rural areas in the RoC.** Poverty rate touches more than 64 percent of the population in areas such as Cuvette, Cuvette-Ouest, Lekoumou, and Likouala. The poverty headcount increased from 64.8 percent in 2005 to 69.4 percent in 2011 in rural areas. With fewer public services than in the two largest cities, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, the standard of living has deteriorated in the rest of the country. The population struggles to make a living through agriculture and woodcutting, resulting in deforestation and an unbalanced forest ecosystem. Economic opportunities in these areas are further impeded by the lack of a development plan including inefficient access to infrastructure (for example, water, electricity, and roads) and inadequate access to public services such as health, education, and markets.

13. **Youth unemployment remains at the forefront of the development challenge in the RoC, contrasting with the wealth potential of the country and needing development programs to promote social justice.** The RoC's youth population, ages 15–29 years, face low levels of activities with unemployment touching up to 32 percent. Low skills, limited opportunity for vocational training, lack of information and affordability of training programs, and lack of working tools are the main constraints hindering youth contribution in the economy. Young women are the most affected by long-term unemployment since the unemployment rate for young women is 61.5 percent against 54.6 percent for men according to government statistics. To build a resilient economy, the RoC will need to build short-term vocational training and entrepreneurial skills for young people and women in the informal sector.

14. **Women are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty and face unequal access to opportunities.** Unemployment is higher among women as they are less likely to go to school compared to men. According to a World Bank rapid assessment of the situation of women and gender-based violence (GBV) in the RoC, 70.4 percent of women ages 15–49 years have a secondary level of education and 82.2 percent of women ages 15–49 are literate. The RoC's Gender Inequality Country Index (2018) is 145 out of 157 countries⁹. The country has a Gini coefficient of 0.45 with a poverty incidence of 74.8 percent in rural areas versus 32.3 percent in urban areas. In certain regions, such as Sangha and Likouala, the literacy rate among women is low at 68 percent according to the Demographic and Health Survey 2011–2012. Additional barriers, including access to land, credit, and input, prevent women from gaining economic independence. Furthermore, women are often excluded or marginalized in decision-making, leading to patterns and investment generally not responding to women's priorities and needs. For instance, 70 percent of the country's agricultural workforce are women. Congolese women face barriers compared to men in accessing credit, agriculture inputs, land ownership, and labor. Gender employment gaps result from unequal access to education and skills training. In addition, there is a wage gap—women earn less than men and are more likely to be clustered in the informal sectors.

15. **The forest sector provides livelihood opportunities to thousands of Congolese.** The RoC has the second largest forest area in the world estimated at 22 million ha and is largely dependent on forests for its vital needs (food, energy, pharmacopeia, and so on). Creating 11,000 direct formal jobs and about 22,000 indirect formal jobs, the forestry sector is the second largest provider of jobs after public administration and has established economic and social structures (including rehabilitation of

⁹ Gender Inequality Index, 2019, <http://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?id=415>



departmental and national roads, schools, sanitary structures, drinking water, and so on). Few of these jobs require significant qualifications and many are often in isolated areas where there are few other economic alternatives. It is estimated that 575,000 Congolese live in forest areas and that some 84.5 percent of Congolese depend on wood products for their energy needs.

16. **With fishing, the agropastoral sectors constitute one of the first pillars of growth and economic diversification of the Government.** These sectors aim to contribute significantly to the creation of sustainable jobs, security, and food sovereignty. Of the 10 million ha of cultivable land, only 10 percent is used, and the average individual cultivated area varies between 0.5 ha and 1.5 ha for family farms. According to the 2016 general census of agriculture, agricultural assets represent a workforce of 514,358, or 12.86 percent, out of an estimated population of over 4 million, composed mainly of women (65 percent). Women contribute to 70 percent of the total agricultural production despite having difficulties accessing land

17. **As a result of the various drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, since 2008, the RoC has engaged in the process of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, as well as conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon.** The main direct drivers are (a) shifting subsistence agriculture, which occupies 81 percent of the cultivated land but is generally of low productivity; (b) forestry, both industrial and artisanal, which contributes significantly to emissions from degradation due to the substantial size of the country's forests, in spite of sustainable forest management policies; (c) fuelwood production, which provides about 90 percent of the country's energy needs and drives forest degradation primarily in the supply basins of urban centers, where transformation and utilization of these resources are generally inefficient; and (d) road and urban infrastructure, which have expanded into forest areas.

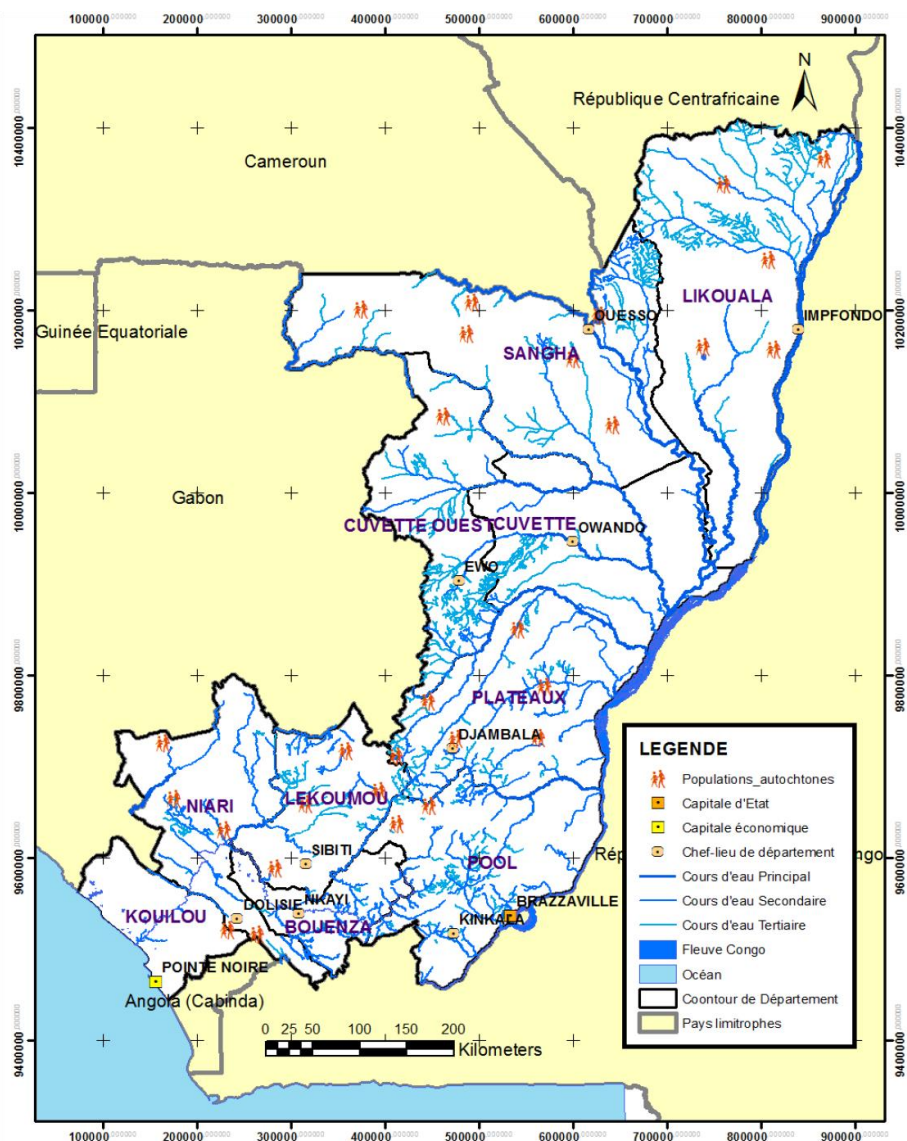
18. **It was estimated that, should the development of industrial agriculture not be managed in a sustainable manner, emissions would increase significantly.** Industrial agriculture has primarily been concentrated in the oil palm sector, in which concessions have been attributed in the past, although these have not had significant production so far. When it comes to mining, this sector has been mostly dormant while metals and minerals prices are globally low. In recent years, numerous exploration permits have been allocated in forest areas, where the primary risks relate to mine site and infrastructure development, as well as population influx. After agriculture, the mining sector could become the third leading cause of deforestation at the national level.

19. **Congo successfully applied to the Forest Investment Program (FIP) for investment support for REDD+, having received in December 2017 the FIP Sub-Committee's endorsement for its Investment Plan, which falls under the National REDD+ Strategy.** This provides access to up to US\$24 million. The Investment Plan covers the strategy's priority options for achieving the Government's vision of a low-carbon development pathway. The Government intends to implement US\$16 million through the Northern Congo Agroforestry Project (*Projet Agroforesterie Nord Congo*, PANC; P166189) to generate emission reductions under the Emission Reductions Program in Sangha-Likouala (ERP-SL or ER Program; P163361) financed by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). A second FIP-funded project will take place in central Congo. The PANC constitutes a key building block of the ER Program and seeks to address shifting agriculture as a driver of deforestation, while allowing small farmers to partake in the ER Program benefits. The PANC is accompanied by and closely linked with the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.



20. **The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and measures taken to mitigate further spread of the disease are likely to intensify the stresses on the local economy, with the poor and vulnerable populations affected the most (see annex 3 for adjustments made to the World Bank RoC program).** High urbanization rates, for example, enhance the risk that the smaller share of the population living in rural areas may receive less attention in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, increasing preexisting inequalities between urban and rural areas. In addition, inflationary pressures on food resulting from trade disruptions and restricted markets could impose an additional burden on many poor households, due to the relatively higher share of their resources spent on food. In the absence of public mitigation measures, the proportion of people living below the international poverty line (US\$1.9 a day in 2011 purchasing power parity) is expected to increase from 40 percent to 43 percent over 2020–2022. Marginalized groups, such as youth, women, and the elderly, are likely to be particularly affected by the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with longer-term implications for human capital accumulation and fragility. For instance, with regard to gender, the global COVID-19 pandemic has worsened inequalities, including increased GBV rates and increased household and childcare burdens on women due to mobility restriction (child care, elderly care, home occupations, and so on).

Figure 1: Map of Location of Indigenous People in the Republic of Congo



Source: November 2018, Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework REDD+ Project, Government of RoC



Box 1. Indigenous Peoples in the RoC

For centuries, the RoCs indigenous peoples have lived in dense humid forests, where for a long time they would have lived solely by hunting and gathering. The term 'indigenous peoples' covers a large number of ethnic groups with distinct identities and languages. The different groups are found in other countries of the subregion as well. Indigenous peoples in the RoC live along the north of the Atlantic coast; in the region of Kouilou live the Babongos. They also populate Niari, Bouenza, and Lékoumou, and they extend to the southeast of Gabon, beyond the Chaillu Massif. Although contested and expected to be a lower representation of the total population, the National Statistics Bureau estimates that there are a total of 43,378 persons belonging to indigenous peoples' group, representing approximately 1.17 percent of the national population. Seventy-six percent of the population of these indigenous peoples are concentrated in three departments: the Likouala (13,476), the Lékoumou (11,456), and the Sangha (7,885). In the Pool Department, the areas of Vinza, Kimba, Mayama, and Kindamba are inhabited by the Babis. They also live in Cameroon around Kribi and Lolodorf, where they are called Bagyeli. The Batéké plateaux in central Congo is inhabited by the Tswa. This name is close to that of the indigenous people of the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo, called the Batchua or the Cwa, terms that are found in the ancient Kuba kingdom, which is not far from the Twa from Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda.

In the Western Cuvette, the Bakola natives live in Mbomo. They extend to Gabon and take other names such as Bakolo, Bibayak, or Bambenga on the entire RoC territory. In northern RoC, there are other groups, including the Mikayas and Mbenzeles, which extend to Likouala.

The Ndoki valley and all the region of Likouala are inhabited by Baakas or Bakas. They extend to Cameroon and the Central African Republic, in the region of Lobaye or Labaye or Mbaki, which are border areas of RoC. All these communities, in Congo, in Lingala, are called Bambenga in the north. To the south, they are called Babongos. The list of these appellations is not exhaustive and is subjective, including the French term PYGMEES, which has a Greek origin meaning small man.

The distribution of indigenous peoples in the RoC points to a very young population (41 percent of the indigenous population are under 15 years of age), with a high fertility rate and a high rate of infant-youth mortality (the 10–14 age group has a large deficit). In contrast, indigenous peoples over 60 years represent only less than 5 percent of the population. This situation reflects important health problems. Moreover, the gender imbalance in favor of women for the population between 15 and 39 years shows that the phenomenon of migrations (seasonal, for employment, and rural exodus) of young men is also frequent among the indigenous populations.

In many areas of the RoC, there are indications of imbalanced dynamics of power dominance of Bantou communities towards IPs that are still present. Most of the Bantu families have "their" pygmies, of which they are the "masters". Certain types of abuses are committed against IPs, these include: almost free work, demand for hunting fees; discrimination; multiple types of violence (psychological, physical, sexual, etc.).

When it comes to customary land rights in the community development areas (SDCs), the question of lack of identification documents and the precariousness of the customary land rights of some individuals. A very large number of members of local communities and indigenous populations do not have identity cards, which constitutes a basic element to be able to claim ownership. In the case of indigenous populations in areas like Likouala, it is commonly recognized that these are the occupants original land, and that this status in theory gives them the right to freely access the land. However, in practice, the IPs often cultivate small plots of fifty square meters and work as day laborers in exchange for money or products such as pots, mosquito nets and machetes¹⁰.

¹⁰ World Bank Draft report: "Land Reform in the Republic of Congo: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities" (Reforme Fonciere En Republique Du Congo : Progres, Defis Et Opportunités) May 2019



C. Higher Level Objectives to which the Project Contributes

21. **The project contributes to the RoC's efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).** Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) traditionally have a low-carbon impact livelihood due to their knowledge of the forest and sustainable natural resource management; thus, it is expected that supporting their participation in land use and policy making will not only mitigate the negative impact of deforestation but also indirectly promote sustainable forest management and reduce the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
22. **The proposed Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management, also referred to as the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)-Congo project, is aligned with the World Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.** By targeting IPLCs, the DGM-Congo project aims to improve and finance livelihoods activities that provide traditional and sustainable natural resource management. While promoting economic development and improving rural livelihoods, the project will look for practices that emphasize mitigation and adaptation to climate change and are consistent with the values of IPLCs.
23. **The DGM-Congo project is also aligned with the CPF FY20-FY24 (Report No.126962-CG), which is deeply anchored in Congo's medium-term development framework, the PND 2018–2022.** Specifically, the project aligns with CPF Objective 1.3 - Improved Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization, which aims to support the creation of value chains between rural producers and businesses and increase the participation of underrepresented and excluded groups. The DGM-Congo project will help improve the competitiveness of domestically produced food by building the capacity of producers from farm to market. It will help increase agricultural productivity of subsistence farmers and small farmers by setting productive inclusion activities that combine agriculture and social protection. Initiatives will improve the sustainability of value chains through improved environmental and social standards and scaled-up sustainable production systems.
24. **The DGM program is closely linked with the REDD+/Forest Investment Plan for the RoC.** The Forest Investment Plan aims to centralize, channel, and coordinate international, national, public, and private funds to support the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. This involves structuring a programmatic framework to accommodate both sector-based and enabling REDD+-related investments. The REDD+ activities will be financed through existing bilateral and multilateral funding (Agence Française de Développement, European Union, IDA-World Bank, Global Environment Facility, and so on) and proposed funding from climate funds including the Forest Investment Program (FIP), the Central African Forest Initiative, and the Green Climate Fund and other multilateral, bilateral donors and private sector sources.
25. **The project aligns well with the World Bank Group Gender Strategy FY16–FY23.** The strategy has four objectives: (a) Improving Human Endowments (health, education, and social protection); (b) Removing Constraints for More and Better Jobs; (c) Removing Barriers to Women's Ownership of and



Control over Assets; and (d) Enhancing Women's Voice and Agency and Engaging Men and Boys in the prevention of Gender Based Violence¹¹.

26. **The project also aligns with the World Bank Group's Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020 and Forest Action Plan FY16-20.** These strategic documents confirm the World Bank's commitment to deploy performance-based mechanisms to support client countries' efforts towards achieving a low-carbon development trajectory. Specifically, the Forest Action Plan defines a programmatic approach as its operational centerpiece to move away from an instrument-driven approach toward combining various instruments (technical assistance, investments, and performance-based payments) supported by a mix of financing sources. In Congo the World Bank is supporting this approach by building on REDD+ readiness support through the FCPF Readiness Fund (US\$8.6 million), and strategically bundling financing from the FIP, the GEF (US\$6.5 million), CAFI (US\$20 million), and IDA (a portion of the US\$100 million Commercial Agriculture Project (P159979)), as well as US\$1.5 million from the Integrated Public Sector Reform Project (P160801), as up-front investments for the ER Program, which will be anchored by performance-based payments from the FCPF Carbon Fund (US\$50 million).

27. **The DGM-Congo project, similar to the Northern Congo Agroforestry Project (PANC, P166189), is aligned with the CPF FY20-FY24 (Report No.126962-CG) for the RoC.** Despite its abundant natural resources, the RoC remains a fragile and conflict-affected country. The CPF strives to address drivers of fragility while helping the RoC develop its human capital (including gender aspects of economic empowerment and the debilitating effects of stunting); achieve more sustainable and diversified economic growth (with emphasis on macro management, governance, and more accountable institutions); and achieve shared prosperity (with a spatial/territorial approach to underserved regions). Emphasis on the building blocks of social inclusion and pro-poor growth will include support for the policy reforms necessary to improve the investment climate, including public-private partnership advisory solutions, and the digital economy.

28. **The DGM-Congo project, as abovementioned, is closely linked with and will be implemented in parallel to the PANC project which has as an objective 'to strengthen climate-smart agriculture and conservation practices in Community Development Zones in the departments of Sangha and Likouala'.** The project is intended to address shifting agriculture as a driver of deforestation while allowing small farmers to partake in the Emissions Reductions-Program benefits. To do so, the project will work with communities to promote climate-smart agriculture practices that consume less area, generate higher yields, and diversify with crops that are resilient to climate change. The project will be divided into four

¹¹ In view of addressing issues of GBV and gender inequality, and men and boys can be key stakeholders and allies to increase women's agency. Evidence shows that a majority of men are willing to intervene upon witnessing violence against a woman, and men who do not support violence against women, are not violent generally, and who are aware of laws prohibiting violence against women are more likely to intervene. ("Fleming, Paul J.; Barker, Gary; McCleary-Sills, Jennifer; Morton, Matthew. 2013. *Engaging Men and Boys in Advancing Women's Agency : Where We Stand and New Directions*. Women's voice, agency, and participation research series;no. 1. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/16694> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.)



main components¹² to provide adequate and comprehensive support to the implementation of the strategy described earlier.

29. **Areas of complementarity with the PANC.** Given the great similarities between the DGM-Congo and PANC projects, both financed by the FIP, the main cooperation points are listed as follows:

- (a) **Beneficiaries.** The PANC's PIU and the DGM's National Executing Agency (NEA) will create a joint beneficiary database with other World Bank-financed projects (Forest and Econ. Diversification Project (PFDE, P158604), Commercial Agriculture Project (PDAC, P159979), Support to Enterprise Development and Competitiveness Project (PADEC, P161590) (PADEC), and the Lisungi Safety Nets Project (Lisungi, P161154) to avoid a duplication in support by targeting the same beneficiaries.
- (b) **Activities.** The activities of the PANC and the DGM complement and support each other. The agroforestry production support of the PANC is open to households with a plot size of up to 5 ha, while the DGM sets a limit of 1 ha to sharpen its focus on the most vulnerable groups, including IPs. As the DGM is scheduled to launch three months before the PANC, it will lay some of the groundwork for the larger project by generating information and piloting approaches on beekeeping, capacity building modules, and additional consultations with IPs. Throughout project implementation, the two projects, though implemented through different entities, will closely coordinate their activities and benefit from each other's experiences. The DGM will develop a needs assessment to design income-generating activities targeted at IPs, which can be scaled up under the PANC once effective. The same approach may be applied to community and IP lands mapping, which the DGM will undertake in areas with IPs and the PANC may apply in additional IPLCs. Some of the training activities of the DGM will be tailored to the specific needs of IPs, including basic skill development like literacy, thus complementing the PANC's focus on professional skills. This also holds true for the DGM support to strengthening the organizational capacities of IPs and their representatives. Furthermore, the DGM will identify and promote traditional knowledge, for example on techniques for rejuvenating soils, preventing erosion, and cultivating useful wild plants, which can then be disseminated under the PANC. Generally, the DGM's strong focus on working with IPs will help inform how the PANC can integrate these populations into its broader activities. Activities will also be geographically coordinated. For example, the DGM will implement beekeeping activities mainly in savannah areas. Also, it may take advantage of PANC nurseries established under the PANC to obtain seeds and seedlings for its own agricultural activities.
- (c) **Safeguards and grievance redress mechanism (GRM).** Even though the two projects follow different Environmental and Social Risk management standards, with the PANC following

¹² The PANC project will be divided into four main components to provide adequate and comprehensive support to the implementation of the model described earlier: Component 1: Enhancing involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate-smart agroforestry and sustainable forest resource management (through the promotion and uptake of climate-smart agroforestry and supporting the emergence of integrated value chains) (US\$4 million); Component 2: Direct and indirect support to agroforestry micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (through institutional capacity building to strengthen local economic and financial institutions and strengthen public sector service delivery) (US\$4.3 million); Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation (US\$3.1 million); and Component 4: Contingent emergency response (US\$0 million).



the Safeguard Policies while the DGM applies the newer Environmental and Social Framework, safeguards arrangements will be closely coordinated. This will include the development of a common GRM and its joint implementation in overlapping project areas. The PANC will to the extent possible attempt to apply the concept of Free, Informed and Consent (FPIC) similarly to the DGM. The DGM-Congo specific grievance mechanism will be prepared within 6 months from effectiveness.

Further details on the complementarity and synergies between the two projects are provided in Annex 1.

30. **The DGM-Congo project is in line with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) 2014–2025 Convergence Plan's priority axis 4 on fighting the effects of climate change and desertification.** It highlights the efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation and supports the development and implementation of measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. COMIFAC is mandated with the guidance, coordination, and alignment of policies and decision-making in conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of its 10 member states.¹³ COMIFAC is supported in its mandate by the Conference on Dense and Humid Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC), which aims to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the Central African forests and serves as a subregional forum promoting dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration between all stakeholders involved in the sector. CEFDHAC has been the joint platform for facilitating the coordination of forest policies in central Africa and includes governments, parliamentarians, public administration, private sector actors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs).

31. **The DGM-Congo project is also aligned with the RoC's '2018–2025 Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Central Africa'.** Forests are also the primary income source for a large portion of the indigenous peoples community. While these indigenous communities have been supported primarily by sectoral projects (either forestry or access to health and education services), they are now moving toward a more integrated approach focusing on inclusiveness.

32. **The project will align and collaborate with the Regional Network of Local and Indigenous Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC).** REPALEAC represents a platform and strategic framework for an inclusive development of the indigenous peoples in enhancing their leadership and control on their own development. The strategy is supporting a vision of a comprehensive and inclusive development that is drawn upon sectoral approaches (biodiversity protection, REDD+, sustainable forest management, and so on). The RoC DGM will collaborate with REPALEAC-Congo, specifically under Component 2 of the project (capacity building) in the advocacy for land rights for IPLCs.

33. **The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embodied in the DGM-Congo project.** The project activities will meet a number of the project interventions including: poverty reduction (SDG-1: No Poverty) and inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG-8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). The project will promote sustainable forest management and reverse land degradation (SDG-15: Life on Land), and promote climate change action, awareness-raising, and human capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation, which will increase the resilience of the rural

¹³ Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the RoC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Rwanda.



population (SDG-13: Climate Action). It will also contribute to capacity-building of local communities, enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, and technology in the targeted forest areas while at the same time encouraging and promoting effective partnerships with public, private, and civil society organizations (SDG-17: Partnerships for the Goals).

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

A. Project Development Objective

34. The project development objectives are to promote sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and strengthen their capacity to engage in sustainable natural resources management in the REDD+ processes.

B. Project Beneficiaries

35. **Overall, the project aims to cover approximately 2,960 beneficiaries and 50 NGOs and associations of IPLC beneficiaries located in the three targeted departments of the RoC.** The primary project beneficiaries include members of IPLCs who are dependent on natural resources and smallholder agricultural activities in the three departments. Eligibility criteria will be established to determine the beneficiaries for Component 1. Under Component 1, a total of 2960 households, 58 economic interest groups (EIGs), and eight nurseries and teaching farms will be supported for income-generating activities (IGAs) through grants.

36. **Beneficiaries will also include leaders of IPLCs and representative organizations in the respective communities.** Under Component 2, members of the IPLCs, as well as their representatives will be eligible to receive training; however, the selection of the trainees will be based on demonstrated affinity to the local IPLC communities targeted. Approximately 2,000 beneficiaries, including approximately 50 associations and NGOs/CGDCs¹⁴ will have their capacities strengthened as well as the NSC, and support will be provided in the three departments in education of indigenous peoples children through the ORA¹⁵ approach. Beneficiaries of subcomponent 2.2, indigenous peoples territory mapping exercise, will be all indigenous peoples groups nationally.

Eligibility Criteria

37. **During the selection of NSC members, the following criteria were considered to determine the eligible beneficiaries:**

¹⁴ Comités de Gestion de Développement Communautaire

¹⁵ ORA is the acronym for Observer Réfléchir Agir, meaning Observe Reflect Act. It is a method introduced in the RoC, especially in Likouala, in the north of the country, by Spiritan fathers. Indigenous peoples' children are educated by their own elders. These schools are supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) but they are not yet recognized by the Ministry of National Education.



- They should be from identified groups (indigenous peoples, forest-dependent communities, traditional communities, tribes, ethnic minority, or any other defined group that is dependent on forests for livelihood).
- They should be representatives of indigenous peoples organizations/community-based organizations/federations or associations of indigenous peoples/community organizations working on forestry/agriculture/sustainable development or recognized community leaders.
- They should be recognized community leaders, actively working with communities in the field on issues relevant to the DGM. They should be known and respected for their work on forests and REDD+ issues, working for the rights and 'voice' of vulnerable groups, and known for nonpartisanship and transparency in their work.

38. For Component 1, the eligibility criteria for selection of beneficiaries (for subprojects) will be established based on the affinity to identified groups (IPLCs) and specific eligibility criteria¹⁶. Moreover, for the beneficiaries of the micro-grants the selection will be done through a competitive process based on the household and community grant proposals that will be submitted. Each business plan will be scored and will need to receive passing grades per criteria that will be established. The DGM project will focus on the extremely vulnerable households and will finance proposals for households with plots of up to 1 hectare (including households with no landholding). NEA will enter into a subgrant agreement with subproject beneficiaries, and the NEA will procure goods and services on behalf of subproject beneficiaries for the subprojects' implementation, including training and technical assistance, as needed.

39. For Component 2 activities, eligibility criteria for the NGO/CSO representatives and individuals to benefit from the capacity building activities, selection will also be based on the affinity to the identified groups (IPLCs). The CSOs, NGOs members should be identified by the communities as representatives of indigenous peoples organizations/community-based organizations/federations or associations of indigenous peoples/community organizations working on forestry/agriculture/sustainable development or recognized community leaders. Furthermore they should equally be recognized community leaders, actively working with communities in the field on issues relevant to the DGM. They should be known and respected for their work on forests and REDD+ issues, working for the rights and 'voice' of vulnerable groups, and known for nonpartisanship and transparency in their work.

40. The project will apply Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the implementation of any activities affecting Indigenous groups (per National Law and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework). The modalities and procedures will be defined in the project's implementation manual.

41. Customary land tenure prevails in project areas and beneficiaries will be provided with authorizations to cultivate issued by land chiefs. In villages where there are no land chiefs, presidents of village committees will assume a central function in the allocation and/or documentation of land rights. There are however no uniform land administration practices in the project areas, and no standardized mechanisms to allocate and document land rights. Therefore, under the project, the NEA, in collaboration with the various stakeholders (including local Government), intends to build upon the experience of the village of Sombo in Likouala and pilot village land books¹⁷. These land books will be introduced in target

¹⁶ These will be defined in the project implementation manual.

¹⁷ MACKOSSO, Gaston (2019) Etude sur la Modernisation des Schémas Graphiques (Croquis) du Village Sombo : Création d'un



villages and they will be used to identify and map the land rights of the project beneficiaries. Mechanisms will be introduced to ensure that beneficiaries' land rights do not infringe upon areas occupied or used by IP, protected areas, or areas already claimed.

Targeted Areas

42. The project will carry out its activities in 3 departments and 15 districts or administrative communities. The targeted rural districts are as follows (and shown on map in annex 7):

- Sangha: in the districts of Mokéko, Sembé, Souanké, and Ngbala
- Likouala: in the districts of Epéna, Doungou, Enyellé, Bétou, and Bouanéla
- Plateaux: in the districts of Djambala, Lékana, Mbon, Abala, Ngo, and Gamboma

C. PDO-Level Results Indicators

PDO-Level Indicators

43. The proposed indicators at the Project Development Objective (PDO) level are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries with improved livelihoods as a result of economic support (grants) (disaggregated by sex)
- (b) Percentage of land users adopting sustainable land management practices (sex disaggregated)
- (c) IPLCs associations, representatives, and IPLCs members with an increased role in the FIP and other REDD+ processes at the local, national, and global levels (as a result of capacity-building activities)
- (d) Hectares of land under improved land management (as a result of project intervention).

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Components

44. In an effort to avoid the overlapping of activities between the PANC and DGM, most interventions for a specific component will mainly take place in the savannah areas, but some select activities may take place in Sangha and Likouala; this will be determined during the specific site identification. The micro-projects that will be funded will be presented by local communities, and the eligibility criteria will be developed in the Project Implementation Manual.



Component 1. Promotion of IGAs for sustainable management of natural resources¹⁸ (US\$2,200,000)

45. The objective of this component is two-pronged and aims to (a) support the implementation of activities that will improve the livelihoods of the targeted IPLCs and (b) finance activities that provide traditional and sustainable natural resource management.

Subcomponent 1.1. Promotion of investments in the management of forest landscapes (US\$950,000)

46. The subcomponent aims at promoting economic development and improving rural livelihoods through practices that emphasize mitigation and adaptation to climate change and are consistent with the values of IPLCs.

47. The sub-activities selected to receive grant funding will aim for the following:

- (a) Promote sustainable management and development of natural forests, as well as restoration and natural regeneration of previously degraded or converted forests through provision of small grants. For this specific group of micro-grants to be provided to beneficiaries, there will be a focus on degraded and semi-degraded and converted forests with activities that are specific for IPLCs. The project will target a minimum of 40 percent grants toward women or women's groups and associations for this specific activity. The micro-grants will finance IGAs such as food crop plantations (cassava and corn); legumes (beans and pigeon peas) that can improve agricultural yields over the long term; fruit trees (citrus, kolatier, papaya, avocado, safou, banana trees, and so on); and apiculture/beekeeping (especially for indigenous peoples). Preference will be given to corn-pigeon peas, cassava-acacia, and banana-legumes. In addition to small grants, support will be provided to planters in the form of training and continuous support, particularly for the stages of preparation and maintenance of the field, harvesting, packaging, and storage of the produce. For places where there are potential human/wildlife conflicts (Forest Management Units / *Unités Forestières d'Aménagement* (UFA) of Kabo, around the parks), bananas should be avoided. The DGM-Congo project will rely on the nurseries created and managed by the PANC and the existing project, PFDE. The grants provided will be a maximum of US\$1,000 for a household, US\$5,000 for an EIG, and US\$20,000 for a nursery (including water supply where necessary). From the grants, two nurseries will be created, and 40 households and six EIGs will benefit from this activity.
- (b) Promote sustainable agricultural practices in the savannahs which include enhancement and preservation of medicinal and aromatic species and agricultural practices contributing to local agrobiodiversity, such as moringa, and other traditional crops through provision of grants. The project will build and organize the management of nurseries for the domestication of medicinal species and fields of medicinal experimental plants and train beneficiaries in the processing of such crops (including moringa and other products) and their marketing. Under this activity, the project will also finance the production of traditional essential and aromatic oils; this will include (i) building and organizing the management of

¹⁸ Relevant gender gap. Women receive less forest extension services and have less access to information (for example, on sustainable forest management practices and agroforestry techniques) and natural resource management training opportunities due to household chores, social norms, mobility restrictions, and so on.



nurseries for the production of citronella, eucalyptus, and citriodora and fields of aromatic plants; (ii) equipping EIGs in the transformation of oils (cooling tanks, distillation tank, extractor, and so on); and (iii) providing training in techniques of planting eucalyptus and citriodora, extracting essential oils, and marketing the product. The grants provided will be a maximum of US\$2,000 for a household, US\$10,000 for each EIG, and up to US\$20,000 for nurseries.

Subcomponent 1.2. Promotion of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs)¹⁹ (US\$1,250,000)

48. Activities in this subcomponent will aim at supporting investments in the sustainable management of forest landscapes, including timber and NTFPs, for efficient use of energy, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change.

49. The sub activities selected to receive grant funding will aim for the following:

(a) Promoting through capacity building activities, the traditional knowledge for preserving and improving the quality of the water and soil, including reforestation and application of practices in agroecological plowing. This will comprise indigenous practices in landscape management, including burning, collecting, weeding, and other activities incorporated into seasonal hunting/gathering, soil rejuvenation, specific tree planting for the prevention of soil erosion on community lands²⁰, cultivation of wild indigenous plants, and so on.

(b) Promoting: (i) the use of forest that maintains the carbon footprint to a minimum and preserves biodiversity; (ii) the domestication of NTFPs (gnetum africanum, honey, mushrooms like pleurotes, and so on) for value addition of other resources; and (iii) the reduction of dependency on wood (which significantly affects women²¹).

(c) Promoting the forest plantations for the sustainable production of wood energy on community lands and production of improved stoves and briquettes to improve the fuelwood efficiency through: (i) technical assistance to identify and develop efficient, affordable and scalable technologies for charcoal production; (ii) awareness raising and training of local communities and charcoal producers in improved carbonization techniques and the use of higher-performance furnaces; and (iii) construction and purchase of improved charcoal furnaces to incentivize charcoal producers for transformation outside the boundaries of natural forests, hence reducing bushfires and forest degradation linked to charcoal production. The project will

¹⁹ Low number of female entrepreneurs in NTFPs (particularly, in higher value chains) due to inadequate access to finance, lack of business development skills, market links, and so on.

²⁰ Land allocated by the village chiefs and under customary tenure.

²¹ Sustainable production of wood or production of improved cookstove can reduce gender gaps. Harmful exposure to emissions from cooking with solid fuels disproportionately affects women (particularly pregnant women resulting in adverse pregnancy outcomes such as miscarriage, stillbirth, and so on), and women and girls have less time for education and other productive activities due to their central role in gathering firewood (increased scarcity of firewood requires women to travel further distance). Furthermore, this activity also reduces incidences of GBV as women do not have to travel further out to collect wood. Therefore, the project investment to ensure women's access to labor-saving technologies such as energy-efficient cookstoves and provisions of community tree nurseries with seeds and seedlings targeted for women's needs (for example, trees for fodder and wood-fuel planted) will have a significant positive impact on women and girls.



provide improved stoves, autonomous cookers, or other sustainable solutions for around 300 households. At the same time, the project will support 100 charcoal-producing households in transitioning to alternative livelihood options by providing financial compensation and training to improve carbon production and offering alternative livelihoods. These activities will be targeted in particular at women, who are the primary traders of charcoal.

(d) Supporting the development of the honey sector through: (i) providing beehives to volunteer households; (ii) providing Subgrants to said households for the acquisition of technical equipment for the production and processing of honey, technical capacity building and support for honey promotion and marketing activities for EIG communities; and (iii) promoting the creation females led EIG communities and supporting the existing ones (funding at least 40 percent of female-led CEIGs if existing in area of implementation). The grants provided for households will be a maximum of US\$2,000 for a household and US\$5,000 for each EIG. The project estimates that approximately 300 households, 30 EIGs, and 1,500 beehives will be financed.

Component 2. Institutional reinforcement (US\$1,400,000)

50. The objective of the component is to ensure the sustainable management of forest and savannah ecosystems in the RoC by IPLCs in the FIP (climate-smart agroforestry) and REDD+ process.

Subcomponent 2.1. Capacity building (US\$1,200,000)

51. Under this subcomponent, developing a training plan tailored to the needs of communities and organizations supporting the implementation of micro-projects identified in Component 1 will be elaborated. Trainings offered will complement the training provided under the PANC project and will integrate issues related to climate change and techniques to alleviate its negative impacts. The project will develop modules for the various training activities, including working with experts on behavioural change to create to link between the project activities and reduction of environmental degradation, deforestation, and improved soil quality.

52. More specifically, the subcomponent will finance capacity-building activities related to

- Capacity building for the NSC members (project supervision, monitoring, and evaluation);
- Grant proposals training for IGA activities to individuals and GIEs;
- Administrative and managerial capacities for investment preparedness of the members of IPLCs, representatives, and CSOs;
- Building of entrepreneurial capacities including financial management (FM) skills of the IPLCs and strengthening of the capacity of Réseau National des Populations Autochtones au Congo (RENAPAC) and its umbrella organizations in advocacy and securing of IPLC land rights and resources as well as ensuring of the implementation of the GRM;
- Entrepreneurial, including the FM skills of IPLCs;
- Strengthening of the capacity of IPLC NGOs in the advocacy and securing of land rights (roundtables) of IPLCs and natural resources as well as in the implementation of the GRM;



- IPLCs, to improve representation in FORA meetings;
- Strengthening of the visibility, admissibility, transparency, and credibility of IPLC organizations (including participation in key meetings nationally and globally);
- Improved knowledge of the technical aspects of conservation. This includes wildlife and forest inventories, forest and peatland carbon measurements and quantifications, habituation of animals, continuous surveillance and monitoring of biotopes and habitats, independent observation of forests and peatlands, and processing and conservation of NTFPs and others;
- Environmental and social (E&S) Framework and implementation;
- Training in environmental tourism professions; and
- Education of indigenous peoples' children and literacy and language training for adults and their representatives.

53. The trainings will include gender and GBV awareness-raising trainings to increase female participation. These will include, but will not be limited to,

- GBV awareness and prevention (including gender sensitization trainings in communities);
- Essential services available at the community level including health, psychosocial counseling, and legal support (if available at the local level);
- Land tenure rights for women and land ownership;
- Climate-smart agriculture practices targeted at women.

54. The trainings will be conducted in the localities of the project; however, some may also take place outside of the project zones, depending on the training and the availability of training locally.

55. The NEA, as part of the Component 2 activities will conduct a capacity needs assessment of the beneficiary communities to identify specific needs for capacity building both for IPLCs and their representatives. Special focus will be on women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups (including albinos). The training sessions will be tailored to fit the needs of these groups, for women in particular, in specific issues such as childcare services, and attention to preference on location and time of those trainings will be respected when designing the curricula.

56. The NEA will identify qualified service providers for targeted trainings (fitting within the criteria mentioned earlier). The service providers will prepare a plan and methodology, which will be approved.

Subcomponent 2.2. Mapping of indigenous peoples' lands and territories (US\$200,000)

57. This subcomponent will finance the identification and mapping of natural resources, including lands and territories, that are occupied or traditionally used by Indigenous people for their subsistence, pharmacopoeia and other activities. This will include sacred and spiritual sites as per Decree n° 2019-200



of July 12, 2019²². Though this map may not represent official or legal boundaries, the objective of the activity is to provide support to indigenous peoples to secure tenure, manage natural resources, and strengthen the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples nationwide. The mapping effort will utilize both traditional and modern approaches: partial mapping will be done in a participatory manner (qualitative interviews and village sketching of the maps) along with more technical efforts with geographic information systems and use of data collection tools such as KoBoToolbox. The project will explore potential collaboration on the census of IP with the National Institute of Statistics who are currently planning the national census. The activity will be executed with the active participation of Indigenous people, the local communities and local associations, with the support of qualified consultants. The project will also support the implementation of select provisions in the Implementation Decree 2019-200 of July 12, 2019 (of the Indigenous Peoples Law) defining the methods of protection of cultural property, sacred sites and spiritual sites of indigenous populations.

Component 3 - Project management (US\$900,000)

Subcomponent 3.1. Administrative management of the NEA (US\$675,000)

58. The subcomponent will finance the salaries of NEA staff (non-civil servant), , the equipment and operating costs of the NEA directly linked to the day-to-day management of the project (offices, utilities and supplies, bank charges, vehicle operation, maintenance and insurance, building and equipment maintenance costs, travel and supervision, and so on), including communications. The NEA will support the National Steering Committee (NSC) in the sessions of the NSC as well as in the communications between the NSC and the department-based committees and the follow-up of the GRM and technical training on project management for NEA and NSC staff/members. The subcomponent will also finance the salaries, equipment, and operating costs of the NEA focal points in charge of the field operations in the three Departments. This will include: the purchase of motorcycles, maintenance and insurance, solar panels for site-offices, travel and supervision, M&E equipment, and other fees and charges. The field staff will be supported by the staff in the Brazzaville main office.

59.

Subcomponent 3.2 Monitoring and evaluation, Auditing, and E&S risk management (US\$225,000)

60. The subcomponent will finance monitoring and evaluation (M&E), audits, and safeguards. This subcomponent will finance the M&E program, which remains a key element for the effective implementation of the project by the NEA and NSC, and will allow to measure the impact of the project to better analyze the benefits of the project. This component will finance activities related to the establishment of a tool/system for the collection, processing, and management of data. This component will also finance regular internal audits and annual external audits (in accordance with the World Bank's legal requirements, audits of financial aspects, and procurement) as well as the monitoring and implementation of aspects related to the environmental and social safeguards of the project.

²² Decree n° 2019-200 of July 12, 2019 determining the methods of protection of cultural property, sacred sites and spiritual sites of indigenous populations.



Negative List

61. The project will not finance any of the following:

- Activities carried out in relation to the adjudication of lands under dispute;
- Activities adversely affecting local communities, or where communities have not provided their broad support to such activities;
- Activities restricting access to natural resources from or by the communities, unless evidence is provided demonstrating that these restrictions have been agreed to through FPIC process or transparent and inclusive participatory community decision-making processes which have provided for the identification of measures to mitigate adverse impacts on the most vulnerable members of the community and which lead to broad community support
- Activities financing the purchase of pesticides
- Activities requiring the purchase of land or physical resettlement
- Activities that are screened as 'High risk' on the environmental and social screening
- Activities that cause negative impacts on the biodiversity or natural forests or that may degrade natural habitats: activities involving conversion, deforestation or degradation or any other alteration of natural forests or natural habitats including, inter alia, conversion to agriculture or tree plantations;
- Removal of any physical cultural property (tangible or intangible)
- Commercializing of illegal timber or timber products
- Political or electoral campaigns
- Purchase of tobacco, alcohol, or other substances.

B. Project Cost and Financing

62. **The lending instrument will be an Investment Project Financing (US\$4.5 million) with grant resources from the Strategic Climate Fund.** Part of the grant will be dedicated to funding the recruitment of the NEA and associated positions to implement the project for five years. There is no counterpart funding.



Table 1. Project Costs by Component

Project Components	Project Cost (US\$)	Trust Funds (US\$)
Component 1. Promotion of IGAs for sustainable management of natural resources (US\$2,200,000)		
Subcomponent 1.1: Promotion of investments in the management of forest landscapes	950,000	950,000
Subcomponent 1.2: Promotion of timber and non-timber forest products	1,250,000	1,250,000
Component 2. Institutional reinforcement (US\$1,400,000)		
Subcomponent 2.1: Capacity Building	1,200,000	1,200,000
Subcomponent 2.2: Mapping of indigenous peoples' lands and territories	200,000	200,000
Component 3 - Project management (US\$900,000)		
Subcomponent 3.1: Administrative management of the NEA	675,000	675,000
Subcomponent 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation, Auditing and E&S risk management	225,000	225,000
Total Project Costs	4,500,000	4,500,000
Total Financing Required	4,500,000	4,500,000

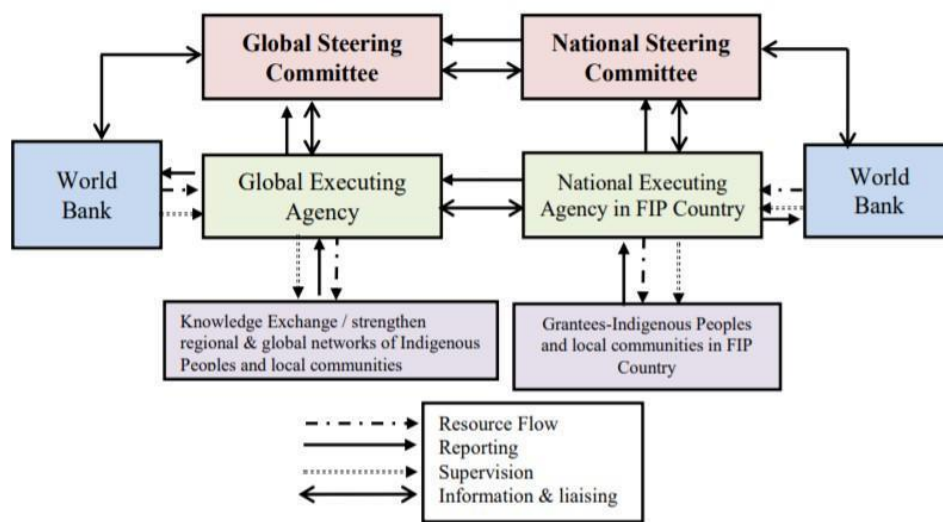
IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

63. The DGM Program has two components:
- (a) A global component for the exchange of knowledge and building networks and partnerships among IPLC organizations in the pilot countries and beyond.
 - (b) A country-based community small grants component in each of the FIP pilot countries (Brazil, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, and Peru) to support on-the-ground activities and capacity building.

64. The proposed project supports the national DGM project in the RoC. The institutional arrangements for the DGM project are based on the principle of being 'for local communities by local communities'. The Government of the RoC will play a role of observer and advisor, and will also collaborate where feasible with development partners and other stakeholders (refer to 2 for a representation of the links between the global and national components of the DGM).

Figure 2. The DGM Architecture



Note: Climate Investment Funds (CIF) operational guidelines.

65. **Government agencies.** The Ministry of Forest Economy oversees the implementation of the FIP and leads the REDD+ process. In addition, several sectorial ministries (Agriculture and Livestock, Justice, Women's promotion and health, Finance, Tourism and Environment,) will work closely at the local level with the DGM beneficiaries' organizations as advisors and observers in the National Steering Committee.

66. **The NSC will have oversight of the DGM project implementation in the RoC.** It will provide, with the assistance of the NEA, a semiannual report on the implementation of the program to the Global Steering Committee (GSC). Its main function will be to select proposals for grant award and to monitor the progress of sub-projects. The NSC will liaise with the national REDD+ coordination committee or equivalents and ensure that the DGM project lessons are transmitted to ongoing national processes. Members will also actively seek feedback from the local communities on the project, identify needs and collect and send ideas to the GSC to be supported by the global component, and represent the RoC in the GSC as required. The NSC has 22 (out of 27) local community members representing the three departments as decision-making members. Observers in the NSC can be from the Government, private sector, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and other agencies as appropriate. The final size of 27 members in the NSC was determined by stakeholders. Members of the NSC will act in their individual capacity and not as agents, officers, or representatives of the Global Executing Agency (GEA), NEA, World Bank, member countries of the FIP subcommittee, beneficiary countries, or any other organization or entity.



67. **The NSC members were selected through an IPLC-led self-selection process at the local and national levels.** This committee was set up through a national consultative process of IPLCs and presented at the inaugural session on February 25, 2017. The members' time on the NSC is a voluntary contribution. Representatives from the World Bank; Ministry of Forest Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples; and Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity are observers in the NSC.

68. **The selection of the NEA was carried out through a competitive process.** The World Bank will enter into an agreement with the Consortium International Committee for the Promotion of Investment, Valorisation, Innovation and Employment and CARITAS DIOCESE D'OWANDO (CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO), which is the selected agency who will be receiving the grant. CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO will provide progress reports to the World Bank, including on the safeguards and fiduciary aspects of the project. The Republic of Congo has endorsed the Project and will allow CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO to implement the project.

69. **The CIPIVIE-CARITAS D'OWANDO, as the NEA, will implement the project on behalf of the NSC, develop country-specific review and risk assessment criteria, and provide operational and financial reporting to the World Bank.** Under the overall direction of the NSC, CIPIVIE-CARITAS D'OWANDO will be responsible for disbursing funds to grant projects selected by the NSC as well as for monitoring grant-funded projects and ensuring appropriate use of DGM project funds, in accordance with the operational framework and Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank, and will report to the World Bank. CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO will complement these operational guidelines with country-specific procedures and update them as needed so that the DGM procedures are tailored to respond to national circumstances and requirements. CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO will also maintain documentation of the country DGM projects, follow the communications strategy in coordination with the GEA, manage grievance and complaints redress processes as outlined in the project GRM, respond promptly to queries, and coordinate with and send information as requested to the GEA.

Table 2. Institutional Arrangements of the DGM

Stakeholder Group	Responsibility
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be members in the various governing bodies, selected in an open and transparent manner • Develop and implement grant proposals under the country components, if eligible • Collaborate with the NEA in the grant application, implementation, and evaluation processes • Participate in community-level monitoring and peer learning • Communicate proposals for improvements of the DGM to the NSC and GSC
NSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides oversight to the DGM in the country and keeps the functioning of the NEA under review • Agrees on eligibility criteria for funding in accordance with the criteria of the framework guidelines for operations, with a 'no-objection' from participating MDBs • Reviews and makes funding decisions on eligible project proposals • Participates in meetings of national REDD+ and FIP institutions • Raises funds through other programs/mechanisms • Reports to the GSC on national activities on a semiannual basis • Mediates conflicts related to DGM project funding proposals

Stakeholder Group	Responsibility
NEA/CIPVIE-CARITAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for the execution of the DGM project in the RoC, including disbursements to grantees according to the agreement with the World Bank • Is responsible for oversight, reporting, fiduciary, and ESF requirements of the World Bank • Reports to the World Bank on the allocation and use of funds • Serves as secretariat to the NSC • Maintains communication with stakeholders in the country • Provides information and assistance as needed to grantees • Prepares information for and coordinates with the GEA
GSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides strategic oversight to the DGM • Offers intellectual and policy guidance • Promotes program consistency across the countries, respecting national indigenous processes • Approves and allocates budget for the global component • Reviews the work of the GEA and progress in implementation • Identifies key activities for the global component • Drafts and approves its decision-making rules and bylaws and elects the chairperson of the GSC • Facilitates complaints redress and mediation • Reviews progress reports from each NSC • Widely disseminates lessons and results and reports to the FIP subcommittee on an annual basis • Advocates for global policy frameworks and programs to scale up program results • Reviews and approves amendments to the framework operations guidelines with a 'no-objection' from the World Bank and participating MDBs • Reviews and approves the conditions under which additional members may be invited to take part in the DGM GSC with a 'no objection' from the World Bank and participating MDBs
GEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the global component of the DGM • Reports to the World Bank as the implementing MDB for the global component on fiduciary and safeguards responsibilities • Serves as secretariat to GSC • Prepares reports on progress for the GSC • Is responsible for reporting on the learning and knowledge outcomes of the overall program and dissemination of lessons from the project • Discharges other duties as required by the GSC • Facilitates mediation if required
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enters into financing agreements with the NEA (CIPVIE-CARITAS) and transfers funds for the execution of the DGM • Provides oversight of the NEA, in accordance with World Bank policies, including fiduciary standards and the ESF • Prepares reports on the DGM fund utilization for the FIP secretariat • Participates as an observer in the GSC and NSC

Stakeholder Group	Responsibility
Government of the RoC: Ministry of Forest Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorses the DGM project in the pilot country before approval by the FIP subcommittee • Establishes links between national REDD+ processes, FIP projects, and the DGM through the NSC • Through FIP investments, creates an environment which supports IPLCs leadership in DGM management and execution • Participates in the GSC and NSC as an observer

B. Results Monitoring and Evaluation

70. The results monitoring framework assesses progress toward the PDO through key indicators, focusing on improving the economic opportunities of targeted beneficiaries through livelihoods activities and conservation techniques for better sustainability of resources. In addition, intermediate indicators will be used to monitor the process of each component during the life cycle of the project. M&E will be arranged through the recruited implementing NGO, where a dedicated M&E personnel and a system will be established for the project. Considering the remoteness of some of the project areas, the system will include using smartphone-based and/or the World Bank GEMS (Geo-Enabling team for Monitoring and Supervision) monitoring tools to receive live update about project implementation. NGO field-based agents or community representatives will be expected to share specific project data using new technology on a regular basis. Before the start of the implementation interventions, a baseline study will be conducted to establish the baseline situation of the project indicators.

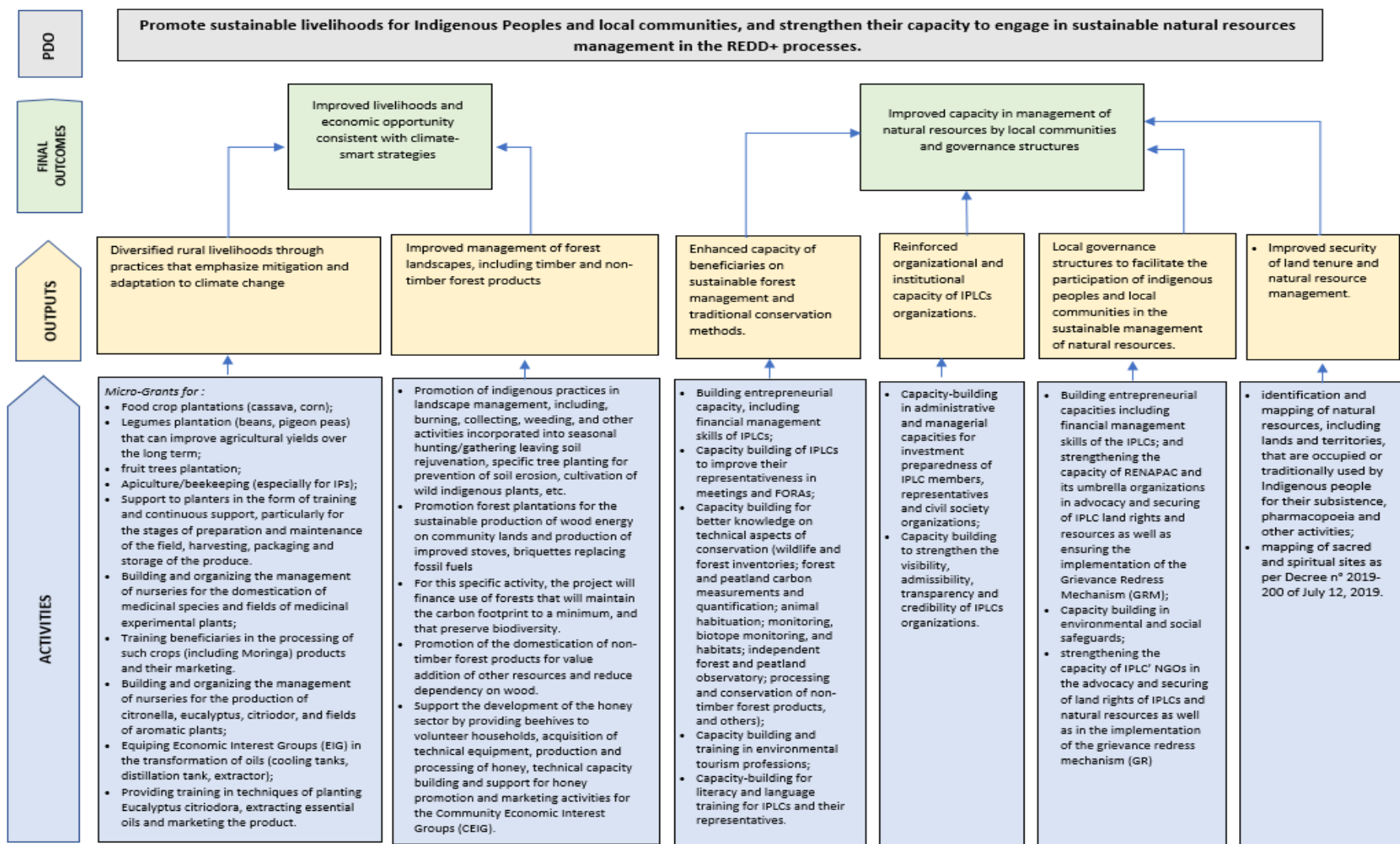
71. The project will conduct continuous monitoring, in addition to a midterm and end-of-the-project evaluation. Monitoring will be extended to the community participation in the project and occur at each stage of the implementation to gauge community satisfaction. A set of quick monitoring tools and small surveys will be developed to evaluate progress toward the PDO and also correct arising problems. Larger and deeper evaluation will be carried out during midterm and project closing to assess the impact of the project on the targeted beneficiaries.

72. A gender specialist or a gender focal point will participate in formal and routine supervision missions to assess whether women are active participants in planning and decision-making and whether sub-projects funded respond to women's needs and increase the potential for women's participation.

73. The gender gap with respect to access to services, inputs and finance, and ownership of economic resources will be reduced by promoting women producers'/entrepreneurs' access to grants. On top of the grant, female-led or female-owned enterprises would also be promoted through access to tailored technical assistance/business-boosting packages which include training in business leadership, entrepreneurship training, mentorship, networking support, and so on).



Figure 3. Results Framework



C. Sustainability

74. **The project is designed to replace behaviors that lead to deforestation and degradation with those that derive value from the standing forests and savannahs in a sustainable manner.** Therefore, the sustainability of the project will depend on many factors, including (a) community engagement and ownership of savannah and forest management activities; (b) quality of local investments; (c) land security to protect investments; (d) strengthened capacity of local actors including at the local communities, the decentralized technical services (for agricultural extension service), and civil society; (e) effective participation of women and indigenous peoples in the process and implementation; (f) social cohesion and effective resolution of local conflicts; and (g) integration of environmental sustainability into investments. The capacity-building program that will be supported under Component 2 will strengthen the skills of the local communities' representatives and local-based organizations to be able to mobilize more financial resources from other donors by designing robust project proposals.

75. **The project will help create value chains between rural producers and businesses especially in specialized products such as honey and essential oils and ultimately increasing the participation of underrepresented and excluded groups.** The project will finance the production of food crop plantations, essential oil trees/plants, and beekeeping among others that are economically viable products. The project will help improve the competitiveness of these domestically produced items by building the capacity of producers from farm to market in addition to building the local value chains. It will help increase agricultural productivity of subsistence farmers and small farmers by setting productive inclusion activities that combine agriculture and social protection. Cultivating these links is key to keeping the project gains sustainable.

76. **Fiscal sustainability.** While the funding for this project is relatively limited, it seeks to build existing local and community structures and capacity that have the potential for continued environmental impact and future financing as well. The close links to the FIP provide an opportunity to demonstrate synergies between government-led and community-led initiatives and increase the potential for further financial opportunities. Working with communities on improving IGAs is also intended to promote sustainable livelihood improvements that are not dependent on project financing for the long term. The pilot will allow the RoC to better incorporate IPLCs into emission-reducing activities and to incentivize forest-dependent populations to conserve their forest areas for monetary and non-monetary benefits, eventually supported by international carbon markets.

V. KEY RISKS

A. Overall Risk Rating and Explanation of Key Risks

Risk Category	Rating (H, S, M, or L)
1. Political and Governance	S
2. Macroeconomic	M
3. Sector Strategies and Policies	M

4. Technical Design of Project	M
5. Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	S
6. Fiduciary	S
7. Environmental and Social	M
8. Stakeholders	M
9. Other	S
OVERALL	S

77. **The overall project risk rating is Substantial.** This rating is driven by uncertain political, governance, and macroeconomic risks; sectoral strategies; institutional, fiduciary, environmental, and social; and stakeholder risks rated Substantial. Continuous implementation support and regular monitoring of the IDA team in coordination with national entities and beneficiary communities will be the mitigating measures for the risks identified in the following paragraphs to achieve the PDO of the project.

78. **COVID-19 Risks.** Potential risks related to the spread of the COVID-19 will have an impact on the implementation of activities. To mitigate this risk, the project will ensure that specific measures that comply with national health and safety standards, particularly with sanitary guidance by health authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are included in the ESMF and operations manual.

79. **Political and governance risks are rated Substantial.** Due to a competition of available funding for activities related to IPLCs in the RoC and the multitude of CSOs representing IPLCs and high levels of mistrust of local leadership, there is a risk of misappropriation or misuse of funds and poor management of the project. In an effort to manage this risk, the project, through the NSC and NEA, will ensure that there is a functional GRM to capture complaints and that an accountability system is in place for all implementing actors to ensure transparency. Additional mitigation measures include a clear communication strategy with an extra effort on transparency, inclusion, and dialogue. In addition, the project will define, as precisely as possible, the project beneficiaries (definition of local communities and eligibility criteria), the project areas (at department level), and the reasonable level of expectations for each stakeholder.

80. **Sector strategies risks are rated Moderate.** Despite Government engagement to spur territorial development and speed the implementation of its decentralization program, decision-making remains at the hand of the central government. As a result, misinformation and/or a lack of experience from the final beneficiaries due to potential low capacity of local organizations to prepare proposals may result in elite capture. If not well designed and implemented, the grants facility may disproportionately benefit larger, more established organizations. The project will mitigate this risk by avoiding intermediate levels between the national steering committee and the technical and financial reports/controls to make sure that the beneficiary representatives can access the information and capacity-building initiatives at the local level. In addition, the project will publicly circulate the decisions by the steering committee and the financial reports to avoid suspicion and communicate on the identity of the final beneficiaries.

81. **Institutional capacity risks are rated Substantial.** The institutional risks are elevated as diverse stakeholders with different levels of capacity will be engaged in the implementation of the project. In



addition, certain areas where the project will be implemented are inaccessible and may result in difficult or poor-quality implementation of the project activities. To remedy this, the project will, as much as possible, (a) provide training in project implementation; (b) ensure there is presence of NEA in the field; (c) collaborate with local CSOs and representatives to implement the activities; and (d) use new technology to monitor implementation and correct arising problems. Additionally, the project should plan for high transaction and control costs and ensure that independent audits are periodically performed for the effectiveness and the quality of the implementation.

82. **Fiduciary risks are rated Substantial.** Fiduciary risks have a substantial probability of affecting the PDO in a substantially adverse way. Overall, the fiduciary environment of the country has several weaknesses. The country is currently in a new economic period characterized by low GDP growth and the deterioration of public finances and the external financial position brought about by a sharp drop in oil prices since mid-2014. Oil revenues account for about one-third of the country's GDP, two-thirds of its fiscal revenues, and more than 80 percent of its exports of goods. The sharp decline in oil prices since 2014 has represented a severe terms-of-trade loss, which reduced production in both the oil and non-oil sectors. The ballooning deficit as well as lack of funds for operating and other expenditures of line ministries and most public entities make the project funds a target for potential misuse. Major risks in the current environment include (a) redundant and lengthy steps in budget execution processes, including various political interventions in the approval of commitments and payments; and (b) abuse in the use of exceptional or emergency procedures. The implementing agency is highly inexperienced, not only in managing World Bank Group funds, but also funds in the magnitude of the proposed grant. Initial and possibly recurrent deficiencies are expected in all elements of the FM cycle (planning/budgeting, flow of funds, accounting, reporting, internal controls, and external audit). As a result, the overall country fiduciary risk is still considered Substantial.

83. **Stakeholders risks are rated Substantial.** As the DGM activities will be managed by the NSC and the NEA that are centrally located (Brazzaville), there is a risk of stakeholders (in the departments) experiencing a sense of lack of control and access to the activities, therefore leading to a lack of appropriation and trust if there is insufficient communication and consultation. In an effort to mitigate the risk, the project will ensure that a communication plan is established that will ensure an ongoing consultation process throughout the life of the project is established and implemented by the NEA with the support of local leaders in the RENAPAC umbrella and CSOs/NGOs.

Other risks

84. **Fraud and corruption.** Due to the nature of the project (small grants) and the likely weak capacity of target beneficiaries to implement project activities, there is a chance that project funds may be misused. To manage this risk, the project will establish a grievance redress mechanism for community members through which stakeholders can submit complaints, undertake robust information dissemination efforts, and prepare clear financial management procedures and conduct regular audits.

85. **Geographic dispersion.** The number, diversity, and geographic dispersion of IPLCs might pose challenges to the preparation and definition of the steering committee. Dispersion may pose a challenge to convene IPLCs and carry out consultations that IPLCs could evaluate as broadly representative of themselves. In addition, the beneficiaries may constitute a very diverse community with a broad range of expectation and tremendous difficulties to be unified under a single organization for political and cultural

reasons. During implementation, dispersion and difficulties to access may pose challenges to IPLCs' participation due to the lack of information and access to project activities, sub-grants execution leading to delays in disbursements, and supervision of activities by the implementing agency. To remedy this, the project will, (a) ensure there is presence of the NEA in the field through the field officers and (b) collaborate with local CSOs and representatives to implement a number of activities. Additionally, the project has planned for the very high transaction and control costs to ensure that independent audits are periodically performed for the effectiveness and the quality of the implementation.

86. **Child labor. Although child labor is prohibited by national law²³, children under the age of 16 years have been found to be engaged in labor, with indigenous children and children from rural areas most affected as they are likely to be subjected to the worst forms of child labor²⁴.** The ILO estimates that close to 85 percent of children in rural, indigenous regions are working for very low wages²⁵; and indigenous children and children born of foreign parents are disproportionately affected by high rates of child labor. Children's work in the agriculture sector commonly involves working for long hours, physically arduous tasks, carrying heavy loads of firewood, handling of dangerous tools and a high risk of occupational health exposures. Children are often involved in the production of manioc, peanuts, corn, plantains, cassava, potatoes, and sugar cane, catching and smoking fish. To mitigate the risk of child labor and to contribute to strengthening the rights of indigenous children, the project will develop an LMP as part of the ESMF to ensure that children under 16 years are not engaged as workers under the project in accordance with the national Labor Code and Child Protection Code. Further, children under the age of 18 years will not be allowed to engage in hazardous work in line with the ESF and Order 2224 of 1953 of the RoC²⁶. The LMP will include an age verification system (e.g. nationally recognized ID card or local committees) to ensure that children are not employed or engaged in the project activities. In addition, the project will use culturally appropriate approaches to create awareness among beneficiaries on the impacts of the use of child labor on the health and education of children as part of the project stakeholder engagement activities. In order to ensure proactive and sustained educational support to indigenous children, the project will support the three departments in education of indigenous peoples' children through the ORA approach.

VI. APPRAISAL SUMMARY

A. Economic Analysis

87. The economic analysis of the DGM project uses only a few selected benefits to assess the quantitative economic feasibility of the project due to limited data availability and resource constraints. A detailed benefit analysis of the project at this stage would entail too many assumptions which would result in inconsistent estimates. In addition to that, some of the benefits expected to be derived from the project activities are non-quantifiable; hence, it would be challenging to assign monetary values to such

²³ Article 116 of the Labor Code (26)

²⁴ UNHCR: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/57f4e8552.pdf>. Specific data on breakdown of the prevalence of child labor across various sectors and regions is not available.

²⁵ CULTURAL SURVIVAL (2018) 'Observations on the State of Indigenous Human Rights in Congo Prepared for the 31st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council' in Cultural Survival Online.

²⁶ Order 2224 of 1953; Article 68 of the Child Protection Code (5, 27)

outcomes (for example, stronger participation by IPLCs). Some of the other quantifiable benefits would be derived from the successful implementation of the first two components of the project.

88. The direct benefits expected to emanate from the project include increased income and poverty reduction, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reduction of soil erosion, improved biodiversity conservation, reforestation, and reduced deforestation. Viewed in the light of the broader developmental context, the economic benefits resulting from this project are likely to immensely contribute to overall forest resource management as well as improved livelihoods.

89. The cost-benefit analysis conducted for this DGM project shows positive results across a variety of scenarios and data assumptions (see annex 5). The net present value (NPV) without carbon benefits is estimated to be US\$15.9 million, and the benefit-cost ratio (B/C ratio) is 4.97 using a discount rate of 6 percent and considering intermediate/moderate yields over a 20-year horizon. A spectrum of crop yields as well as a range of discount rates (6 percent, 10 percent, and 20 percent) are applied to verify the robustness of the results. The project activities are also expected to contribute to generate carbon benefits attributed to emissions reductions of plantation activities. The simulation conducted assuming high carbon benefits generated a positive NPV of US\$18.6 million and a B/C-ratio of 5.67 at a 6 percent discount rate. Low carbon benefits resulted in an NPV of US\$17.2 million with a B/C-ratio of 5.32 when economic benefits from moderate yield scenario are discounted at 6 percent. The project benefits surpass costs for all scenarios, even though this analysis did not include all benefits, thus suggesting that the project benefits are likely to be far greater.

90. **Public financing is justified for this project since the main objective is to support IPLCs in the three departments** to ensure sustainable forest management and as such improve livelihoods as well as alleviate the negative impact of climate change associated with deforestation and forest degradation. The positive impacts would accrue substantial benefits to the RoC since the project directly benefits the livelihoods of both indigenous peoples and local communities.

91. **World Bank value added.** The World Bank has been a key player in REDD+ initiatives through the FIP and has adequate capacity to engage with key stakeholders including governments, communities, and other development partners by leveraging on its convening power. In addition, the task team members possess technical expertise which is of paramount importance to foster favorable engagements and outcomes on the subject for sustainable forest management practices.

B. Safeguards

Environmental and Social

92. **The project has been screened for E&S risks and impacts, and the E&S risk is currently rated Moderate.** Overall, no irreversible risks or impacts are expected. Potential risks and impacts are expected from the implementation of activities under Component 1 and will be related more to quality of water because of activities related to small user agriculture, use of timber and other forest resources, and community health and safety. The required E&S documents were prepared with mitigation measures to manage all the risks and impacts.

93. **Overall, eight of the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) apply to the proposed project and the COVID-19 context has been considered in the development of relevant instruments.** In line with ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts) and ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources), the project is not expected to cause any irreversible impacts nor any impacts on critical habitats and/or protected areas. Project activities should lead to positive impacts on natural habitats, such as their conservation and recovery. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) provides guidance on screening and mitigation measures to ensure that project activities, especially those related to agriculture, do not alter or cause destruction of critical and/or natural habitats. With respect to ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions) and ESS4 (Community Health and Safety), a range of workers and NGOs will be hired (direct workers and community workers). Labor influx is not expected. Following ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management), this project is not expected to result in a large use of resources or their pollution. Land acquisition is not expected. The project will monitor all activities to make sure that no harm is caused to tangible and intangible cultural heritage value, with respect to ESS8 (Cultural Heritage).

94. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed, following ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure) before appraisal to ensure that the views and interests of all stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout the project. Consultations conducted during the preparation of ESF instruments (ESMF, Resettlement Policy Framework, Resettlement Action Plan, and so on) was limited because of COVID-19 restrictions.

95. The ESMF and IPPF were published in country on March 5, 2021 and the SEP and ESCP in country on March 9, 2021; all four documents were published on the CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO website (www.cipivieinternational.org), facebook page, and local radios (Impfondo Local Radio, Radio Maria de l'Eglise Catholique de Ouessou in Sangha, Radio Makoua in Plateaux). The ESMF and IPPF were published on the World Bank external website on March 9, 2021 and the SEP and ESCP were published on March 23, 2021 on the World Bank external website.

96. The E&S risk management instruments (ESMF, SEP, and IPPF) prepared before the recruitment of the NEA, will be updated, consulted upon, cleared, and disclosed within six months after project effectiveness. There may be a risk of GBV for local populations if outside contractors or NGOs are used to implement some of the project activities, including development of agroforestry operations. An assessment of potential risks Gender-based Violence or Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (GBV/SEA) will be carried out during effectiveness and an Action plan or other mitigation measures, if required based on the GBV risk assessment results, will be put in place prior to project implementation 6 months after effectiveness.

C. Financial Management

97. The following is a summary of the FM assessment, with details provided in annex 4.

98. An assessment of the CIPIVIE-CARITAS FM capacity was conducted in October 2020 to determine the capacity of the NEA to carry out the project's procurement activities. The FM assessment found that

CIPIVIE-CARITAS has adequate FM arrangements in place to ensure that project funds are used for the purposes for which the financing was provided, with due attention to considerations of economy and efficiency.

99. In accordance with World Bank Directive: Financial Management Manual for World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations and World Bank Guidance: Reference material - Financial Management in World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations, the FM arrangements of the Consortium CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO have been assessed to determine whether the implementing entities have acceptable FM arrangements in place that satisfy the World Bank's requirements. These arrangements would ensure that the implementing entities (a) use project funds only for the intended purposes in an efficient and economical way; (b) prepare accurate and reliable accounts as well as timely periodic financial reports; (c) safeguard assets of the project; and (d) have acceptable auditing arrangements.

100. The FM arrangements were found to be adequate subject to meeting the following requirements: (a) opening the Designated Account in a financial institution acceptable to the World Bank; (b) updating the current manual of procedures to consider the grant specificities; (c) acquiring an adequate management accounting software to record project transactions and prepare quarterly interim unaudited financial reports; and (d) agreeing to the terms of reference for the recruitment of the external auditor acceptable to IDA.

101. The conclusion of the assessment is that the FM arrangements in place meet the World Bank's minimum requirements under Investment Project Financing Policy, subject to meeting some initial requirements, and therefore are adequate to provide, with reasonable assurance, accurate and timely information on the status of the project required by World Bank (IDA). The proposed FM arrangements for this project are considered adequate to meet the World Bank's minimum fiduciary requirements under World Bank Directive: Financial Management Manual For World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations and World Bank Guidance: Reference material - Financial Management in World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations.

102. The overall FM residual risk rating at project preparation is considered Substantial. Additional details on the FM assessment are found in annex 2.

D. Procurement

103. The following is a summary of the procurement arrangements, with details provided in annex 4.

104. CIPIVIE-CARITAS D'OWANDO, selected through an open process, will be responsible for procuring goods, works, and services as well as for selecting consultants in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers for Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, dated July 1, 2016 (revised in November 2017, August 2018, and November 2020). CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO will also be responsible for contract management. The project will be subject to the World Bank's Anticorruption Guidelines, dated October 15, 2006, revised in January 2011, and as of July 1, 2016.

105. An assessment of the CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO procurement capacity was conducted in October 2020 to determine the capacity of the NEA to carry out the project's procurement activities. The assessment evaluated the following: (a) experience in procurement; (b) staff capacity; (c) capacity of filing of procurement documents; and (d) the existence of an implementation manual on procurement. The assessment found that CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO does not yet have specialized dedicated staff in procurement and contract management. Procurement activities are being carried out by the FM team as part of the Procurement Committee. CIPIVIE-CARITAS D'OWANDO does not have a fraud and corruption prevention policy and a conflict of interest policy. Only a code of conduct is being used. CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO does not yet have an operating manual that describes the procurement management. Since this Small Trust Fund project will be implemented under World Bank procedures and depending on the procurement methods to be used during the project life, the procurement specialist to be recruited will need to be familiar with the World Bank procurement procedures that will be described in a procurement manual to be elaborated.

106. The main risks identified during the assessment are the following: (a) the consortium does not yet have a dedicated procurement staff and (b) the consortium does not yet have an operating manual that describes the procurement management.

107. The overall unmitigated risk for procurement is High. The prevailing risk can be improved to substantial provided that the corrective measures in annex 4 are implemented.

E. Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

VII. World Bank Grievance Redress

108. Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress->

service_ For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org.



VII. RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

Results Framework

COUNTRY : Congo, Republic of

Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management

Project Development Objectives

The project development objectives are to promote sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and strengthen their capacity to engage in sustainable natural resources management in the REDD+ processes

Project Development Objective Indicators

Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
Name: Number of direct beneficiaries with improved livelihoods as a result of economic support (grants) (disaggregated by sex)		Number	0.00	2,960.00	Annual	CIPIVIE-CARITAS Implementation reports National Steering committee monitoring reports M&E consultant reports	CIPIVIE-CARITAS, NSC, and Consultants
Number of women		Number	0.00	1,480.00			



Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
Number of Indigenous Peoples		Number	0.00	1,480.00			
Description: This will be calculated base on the total number of direct beneficiary (approximately 700 households) provided support with grants under Component 1.							
Name: Percentage of land users adopting sustainable land management practices (disaggregated by sex)		Percentage	0.00	60.00	Annual	NSC monitoring report CIPIVIE-CARITAS activities report Consultants reports	CIPIVIE-CARITAS and NSC
Description: Out of total number of households expected to be financed through the project to improve land management, the percentage that have adopted the improved methods, either on individual or community land.							
Name: IPLCs Associations, representatives and IPLCs members with an increased role in the FIP and other REDD+ processes at local, national and global levels (as a result of capacity building activities)		Number	0.00	2,000.00	Annual	NSC monitoring report CIVPIVIE-CARITAS activities report Consultants reports	CIPIVIE-CARITAS and NSC
Description: CBOs/NGOs and other associations representing IPLCs that are included at the decision making level (Department and local) and included in the FIP and REDD+ process.							
Name: Hectares of land under improved land		Number	0.00	750.00	Annual	NSC monitoring report CIVPIVIE-CARITAS	CIPIVIE-CARITAS



Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
management (as a result of project intervention)						activities report Consultants reports	
Description: This indicator will measure the area of land subject to sustainable landscape management practices (climate-smart agriculture practices) and traditional practices.							

Intermediate Results Indicators

Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
Name: Households benefitting from micro-projects		Number	0.00	700.00	Biannually	CIPIVIE-CARITAS Implementation reports National Steering committee monitoring reports M&E consultant reports	CIPIVIE-CARITAS
Women in households benefiting from micro projects/grants		Number	0.00	1,000.00			
Description: Number of microprojects in accordance with the defined criteria							



Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
Name: Persons (IPLC) trained in entrepreneurship or financial management (disaggregated by sex)		Number	0.00	2,000.00	Biannual	NSC monitoring report CIVPIVIE-CARITAS activities report Consultants reports	CIPVIE-CARITAS and the NSC
% of women benefitting from the training		Percentage	0.00	50.00			
% of IPs benefitting from the training		Percentage	0.00	50.00			
Description: IPLCs that have received training under component 2 for financial management.							
Name: IPLC household initiatives in traditional forest management and utilization		Number	0.00	200.00		NSC monitoring report CIVPIVIE-CARITAS activities report Consultants reports	
Description:							
Name: Households that adopt improved fireplaces or briquettes, and other methods as a substitute for firewood		Number	0.00	300.00			



Indicator Name	Corporate	Unit of Measure	Baseline	End Target	Frequency	Data Source / Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection
Description:							
Name: Number of IPLC initiatives applying traditional methods and techniques for forest management		Number	0.00	100.00			
Description:							
Name: Number of grievances received and managed in a timely manner		Percentage	0.00	80.00			
Description:							



Target Values

Project Development Objective Indicators

Indicator Name	End Target
Number of direct beneficiaries with improved livelihoods as a result of economic support (grants) (disaggregated by sex)	2,960.00
Number of women	1,480.00
Number of Indigenous Peoples	1,480.00
Percentage of land users adopting sustainable land management practices (disaggregated by sex)	60.00
IPLCs Associations, representatives and IPLCs members with an increased role in the FIP and other REDD+ processes at local, national and global levels (as a result of capacity building activities)	2,000.00
Hectares of land under improved land management (as a result of project intervention)	750.00

Intermediate Results Indicators

Indicator Name	End Target
Households benefitting from micro-projects	700.00
Women in households benefitting from micro projects/grants	1,000.00
Persons (IPLC) trained in entrepreneurship or financial management (disaggregated by sex)	2,000.00
% of women benefitting from the training	50.00
% of IPs benefitting from the training	50.00
IPLC household initiatives in traditional forest management and utilization	200.00
Households that adopt improved fireplaces or briquettes, and other methods as a substitute for firewood	300.00
Number of IPLC initiatives applying traditional methods and techniques for forest management	100.00



Indicator Name	End Target
Number of grievances received and managed in a timely manner	80.00

ANNEX 1: BACKGROUND AND PANC/DGM LINKAGES

COUNTRY: Republic of Congo

Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management

Background

1. The DGM design is an initiative that supports and puts emphasis on the need to strengthen the capacity of IPLCs so that they are able to participate effectively in all phases of the FIP and the REDD+ process. In an effort to reduce deforestation, the DGM seeks to create livelihood opportunities that also generate benefits of mitigation and adaptation while respecting culture, traditional knowledge, and indigenous forest management systems. The DGM completes the projects and programs supported under the FIP investment plan, and it is expected that the activities of the DGM are in addition to FIP investments and take advantage of synergies wherever possible. The DGM is an innovative project in organizational terms, which includes national projects in 14 pilot countries, including the RoC, and a Global Learning and Knowledge Exchange Project. In the RoC, the DGM project has been under preparation, under the aegis of the NSC. This committee was set up through a national consultative process of IPLCs and officially presented during the inaugural session on February 25, 2017.

2. The DGM in the RoC has an indicative financing envelope of US\$4.5 million grant funding. This funding will be used for activities to support and increase the participation of IPLCs in the Forest Investment Plan as well as other initiatives including the national and global emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) processes. The project expects to reach these objectives through two main components.

Geographical Coverage

3. The project will intervene in three departments (see annex 7); however, two main departments have the highest concentration of indigenous peoples in the RoC. These are the Sangha Department with approximately 7,885 persons from indigenous peoples groups and Likouala with 13,476 persons from indigenous peoples groups. In the Sangha Department, the project will intervene in the districts of Mokéko, Sembé, Souanké, and Ngbala. In Likouala, the project will operate in the districts of Epéna, Dongou, Enyellé, Bouanéla, and Bétou.

4. In the Plateaux Department, the project activities will be focused in the districts of Djambala, Lékana, Mbon, Ngo, Gamboma, and Abala.

ANNEX 2: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

COUNTRY: Republic of Congo

Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management

1. Projects and programs under the FIP are designed and implemented under the leadership of the governments of FIP pilot countries, with the assistance of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). The DGM Design was developed by a working group of IPLCs, facilitated by the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) Administrative Unit (AU). The program will be implemented in the eight FIP Pilot Countries through Country Grants Projects, under an overarching umbrella of a Global Component, which will serve as the learning and knowledge-exchange platform for the DGM. The World Bank has the responsibility to operationalize the Global Component as well as the Country Grants Projects in the FIP pilot countries. These Framework Guidelines for the DGM define the common framework for implementation of the DGM and will serve as guidance to all stakeholders participating in the program, including FIP Focal Points in the countries, the National Executing Agencies (NEAs), members of the National Steering Committees (NSCs), the Global Executing Agency (GEA) and Global Steering Committee (GSC) of the DGM, civil society, IPLCs, CIF AU and the MDBs.
2. In the DGM-Congo, the NEA and the Global Executing Agency (GEA) will support the NSC and the Global Steering Committee (GSC), respectively, and will implement the program and handle the fiduciary implementation. Advantages of this governing model are (a) empowerment at the local level as local communities lead the steering committee; (b) flexibility: local communities and other stakeholders work together to define the most appropriate activities under the DGM project in the country, in line with the framework operational guidelines; (c) segregation of functions to avoid conflict of interest: administration and fiduciary functions are kept separate from decisions related to grant-making; and (d) partnerships: both the GSC and the NSC are multi-stakeholder bodies.
3. **Government agencies.** The Ministry of Forest Economy oversees the implementation of the FIP and leads the REDD+ process. In addition, several sectorial ministries' representatives (agriculture, livestock, and land management) will work closely at the local level with the DGM beneficiaries' organizations.
4. **The NSC will have oversight of the DGM project implementation in the RoC.** It will provide, with the assistance of the NEA, a semiannual report on the implementation of the program to the GSC. Its main function will be to select proposals for grant award and to monitor the progress of sub-projects. The NSC will liaise with the national REDD+ coordination committee or equivalents and ensure that the DGM project lessons are transmitted to ongoing national processes. Members will also actively seek feedback from the local communities on the project, identify needs and collect and send ideas to the GSC to be supported by the global component, and represent the RoC in the GSC as required. The NSC has 22 (out of 27) local community members representing the three departments as decision-making members. Observers in the NSC can be from the Government, private sector, MDBs, and other agencies as appropriate. The final size of 27 members in the NSC was determined by stakeholders. Members of the NSC will act in their individual capacity and not as agents, officers, or representatives of the GEA, NEA,

World Bank, member countries of the FIP subcommittee, beneficiary countries, or any other organization or entity.

5. **The NSC members were selected through a self-selection process at the local and national levels.** This committee was set up through a national consultative process of IPLCs and presented at the inaugural session on February 25, 2017. The members' time on the NSC is a voluntary contribution. Representatives from the World Bank; Ministry of Forest Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples; and Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity are observers in the NSC.

6. **The selection of the NEA was carried out through a competitive process.** The World Bank will enter into an agreement with CIPIVIE, which is the selected agency. CIPIVIE will provide progress reports to the World Bank, including on the safeguards and fiduciary aspects of the project.

7. **CIPIVIE-CARITAS will facilitate the work of the NSC, develop country-specific review and risk assessment criteria, and provide operational and financial reporting to the World Bank.** Under the overall direction of the NSC, CIPIVIE-CARITAS will be responsible for disbursing funds to grant projects selected by the NSC as well as for monitoring grant-funded projects and ensuring appropriate use of DGM funds, in accordance with the operational framework and ESF of the World Bank, and will report to the World Bank. CIPIVIE-CARITAS will complement these operational guidelines with country-specific procedures and update them as needed so that the DGM procedures are tailored to respond to national circumstances and requirements. CIPIVIE-CARITAS will also maintain documentation of the country DGM projects, follow the communications strategy in coordination with the GEA, manage grievance and complaints redress processes as outlined in the project GRM, respond promptly to queries, and coordinate with and send information as requested to the GEA.

ANNEX 3: COVID-19 RESPONSE

COUNTRY: Republic of Congo **Support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Sustainable Resources Management**

Republic of Congo Country Program Adjustment Responding to COVID-19

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Country and Government Response

1. The first case of the COVID-19 epidemic in the RoC was registered on March 15, 2020. The country adopted rapid measures to respond to the severe health, economic, and social shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After 45 days of total confinement (from April 1 to May 16), the Government began lifting the restrictions despite the continued increase in the number of cases. A curfew still applies in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire (from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.), but it was lifted in the rest of the country, and the international borders were opened on August 24. As of June 10, 2021, the RoC had 11,920 confirmed cases and 155 confirmed deaths, corresponding to 1.3 percent death rate²⁷.
2. The economy of the RoC, which is heavily dependent on oil exports, is affected not only by the COVID-19 health crisis but also by the decline in global demand for oil and the drop in oil prices. Previous growth forecasts for the calendar year 2020 have therefore been revised downward, with a sharp reduction in GDP growth rate to –8.6 percent. This contraction is driven by the underperformance of the oil sector and the non-oil private sector companies and the adverse effects of COVID-19.
3. The economic impact of COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate the RoC's debt distress. The Debt Sustainability Analysis Update of June 2020 concludes that the RoC is in debt distress, and external and domestic arrears have continued to accumulate. The present value of the external debt-to-GDP ratio could fall below the 30 percent sustainability threshold only after 2029. The RoC has been accepted to the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) with estimated savings of US\$196 million. These savings represent 12 percent of the total revenue of the revised budget, or 47.6 percent of budget allocations to health. Resources freed up by the DSSI are expected to ease the financing of the national health plan, projected at US\$39.6 million (CFAF 23 billion), and help the country build its resilience to the impacts of the COVID-19-related crisis.

World Bank Group Support for Responding to the Crisis

4. As in other countries, the World Bank Group crisis response in the RoC is repositioning from regular operations as planned in the last CPF FY20–FY24 (Report No 126962-CG) to mount an exceptional crisis response.

²⁷ World Health Organization, 2021: <https://www.who.int/countries/cog/>

Table 4.1. Actions taken by the World Bank in response to COVID-19

Pillar	Approach and Actions Taken by the World Bank Group in the RoC	Instruments
I. Saving Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate financial support to the COVID-19 health response: rehabilitate health facilities and procure critical medical equipment and supplies for prevention and case management as well as testing kits • Grant resources to further finance COVID-19 response activities • Strengthen national and regional cross-sectoral capacity for collaborative disease surveillance and epidemic preparedness (participating countries: the RoC, Central African Republic, Chad, Angola, and Congo, Dem. Rep.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New stand-alone Multitphase Programmatic Approach Investment Project Financing (IPF): P173851 Republic of Congo COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (US\$11.31 million) • Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility grant through 3 United Nations agencies: World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (US\$1.3 million) • Regional IPF: P167817 Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (REDISSE) Phase IV (US\$15 million for RoC, and US\$289 million for region)
II. Protecting the Poor and Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection. Compensate for the loss of income from assets and assist the most vulnerable households (emergency cash-transfers of CFAF 50,000 for at least 200,000 households and expand the existing social safety net interventions to support households in restoring their livelihoods as the pandemic recedes). Partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide help to refugees. • Education. Provide just-in-time advice for the Government strategy in the education sector and support for schools reopening at all levels in mid-October 2020 (including printing of school textbooks and booklets). • Urban development. COVID-19 primarily affected the urban slums where residents are the most at risk given the density/promiscuity and severe lack of access to basic urban services (water, sanitation, and so on). Urban Development and Poor Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DURQuaP) includes an emergency component to address emergency issues (floods and COVID-19) that are affecting the poorest urban neighborhoods in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New IPF with IDA19: P174178 Republic of Congo Lisungi Emergency COVID-19 Response project (US\$50 million) • Ongoing IPF: P145263 Lisungi Safety Nets System Project (US\$34 million), including partnership with UNHCR • Ongoing IPFs: P152910 Education Sector Support Project (US\$30 million) • P128628 Skills Development for Employability Project (US\$10 million) • Ongoing IPF + Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC): P146933 Urban Development and Poor Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DURQuaP). CERC activated in September 2020.

Pillar	Approach and Actions Taken by the World Bank Group in the RoC	Instruments
III. Ensuring Sustainable Business Growth and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture. Provision of matching grants/business plans for targeted beneficiaries/smallholder farmers (co-financing conditions have been revisited to facilitate access to grants). Emergency support for an immediate and effective response to the COVID-19 crisis in the agriculture and rural development sectors. • Private sector development. Support MSMEs in the affected sectors with matching grants (co-financing conditions of business plans have been revisited to facilitate access to grants). Help improve the enabling environment for business creation and seize COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to resume dialogue. • Support business high-frequency survey (HFS) of around 500 formal enterprises across the country. The survey will assess the impact of COVID-19 on enterprises in the country and mechanisms they use to cope with the shock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going IPF + CERC: P159979 Commercial Agriculture Project (US\$100 million). CERC activated in September 2020. • Ongoing IPF: P161590 Support to Enterprise Development and Competitiveness Project (US\$25 million) • Ongoing IPF: P133731 Statistics Capacity Building Project (US\$29.28 million)
IV. Strengthening Policies, Institutions, and Investments for Rebuilding Better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public financial management. Revised government 2020 budget reflecting expenditure on addressing the impacts of the pandemic-related crisis and incorporating fiscal measures in line with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program. • DSSI. The RoC has been accepted to the G-20 DSSI with estimated savings of US\$196 million. These savings represent 12% of the total revenue of the revised budget, or 47.6% of budget allocations to health. • Data availability. A household HFS has been launched in early September 2020. It aims to assess the impact of the pandemic on household living conditions. Various topics are covered in the survey such as knowledge of COVID-19 and government measures, education, health, employment, food security, and coping mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Development Policy Operation in the pipeline: P168337 Congo Fiscal management, economic and social resilience DPF (US\$100 million) • Just-in-time advice and support provided by the World Bank to request DSSI for RoC • Ongoing IPF: P133731 Statistics Capacity Building Project (US\$29.28 million)

Selectivity, Complementarity, and Partnerships

5. According to the CPF, the World Bank in the RoC has adopted a fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) lens in preparing larger and more impactful projects that reflect complementarity of portfolio. Preparedness to shocks is embedded in the portfolio by ensuring all new and current IPFs have a CERC and gender and climate tags. All Project Implementation Units were provided with a training on the new safeguards framework, and the implementation of the new safeguards guidelines is ongoing.

6. Out of 13 existing IPFs in the RoC (active portfolio), 5 have a CERC (including 2 which have been activated to respond to the COVID-19 crisis). There is currently no Development Policy Financing (DPF) in the country, but the first one is envisaged for early FY22 if all the conditions are met (including a satisfactory macro-framework and good progress with the IMF program).

7. Given the financing needs and specific FCV circumstances and to maximize catalytic effects, the World Bank will step up and consolidate partnerships with several partners notably WHO, UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme, UNHCR, and UNFPA.

ANNEX 4: FIDUCIARY ARRANGEMENTS

Financial Management

1. In accordance with World Bank Directive: Financial Management Manual for World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations and World Bank Guidance: Reference material - Financial Management in World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations, the FM arrangements of the Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS have been assessed to determine whether they are acceptable and satisfy the World Bank's requirements. These arrangements would ensure that the implementing entity (a) uses project funds only for the intended purposes in an efficient and economical way; (b) prepares accurate and reliable accounts as well as timely periodic financial reports; (c) safeguards assets of the project; and (d) has acceptable auditing arrangements.
2. **The World Bank team determined that FM arrangements at the Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS could be deemed adequate for project implementation subject to meeting the following requirements:** (a) opening the Designated Account in a financial institution acceptable to the World Bank; (b) drafting a manual of procedures to consider the new project and grant specificities; (c) acquiring an adequate management accounting software to record project transactions and prepare quarterly interim unaudited financial reports whose format will be agreed on during negotiations, not longer than three months after effectiveness; and (d) agreeing to the terms of reference for the recruitment of an independent external auditor, acceptable to IDA, based on acceptable terms of reference.
3. The Project Implementation Entity will be the Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS.
4. **Staffing and training.** The current FM staffing arrangement under the Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS will be reinforced to implement the project.
5. **Budgeting.** The budgeting arrangements will include an annual work plan and budget to be prepared for each year. The project FM Manual of Procedures will define the arrangements for budgeting and budgetary control and the requirements for budgeting revisions. Annual detailed disbursement forecasts and budgets will be required—the prospective nature of such forecasts will need to be emphasized so that uses of funds are adequately covered. Interim financial reports (IFRs) will provide information on budgetary control and analysis of variances between actual and budget. Current budget mechanisms will be revised to incorporate the new project specifications.
6. **Accounting policies and procedures.** The accounting systems and policies and administrative and financial procedures will be documented in the project's Administrative, Accounting, and Financial Manual. It will be used by (a) the project staff as a reference manual; (b) IDA to assess the acceptability of the project accounting, reporting, and control systems; and (c) the auditors to assess project accounting systems and controls and to design specific project audit procedures. Accounting management software that can handle multiple projects, sites, and donor characteristics will be procured. At least two sets of financial reports will be prepared by the Consortium CIPIVIE-CARITAS. The quarterly IFRs, as required by the World Bank, and the annual financial statements will include the project's consolidated financial statements. The quarterly IFRs to be agreed upon during negotiation will be prepared and submitted to



the World Bank 45 days after the close of each quarter. The IFRs will be based on formats developed in the World Bank's Guidelines on Financial Monitoring Reports with some adjustments. The manual of procedures will indicate provisions for quarterly and yearly financial reporting, including physical progress. The quarterly reports will include a table on budget execution. The format of this report will include (a) a statement of sources and uses of funds; (b) a table summarizing the use (utilization) of funds by category, activities, and by components; (c) an updated Procurement Plan; (d) a report on the physical progress of activities; and (e) the summary of missions of internal audit, as well as the implementation status of the recommendations of internal or external audit and supervision missions. Project accounts will be maintained on an accrual basis, supported with appropriate records and procedures to track commitments and to safeguard assets.

7. **Financial reporting and monitoring.** The manual of procedures will indicate provisions for **quarterly** and yearly financial reporting including physical progress. The quarterly reports include a table on budget execution. The format of this report will include (a) the statements of sources and uses of funds and utilization of funds per category; (b) the updated Procurement Plan; (c) the physical progress; and (d) the summary of missions of internal audit as well as the implementation status of the recommendations of internal or external audit and supervision missions.

8. **External auditing.** The project financial statements and internal control system managed by the Consortium CIPVIE-CARITAS will be subject to annual audits by an independent external auditor acceptable to the World Bank whose mandate will be renewed every two years.

9. **The audit report should reflect all the activities of the FM program and be submitted to IDA within six months after the end of each fiscal year.** The selection of an external auditor of project financial statements should be presented to IDA for no-objection. Appropriate terms of reference for the external auditor will be provided to the project team.

10. **The external auditor will give an opinion on the annual financial statements in accordance with auditing standards of International Fiscal Association of Congo (IFAC).** In addition to audit reports, the external auditor will provide a management letter on the internal control procedures outlining recommendations for improving the control system, accounting, and financial procedures as a result of the audit as well as maintaining compliance with financial covenants under the Financing Agreement.

11. **The project will be required to submit, not later than June 30 of each fiscal year, the annual audited financial statements.** In line with the new access to information policy, the project will comply with the disclosure policy of the World Bank of audit reports (for instance making available to the public without delay after receipt of all reports the final financial audit, including audit reports qualified) and place the information on its official website within one month after the acceptance of the final report by IDA.

Implementation Support and Supervision Plan

12. **FM implementation support missions will be consistent with a risk-based approach and will involve a collaborative approach with the project team.** The first implementation support mission will be performed six months after project effectiveness. Afterwards, the missions will be scheduled by using

the risk-based approach model and will include the following: (a) monitoring of the FM arrangements during the supervision process at intervals determined by the risk rating assigned to the overall FM assessment at entry and subsequently during implementation (Implementation Status and Results Report); (b) integrated fiduciary review on key contracts; (c) review of the IFRs; (d) review of the audit reports and management letters from the external auditors and follow-up on material accountability issues by engaging with the task team leader, client, and/or auditors; the quality of the audit (internal and external) also is to be monitored closely to ensure that it covers all relevant aspects and provide enough confidence on the appropriate use of funds by recipients; (e) physical supervision on the ground; and (f) assistance to build or maintain appropriate FM capacity.

13. Based on the outcome of the FM risk assessment, the following implementation support plan is proposed:

Table 5.1. Implementation Support Plan

FM Activity	Frequency
Desk reviews	
IFR review	Quarterly
Audit report review of the program	Annually
Review of other relevant information such as interim internal control systems reports	Continuous as they become available
On-site visits	
Review of overall operation of the FM system	Annual (implementation support mission)
Monitoring of actions taken on issues highlighted in audit reports, auditors' management letters, internal audit, and other reports	As needed
Transaction reviews (if needed)	As needed
Capacity-building support	
FM training sessions	Before project starts and thereafter as needed

14. The objective of the above implementation support plan is to ensure the project maintains a satisfactory FM system throughout the project's life.

Conclusion of the Assessment

15. **The overall residual FM risk at preparation is considered Substantial.** The proposed FM arrangements for this project are considered adequate to meet the World Bank's minimum fiduciary requirements under World Bank Directive: Financial Management Manual for World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations and World Bank Guidance: Reference material - Financial Management in World Bank Investment Project Financing Operations.

Procurement

16. **Procurement under the project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers for Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services,**

dated July 1, 2016 (revised in November 2017, August 2018, and November 2020). The project will be subject to the World Bank's Anticorruption Guidelines, dated October 15, 2006, revised in January 2011, and as of July 1, 2016. The project will use the Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP) to plan, record, and track all the procurement transactions.

17. **The major planned procurement is expected to include community-driven development (CDD) projects comprising a large number of small-value contracts for goods, non-consulting and/or consulting services, and a large number of small agricultural activities scattered in remote areas.** Commonly used procurement procedures include Request for Quotation; local competitive bidding inviting prospective bidders for goods and works located in and around the local community; direct contracting for small-value goods, works, and non-consulting services; and the use of community labor and resources.

18. **The proposed arrangements and the project activities to be carried out by community participation are outlined in the Legal Agreement and further elaborated in the relevant project implementation document (manual) approved by the World Bank and made publicly available by the NEA.** It is agreed that the NEA develops a streamlined Project Procurement Strategy for Development early during implementation. An initial Procurement Plan for the first 12 months has been agreed with the borrower and will be updated during implementation.

19. **Procurement would be carried out using the World Bank's Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) for all International Competitive Bidding for goods and works and for standard Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of consultants through competitive procedures.** The NEA will develop and use standard documents based on the World Bank's SBDs for National Competitive Bidding for goods and works and the World Bank's RFP for the selection of consultants through methods other than Quality- and Cost-Based Selection, with modifications acceptable to the World Bank.

20. **Procurement risk is rated High.** This is due to (a) the country context and the associated risk and (b) the lack of capacity to carry out procurement activities under this project in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations. The prevailing risk can be reduced to Substantial provided that the corrective measures in Table 5.2 are implemented.

Table 5.2. Action Plan for Strengthening Procurement Capacity

Ref.	Tasks	Responsibility	Due Date
1	Identify/recruit a qualified and experienced procurement specialist who will be responsible to carry out procurement activities of this project and who will train and strengthen the staff of the consortium. As needed, the recruited procurement specialist will be trained in the use of STEP to plan, record, and track all the procurement transactions.	Consortium CIVIPIE-CARITAS	Expected three months after effectiveness

Ref.	Tasks	Responsibility	Due Date
2	Develop a CDD procedures manual as part of the project implementation manual that will include procurement methods to be used in the project along with their step by step explanation as well as the standard and sample documents to be used for each procurement category/method.	Consortium CIVIPIE-CARITAS	By effectiveness

ANNEX 5: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Background and Objectives

1. **Deforestation and forest degradation in the RoC are attributed to certain activities that cause forest disturbances: mining, industrial agriculture, unsustainable shifting agriculture, and unsustainable or illegal logging.** Even though the RoC is considered to have low deforestation rates, certain underlying conditions such as poverty, weak governance, and lack of policy coordination increase the propensity of deforestation and forest degradation to occur. This project aims at supporting and increasing the participation of IPLCs in the Forest Investment Plan and REDD+ policies and programs. Efforts geared toward reforestation have proven to yield tremendous environmental benefits including, but not limited to, GHG reduction, reduced soil erosion, improved soil quality, and biodiversity conservation.

Economic Benefits

2. **The project is anticipated to generate a wide range of direct and indirect economic benefits.** For example, increase in the income of participating IPLCs is considered a direct, tangible benefit, while capacity building of planters in the form of efficient FM practices is considered to be not only an indirect but also an intangible benefit. Table 6.1 provides an overview of some benefits expected to be derived from the project.

Table 6.1. Selected Economic Benefits

	Tangible	Intangible
Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased income Reduced GHG emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty reduction Conservation of biodiversity Reduced soil erosion Reforestation of degraded forest areas Reduced deforestation
Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased pressure on natural resources Job creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of planters in agricultural techniques Autonomy of households involved in management of IGAs Improved FM knowledge of indigenous peoples

3. **The project will support sustainable forest management practices and development of natural forests in the IPLC areas through training and permanent support especially during stages of preparation and maintenance of fields, harvesting, packaging, and storage of production.** Targeted activities prioritized include (a) planting of food crops (cassava and corn); legumes (beans and pigeon peas) to improve agricultural yields over the long term; and fruit trees (citrus, kolatier, papaya, avocado, safou, banana trees, and so on) and (b) beekeeping.

4. **The economic analysis for this project considers a few selected benefits for quantitative assessment to assess the feasibility of the project.** The two main measurable variables for consideration at this stage include (a) income generated from project activities and (b) climate benefits as a result of reduction in GHG emissions.

Project Costs and Assumptions

5. **Cost-benefit analysis is used to determine the economic feasibility for this project.** The main parameters in terms of crop yields and discount rate are also subjected to sensitivity analysis. For discounting, alternative rates of 6 percent, 10 percent, and 20 percent are applied in this project.
6. **Time.** The disbursement schedule lays the basis of allocation of costs; hence, distribution of costs and benefits is closely tied to the project disbursement schedule. This means benefits start accruing after the initial disbursement in 2021 and will stretch over to 2040, well beyond the last disbursement in 2026. This is anticipated because further benefits will be achieved as the project evolves over time without necessarily triggering significant additional costs.
7. **The choice of agroforestry plantation and economic activities for analysis is based on the availability of data pertaining to sales price and yield per hectare.** Fruit trees (safou) contribute to the overall nutritional value, and the trees would provide pollen for the bees. Bananas are known to be the second most popular staple food in the RoC, mature at a fast rate, and would generate positive return on investment. Cassava would ensure food self-sufficiency for farming households. Beans possess nitrogen-fixing capacity and would provide a significant source of income. Beekeeping requires minimal maintenance and would be beneficial to IPLCs. Revenues collected from the aforementioned activities are assumed to contribute to 80 percent of the total revenues collected from the micro-projects in the DGM Congo project.
8. **Area of coverage.** Total land area for the three departments is approximately 15 million ha, of which an average of 1.6 percent would be considered arable land. The project activities are expected to take up about 750 ha of arable land area owned by participating households and communities.

Methodology

9. **The project's net benefits and costs are compared using NPV analysis.** The quantitative assessment consider different scenarios depicting high yields and low crop yields as well as an intermediate facet that lies in between the two scenarios. Alternative discount rates of 6 percent, 10 percent, and 20 percent are applied to evaluate the project feasibility under the conservative, intermediate, and optimistic scenarios, respectively.

Results

10. **Overall quantitative results from the DGM project depict positive results yielding positive NPVs under all the three scenarios while considering the three variations of the discount rate.** Under the intermediate yield scenario, the project benefits (without carbon benefits) exceed project costs leading to an NPV of US\$15.9 million and a B/C ratio of 4.97, at 6 percent discount rate. The NPV and B/C ratio increase when carbon benefits are considered, resulting in positive NPV of US\$18.6 million and US\$17.2 million under high and low carbon pricing scenarios, respectively.

Table 6.2. Results without Carbon Benefits

	High Yield			Moderate Yield			Low Yield		
Discount rates (%)	6	10	20	6	10	20	6	10	20
NPV (US\$, millions)	30.5	21.4	10.6	15.9	10.7	4.7	9.3	5.7	1.8
B/C ratio	8.64	6.78	4.39	4.97	3.88	2.49	3.32	2.55	1.59

Table 6.3. Moderate Yield Results Including Carbon Benefits

	High Carbon Benefits			Low Carbon Benefits		
Discount rates (%)	6	10	20	6	10	20
NPV (US\$, millions)	18.6	12.7	5.7	17.2	11.7	5.2
B/C ratio	5.67	4.41	2.82	5.32	4.15	2.66

11. Indirect and intangible benefits such as reduced soil erosion, conservation of biodiversity, capacity building of planters in agricultural techniques and FM skills, and decreased pressure on natural resources are used in evaluating the qualitative aspects of the project. The project is considered feasible in both quantitative and qualitative dimensions.

12. Since the project is undertaken with an ultimate aim to support IPLCs to ensure sustainable management of forest resources so as to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, the capacity-building activities will equip IPLCs with knowledge on best practices and thus improve livelihoods and alleviate the negative impact of climate change. The economic benefits resulting from the DGM project are likely to have a ripple effect beyond the project lifetime, thus contributing to the overall development trajectory of the RoC.

ANNEX 6: GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

1. This section presents the overall functioning of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that will be implemented by the DGM-Congo Project. However, a separate, more comprehensive document will be drafted and approved by the World Bank during project implementation. The DGM-Congo Project will be able to draw inspiration from the PFDE's GRM, which is very operational and based on the same areas as the DGM-Congo Project. It will be the responsibility of the NEA's E&S Expert to draft it and make it operational. The GRM will include the 5 members of the Commission for Monitoring, Evaluation and Resolution of Complaints of the CPN.

1. The GRM of the DGM-Congo Project will have to respond in particular to the following points:
 - **Access to the GRM.** How will users be informed of the existence of the system? How will complaints be received (oral/written filing on site, mail, telephone message, text message, mailbox, email/e-mail, website, associative fabric, media, etc.)?
 - **Receipt and registration of complaints.** How can we ensure that all complaints are taken into account? Will the Project provide an acknowledgement of receipt? How will claimants be informed of the progress of the processing of their claims?
 - **Sorting and processing.** How will complaints and claims be categorized, registered and filed? To whom are they addressed? How are they treated?
 - **Verification and action.** How will the Project collect the information necessary for the resolution of the complaint? Who will be in charge of implementing the corrective action?
 - **Monitoring and evaluation.** What will be the complaint tracking system? How will the Project analyze complaint data?
 - **Feedback.** How will the Project inform users of the system and the general public of the results and measures taken to resolve complaints?

Access to the GRM

2. Complaints will be addressed in a manner that respects the local culture, is discreet, objective, sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of the parties affected by the project, particularly vulnerable persons. Where necessary, special measures, such as receiving complaints in a discreet and private context, will be put in place for vulnerable persons such as women, indigenous persons, members of the community, young people and the elderly. In the event of difficulties (such as the complainant's difficulty to access project site), complaints may be received directly at the complainant's home.

3. In order to be as accessible as possible, complaints can be filed in different ways, including through the following channels:

- Physically via a focal point of the GRM elected in a participatory manner, at the level of each of the districts/UFA in which the Project intervenes. These representatives will be

responsible for centralizing complaints and forwarding them to the Project. The selected representatives will be provided with mobile phones so that they can communicate wherever they are, either by voice call or by SMS with a Project Manager.

- Handwritten mail sent to the Project.
- E-mail sent to the NEA Environment and Social Expert.
- Telephone call to the NEA Environment and Social Expert.
- Sending an SMS to the Environment and Social Expert of the NEA.
- Facebook page of the DGM-Congo Project.

Receipt and registration of complaints

4. The acknowledgement of receipt will be systematized. A receipt of the complaint will be given to the complainant by the person of the project or institution that received the complaint. To a lesser extent, it will also be possible, when complaints are expressed at meetings, to record them in the minutes of the meeting.

Sorting and processing

5. All complaints will be transmitted and sorted by the NEA Environment and Social Expert in collaboration with the Coordinator, who will then forward them to the parties concerned for processing.

6. Gender-based violence (GBV) will be dealt with according to a specific mechanism that will be set up with the assistance of the specialized services in this field, maintaining full confidentiality for any victim.

Verification and action

7. Processing times shall not exceed ten (10) days.

Monitoring and evaluation

8. The follow-up of the complaints is ensured by the Environmental and Social Expert of the NEA in collaboration with the Coordinator. The synthesis and analysis of the data will be systematically integrated into the environmental and social monitoring report, sent quarterly to the World Bank. The approach should be to try to resolve all disputes amicably. In order to achieve this goal, the project will maintain direct and frequent relationships with all stakeholders and undertake educational and relational efforts with those who file complaints. Particular attention will be given to complaints from vulnerable persons.

Feedback

9. The project will organize regular feedback on the implementation and results of the GRM to its beneficiaries, in particular during field missions. This will involve reporting to the IPLCs in the Project areas on the functioning of the PMM and on the evolution of any complaints lodged. The practice aims to report to the PACLs of the Project areas on the implementation of all project activities and more particularly the

PMM in order to obtain their opinion and learn from the lessons learned. This is an iterative action aimed at the continuous improvement of the system.

How the GRM works

10. The complaint management mechanism set up by the project is structured around 3 levels:
 - Level 1. The complaint is handled by the focal point of the Project Area at the district/UFA level. Complaints handled at this level will be documented by smartphone in a software that allows to share the documentation with the Project (Open Development Kit (ODK) data collection).
 - Level 2. Complaints that have not been resolved at the first level will be managed by the Project.
 - Level 3. Recourse to justice.
11. The amicable solution advocated at the level of the first and second instances will be strongly encouraged. Recourse to the courts, given its cost and the complexity of its procedure, although not recommended for the smooth running of the project, will always be an option for the complainant.

Communication to Beneficiaries

12. It is necessary that as many persons residing in the Project area as possible be informed of the existence of the GRM and of the possibility of lodging a complaint. As part of the implementation of the DGM-Congo Project, sensitizations should be organized among IPLCs on the existence of the mechanism, rules and procedures for filing and managing complaints. This information will have to be disseminated to all actors and at all levels to enable potential complainants to be fully informed. These sensitizations will be done physically by the Environment and Social Expert of the DGM-Congo Project, and if they have the capacity, by the Focal Points of the GRM. These sessions may be supplemented by the submission of the GRM document to the IPLCs since it will be made public. This document will also be freely accessible on the internet (sites of the Ministry of Forest Economy, CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO and World Bank website), at the Project sites and in Brazzaville's CIPIVIE CARITAS D'OWANDO offices.

ANNEX 7: MAP OF DGM INTERVENTION ZONES

