CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

FIP/SC.14/5
April 15, 2015

Meeting of the FIP Sub-Committee
Washington D.C.
May 15, 2015

Agenda Item 5

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP TO THE FIP SUB-COMMITTEE ON SELECTION OF NEW PILOT COUNTRIES

PROPOSED DECISION

The Sub-Committee welcomes the *Report of the Expert Group to the FIP Sub-Committee on Selection of New Pilot Countries*, (document FIP/SC.14/5). Based on the recommendations proposed by the FIP Expert Group, the Sub-Committee approves the following countries to be selected as new FIP pilot countries (listed in alphabetical order):

a) …
b) …
c) …

The Sub-Committee further agrees that up to [USD XXXX] may be provided to each of the new pilot countries selected as an investment plan preparation grant to enable them to take a leadership role in working with the MDBs to develop their full investment plans.

Report of the Expert Group to the FIP Subcommittee on the Assessment of New Expressions of Interest to the FIP Program March 2015

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are a distinctive set of financing instruments that support countries in transition toward developing a low carbon economy. The CIF is designed to deliver strong development outcomes as well as strong emission reduction outcomes. Through two distinct funds implemented by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), the CIF support countries' efforts to mitigate and manage the challenges of GHG emission reductions by providing grants, concessional funds, and risk mitigation instruments that also leverage financing from the private sector, MDBs, and other sources.

The Forest Investment Program (FIP) within the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is a targeted program established to support countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). Currently, the fund is active in eight pilot countries. This portfolio has enhanced the importance of the REDD+ agenda in these countries by linking development-relevant investments with mitigation and adaptation initiatives and by providing additional motivation for comprehensive engagement and dialogue across multiple stakeholder groups.

The FIP fund is channeled through the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as grants and low interest loans. This country-led program builds on existing national policies, initiatives, and activities on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) was established to provide financing to pilot either new development approaches or to scale-up activities aimed at a specific climate change challenge or sectorial response through several targeted programs such as the FIP (Forest Investment Program), PPCR (Pilot Program for Climate Resilience), and SREP (Scaling up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries). The SCF seeks to maximize co-benefits of sustainable development specifically livelihoods, sound management of natural resources, ecosystem services and ecological processes.

Objectives, Purpose and Scope of the FIP

The main purpose of the FIP is to support countries' REDD-efforts, providing bridge financing for readiness reforms and public and private investments identified through national REDD readiness strategy building efforts, to assist them with potential adaptation and mitigation programs surrounding the forest and land use sectors, and to contribute to multiple benefits such as biodiversity conservation, protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, poverty reduction, and rural livelihoods enhancements. FIP finances efforts both to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and to overcome barriers that have hindered previous efforts to do so.

The FIP has been designed to achieve four major objectives:

1) Initiate and facilitate steps towards transformational change in developing countries' forest related policies and practices;

2) Pilot replicable models to enhance knowledge and appreciation for the complex linkages surrounding forest-related investments along with the critical importance of inter-sectorial policies required for REDD+ implementation. These pilots aim to support activities that would result in sustainable forest management, sound and equitable land use and conservation coupled with sustained emission reductions. By committing to apply pre- and post-impact assessments of programs and projects, the FIP seeks to ensure that the outcomes and effectiveness of FIP-supported interventions can be measured and evaluated;
3) Facilitate the leveraging of additional financial resources for REDD+, including through a possible UNFCCC forest mechanism, leading to an effective and sustained reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, thereby enhancing the sustainable management of forests; and,
4) Provide valuable experience and feedback in the context of the UNFCCC deliberations on REDD+.

FIP and REDD+

FIP financing addresses several REDD+ dimensions:

- Promote forest mitigation efforts, including protection of forest ecosystem services;
- Provide support outside the forest sector to reduce pressure on forests;
- Assist countries to strengthen institutional capacity, forest governance, and forest-related knowledge; and,
- Mainstream climate resilience considerations and contribute to biodiversity conservation, protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and enhance livelihoods through targeted poverty reduction.

The FIP invests in the implementation of projects and programs identified as required to advance REDD+ in FIP pilot countries. Described as the "missing middle," FIP primarily focuses on: providing timely investments to incentivize REDD+ Readiness activities (Phase 1); serving as a catalyst for REDD+ implementation activities (Phase 2); and, contributing to the development of additional capacity and experience to transition to results-based payments (Phase 3).

FIP Sub-Committee (FIP-SC) 2010 Pilot Country Selection

Eight countries were selected in 2010 and currently are participating in the FIP: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, and Peru. Investment plans for these eight pilot countries have been endorsed by the FIP Sub-Committee. In addition, two mechanisms have been established to: (1) provide targeted support to indigenous peoples and local communities ("Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities -DGM"); and, (2) further incentives to the private sector to engage in REDD+ ("FIP Private Sector Set-Aside – PSSA").

FIP Sub-Committee (FIP-SC) 2015 Investment Selection

In November 2014, the FIP Sub-Committee (SC) decided to select additional countries for FIP (DGM inclusive). As a result, the CIF Administrative Unit invited eligible countries to submit Expressions of Interests (EOI) for the opportunity to participate in FIP.

2 EXPERT GROUP FOR RANKING NEW FIP PILOT COUNTRIES

Expert Group's Terms of Reference (TOR)

The present Expert Group (EG) was formed to assist the FIP-SC with two distinct tasks: (1) assessments of new FIP pilot countries by ranking Expressions of Interests (EOI) submitted by countries; and, (2) review Concept Note submissions from existing FIP pilot countries. The Expert Group has been asked to complete both tasks separately. This report responds to the first task.

In performing this first task, the Expert Group was to be guided by the FIP design document and the *Proposed Revised Selection Criteria and Process for New Countries*[1] to select new pilot countries. The EG was asked to aim for a ranked list of countries and not a particular recommendation of a subset of countries for FIP-SC selection. However, the Expert Group may make qualifications or sub-groupings, if appropriate. In carrying out their duties, the EG was expected to:

1) Familiarize themselves with the background documents provided by the CIF Administrative Unit to facilitate their work;
2) Participate in a virtual organizational meeting and an Expert Group meeting in Washington, D.C.;
3) Review Expressions of Interests submitted by eligible FIP countries;
4) Develop a methodology based on criteria provided by the FIP Sub-Committee and carry out analysis that will lead to the recommendation of new countries that could benefit from the FIP program while contributing to the overall programmatic objectives of the FIP.

Expert Group Members

In February 2015, an Expert Group was selected in accordance with the criteria established by FIP-SC to assess the EOIs submitted by countries and to provide independent reviews for the FIP-SC in their potential selection of countries to receive FIP funds (Annex 1). It is important to emphasize, that the EG has been appointed to serve only in an external advisory capacity to the FIP Sub-Committee.

As stated in the Criteria for Selecting Expert Group members (FIP/SC.1/4/Rev.1; Annex 2: p 4):

> *The experts should be internationally recognized senior professionals, acting in their personal capacities, chosen on the basis of their expertise, strategic and operational experience and diversity of perspectives, including knowledge of scientific, economic, environmental, and social aspects of conservation and sustainable use of forest ecosystems and climate change, gender and forestry, private sector, governance and institutional and development planning.*

The Expert Group should include representatives from both donor and recipient countries, be gender balanced as well as geographically balanced. This interdisciplinary group should reflect diverse experiences surrounding climate change including public and private sector experience as well as a disciplinary expertise with forest mitigation policies and

[1] See Annex 3

measures. Four of the selected six members of this 2015 EG also were members of the 2010 EG. In 2010, the EG independently reviewed and evaluated submissions and prepared a report for the FIP Sub-Committee. The FIP-SC then selected the initial eight FIP pilot countries.

Provisional Timeframe

The provisional timeframe for the tasks is provided below. However, due to constraints, this timeframe had to be slightly adjusted.

March 6, 2015	Deadline for Expressions of Interests (EOI) submission by eligible countries;
March 9, 2015	Initial virtual meeting of the Expert Group to agree on the process and method to use to accomplish the task, namely, select the co-chairs, agree on who writes the report for the Sub-Committee, who will present the report at the meetings and methodology on reviewing the EOIs and Concept Notes;
March 10-15, 2015	Off-site review of EOIs by individual Expert Group members in preparation for the meeting in Washington D.C.;
March 16, 2015	Deadline for Concept Note submission by existing FIP pilot countries;
March 16-19, 2015	Meeting of the Expert Group in Washington, D.C. to discuss the weights and ranking of EOIs by each panel member;
March 20-22, 2015	Meeting of the Expert Group in Washington, D.C. to select new Concept Note submissions from existing FIP pilot countries;
April 7, 2015	The Expert Group submits their recommendations for new FIP pilot countries to the CIF Administrative Unit;
April 9, 2015	The Expert Group submits its recommendations for existing FIP pilot countries to the CIF Administrative Unit;
April 15, 2015	CIF Administrative Unit circulates the Expert Group's recommendations to the FIP Sub-Committee;
May 15, 2015	Designated Expert Group representative presents the Expert Group's reports to the FIP Sub-Committee.

3. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH AND ANALYTICAL PROCEDURE

3.1 Review and Preparation of Background Materials

Core Task of the EG

Before arriving in Washington, D.C., the EG received a set of background documents provided by the CIF Administrative Unit to facilitate this review, these documents are included in the references cited and Annex 3. In addition, EG members compiled other relevant material from the extensive post-2010 literature.

Expressions of Interests (EOI)

The CIF Administrative Unit provided the EG with 36 Expressions of Interests (EOIs) that were submitted by eligible countries for FIP support. Overall, though some EOIs were quite informative and detailed, others were rather brief or included far too much country background information, and thus did not focus specifically on potential FIP plans. Because the CIF Administrative Unit did not request investment plans, but only Expressions of Interests, these submissions required evaluations that were based solely on the context of these requests. Thus, for the purposes of EG deliberations, the EOIs were not expected to be comprehensive nor were they regarded as indications of the quality of their potential program implementation of REDD+. The EG assumed that such detailed assessments would occur through subsequent future implementation submissions during the FIP process.

Working Modalities

Following EG member selection by FIP, the initial EG organizational meeting was conducted by teleconference on March 9, 2015. The EG then decided on the following items:

a) Selection of two co-chairs: According to the FIP Design Document, one co-chair of the EG should be from an eligible recipient country and another co-chair from a donor country;

b) Confirmation of arrangements for the EG to undertake its analysis and work; and,

c) Agreement on the preparatory work, including collection of relevant information, to be undertaken by EG members, MDBs or the CIF Administrative Unit in advance of the meeting.

Analytical Background Materials

In addition to background documents provided by the CIF Administrative Unit to facilitate this review, several documents were requested from the CIF Administrative Unit by the EG. The CIF Administrative Unit provided, with the support of the MDB Committee, analytical background materials in the following categories:

A. Current FIP Selection Criteria
   - Proposed Revised Selection Criteria and Process for New Countries under the FIP

- Criteria and Procedures for the Allocation of Resources to Existing Pilot Countries

B. FIP 2010 Reports

- FIP 2010 Criteria for Selecting Country and Regional Pilots Under FIP
- FIP 2010 Report of Expert Group: Recommendations of Pilots under the FIP
- FIP 2010 Report of Expert Group: Recommendations for Additional Pilots under the FIP

C. FIP Background Documents

- FIP Investment Criteria
- FIP Results Framework
- FIP Operational Guidelines
- FIP Investment Criteria and Financing Modalities
- FIP Design Document
- CIF Website -FIP

D. Results and Reports

- FIP 2014 Results Report
- FIP Procedures for the Preparation of Independent Technical Reviews of Investment Plans under the FIP
- Results Monitoring and Reporting in the FIP
- FIP Semi-Operational Report

E. Pilot Country Portfolios and Investment Plans

- FIP Pilot Country Portfolios
- Brazil Investment Plan
- Burkina Faso Investment Plan
- Democratic Republic of Congo Investment Plan
- Ghana Investment Plan
- Indonesia Investment Plan
- Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic Investment Plan
- Mexico Investment Plan
- Peru Investment Plan

To assist in country comparisons and evaluations, several tables were compiled that contained supplementary information on REDD+ and related funding, regional representation, biomes, forest cover, per capita income, land area, forest area, C stock, national income, and deforestation rates etc.

1. Categorization of countries across regions and biomes
2. Overview of FCPF/UN-REDD or comparable processes by country
3. Data on forest characteristics by country
4. MDB, Bilateral development, and NGO assistance on forests and climate change by country
5. Land area, forest area, C stock
6. Forest estate, plantations
7. Deforestation rates

8. Population, Income status
9. Human Development Index (HDI), GINI coefficient
10. National income or economic grouping by country

EG members also provided additional key resources, relevant publications, or referred to various websites and databases as required to facilitate country comparisons.

Discussions with MDBs, FCPF, and the CIF Administrative Unit

On 16-20 March 2015, the EG convened meetings with the MDBs to discuss, on a regional basis, the potential and capacities of countries to be included in the FIP. In particular, the MDBs shared their experience and knowledge surrounding the criteria for country preparedness and capacities – institutional or otherwise – to undertake REDD+ activities and to address key direct and underlying drivers of deforestations and forest degradation, incorporating government willingness and efforts to date to develop a strategic approach to REDD+ and to integrate forest related investments into national/regional regulatory and policy frameworks.

In addition to exchange with MDBs, the EG received input from the FCPF Management Team about their REDD+ portfolios. Given that at least 20 of 36 EOI submissions had received FCPF funding or were in their pipeline, their input was particularly useful to assess REDD+ and potential of EOI nations for transformational change under FIP as well as nuanced context and implementation issues.

EG members were provided the opportunity to ask clarifying questions regarding EOI submission preparation, involvement with donor agencies, other funding sources and related programs within each countries' portfolio, institutional capacity — especially inter-sectorial coordination and governance — as well as absorptive capacity along with other topics as deemed appropriate. These brief, yet highly informative discussions were useful because they provided the EG with key insights, critical feedback to validate or refute particular aspects of the EOI submissions and offered sound context for refining evaluations surrounding EOI quality and feasibility.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria

The EG was guided by the FIP design document and closely adhered to the *Proposed Revised Selection Criteria and Process for New Countries,* agreed by the FIP Sub-committee. Initial EG discussions focused on how to: 1) apply the criteria effectively; 2) assign the weighting provided by FIP for EOI contents; and, 3) clarify specific FIP priorities for evaluation of the submissions. Applying the three broad sections provided in the FIP document:

1) Contributions to Climate Mitigation – 40%;
2) Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits – 30%; and,
3) Country Readiness and Capacity for Implementation – 30%,

The EG then developed an effective review system by subdividing each major topical section into distinctive subcomponents using the actual document text within the *Proposed Revised Selection Criteria and Process for New Countries*. Points were then assigned for each subcategory to correspond with the total pre-assigned percentages allocated by FIP, and thus, were weighted accordingly for each component within each of the three topical sections. Section 1 included five subcomponents valued at either 5 or 10 points. Section 2 was divided into four subcomponents each weighted at either 5 or 15 points while Section 3 had five subcomponents that ranged from 5 to 8 points. Combined, these sections totaled 100 points. To maintain a relatively consistent scoring and reporting across EOIs as well as provide section comments with an overall appraisal, a standard review template was generated and used for each of the 36 EOI evaluations (Annex 5).

Group discussions further refined and clarified any potential issues in interpretation in order to ensure all six reviewers evaluated criteria and scored assessments as consistently as possible. First, the EG reviewed FIP's Overall Selection Criteria:

1) Potential GHG reductions;
2) Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles;
3) Diverse regional and ecological representation; and,
4) Country preparedness, motivation, institutional capabilities to undertake REDD+ initiatives, and address drivers of deforestation.

Next, EG explored how to assess REDD+ Readiness and FIP potentials based on the EOI's and other information. Using the Climate Investment Funds (November 2014) document *Linkages between REDD+ Readiness and the Forest Investment Program* as a guide, EG considered that REDD+ Readiness is embedded to a considerable extent into FIP program design, including Objectives and Principles, Criteria for Initiating Transformational Change, Country Selection & Investment Criteria, and Core Indicators from Results and Monitoring Framework. Generally, the EG expected that a country requesting FIP investments would have developed a national REDD+ strategy or would be engaged in an equivalent approach with stated guidelines for implementing REDD+. These guidelines may include national climate change policy, land use, forestry or other policies that address land tenure rights, social and environmental safeguards, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable forest management.

The EG then outlined the stages for FIP Transformational Change projects focused on the Phase 2 of the REDD+ Development Framework. The Phased Approach for REDD+ Implementation applied by the EG is depicted in a figure included in Annex 5. Finally, the EG reviewed and identified biomes (Olson et al., 2001), ecological regions and a diversity of temperate, Mediterranean, subtropical, tropical dry, and tropical humid biomes with discussions surrounding grasslands, mangroves, and montane forest ecosystems and how these may link either with countries or with the proposed projects outlined in their EOI submissions.

3.3 Evaluation Process

Although the EG all received and read the submissions, members were specifically assigned a suite of EOIs largely based on regional expertise and experience. Each EOI submission had both a lead or primary as well as a secondary reviewer. In several cases, a third EG member was requested to participate in preparing an assessment and/or review the submitted evaluations. After a detailed reading of the EOI, reviewers evaluated the documents independently, scored the review template, and provided written comments in each section. After these documents were completed, the primary and the secondary evaluators compared and exchanged reviews and then presented these combined scores and insights to the EG for discussion, input, and evaluation.

All EG members had an opportunity to review and comment on each submission and the entire EG participated in the assessment and debated relative merits. After the trade-offs in the sub-sections of each EOI were critiqued by the EG, the portfolio of assessments was adjusted by consensus. After these deliberations reached mutual agreement, comments were compiled and edited for the 36 submissions and then a composite review was generated for each EOI (Annex 5).

Once all final scores were assigned and the 36 EOIs were combined into a database, the EOIs were sorted into a ranked list as required under the EG's Terms of Reference. The EG then examined the full distribution of scores. These results were found to cluster – based solely on score – into four broad tiers or sub-groupings. To assess the distributional representation of subgroupings to reflect these additional FIP considerations, EOI scores were then sorted by geographical region, as defined by the World Bank, as well as assigned biomes that the EG was requested to consider for FIP Sub-Committee review.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Overview of Countries that Submitted Expressions of Interests (EOI)

A total of 36 countries submitted Expressions of Interests (EOI): 14 from the African region, six from South-East Asia and Pacific, four from Europe and Central Asia, three from the Middle East and North Africa, and nine from Latin America and the Caribbean. Table 1 provides a general overview of the countries including their forest estate, carbon stocks, and deforestation rates.

Table 1. Overview of EOI submission countries presented by region

Bank Region	Submitting Country	Land Area ('000 ha)[2]	Popu-lation (m)[2]	Forest Area ('000 ha)[3]	Relative Forest Area (%)[2]	Annual Net Deforestation ('000 ha/yr)[4]	Deforestation Rate (annual %; ~2000-2010)[2]	Carbon Stored in Forest Biomass (mt/C)[5]
Africa	Benin	11,300	10.1	4520	40.1	-50	1.0	64
	Cameroon	47,300	21.7	19,724.1	41.7	-220	1.0	4,646
	Congo, Republic of	34,200	4.3	22,435.2	65.6	-12	0.2	4,091
	Ethiopia	100,000	91.7	12,200	12.2	-141	1.1	1037
	Côte d'Ivoire	31,800	19.8	10,398.6	32.7	0	-0.2	1031
	Kenya	56,900	43.2	3,470.9	6.1	-11	0.3	209
	Madagascar	58,200	22.3	12,513	21.5	-57	0.4	1,532
	Mozambique	78,600	25.2	38,828.4	49.4	-211	0.5	2,197
	Rwanda	2,500	11.5	450	18.4	10	-2.4	44
	Sudan	237,600	37.2	55,123.2	23.2	-54	0.1	926
	Tanzania	88,600	47.8	33,047.8	37.3	-403	1.1	1,406
	Togo	5,400	6.6	264.6	4.9	-20	5.1	43
	Uganda	20,000	36.3	2900	14.5	-88	2.6	428
	Zambia	74,300	14.1	49,260.9	66.3	-167	0.3	1,919
South East Asia & Pacific	Afghanistan	65,200	29.8	1,369.2	2.1	0	0	-
	Bangladesh	13,000	154.7	1,443	11.1	-3	0.2	324
	Nepal	14,300	27.5	3,632.2	25.4	0	0.7	747
	Cambodia	11,700	14.9	6,610.5	56.5	-127	1.3	1,421
	Samoa	280	0.189	169.12	60.4	0	0	-
	Vanuatu	1,200	0.247	433.2	36.1	0	0	-
Europe & Central Asia	Belarus	20,300	9.5	8,668.1	42.7	39	-0.4	-
	Kyrgyz Republic	19,200	5.6	979.2	5.1	17	-1.1	-
	Montenegro	1,300	0.621	525.2	40.4	0	0	-
	Turkey	77,000	74.9	11,473	14.9	119	-1.1	-
Middle East & North Africa	Jordan	8,900	6.3	97.9	1.1	0	0	-
	Morocco	44,600	32.5	5,129	11.5	10	-0.2	-
	Tunisia	15,500	10.8	1,023	6.6	16	-1.9	-
Latin America & Caribbean	Dominica	75	0.72	44.4	59.2	0	0.6	-
	Ecuador	24,800	15.5	9,647.2	38.9	-198	1.8	2,321
	Guatemala	10,700	15.1	3,595.2	33.6	-56	1.4	740
	Guyana	19,700	0.795	15,208.4	77.2	0	0	3,040
	Haiti	2,800	10.2	100.8	3.6	-1	0.8	-
	Honduras	11,200	7.9	5,073.6	45.3	-120	2.1	663
	Nicaragua	12,000	6.2	3,036	25.3	-70	2.0	862
	Saint Lucia	61	0.181	46.97	77.0	0	-0.1	-
	Uruguay	17,500	3.4	1,785	10.2	45	-2.1	83

Sources: World Bank (2014) *The Little Green Data Book.* Washington, D.C.: World Bank website;

[2] World Bank (2014).
[3] Calculations based on World Bank (2014).
[4] FAO (2010).
[5] Saatchi et al. (2011).

Saatchi et al. (2011) Benchmark map of forest carbon stocks in tropical regions across three continents. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108 (24), 9899-9904; FAO (2010) *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Table 2 provides an overview on the engagement of the 36 countries that submitted EOIs in the major international climate change pilot programmes that deal with the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

4.2 Overview of the Ranking of the EOIs

As detailed in the previous chapter, each country's EOI submission has been thoroughly assessed based on a set of criteria that had been endorsed previously by the FIP program committee[6]. According to the EG's Terms of Reference, the Expert Group has generated a ranked list of countries, but did not recommend a subset of countries for selection. However, the EG has represented these results in sub-groupings as appropriate. These results are presented in various forms to facilitate the decision making process by the FIP Sub-Committee. All the results are shown as points received from a possible 100 point total.

4.2.1 Overall Ranking of the Expressions of Interests

The overall ranking of Expressions of Interests is given in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 1 for the countries that submitted EOIs by alphabetical order. The mean overall score of all 36 EOIs is 57.1 points and depicted by a red-hatched line in Figure 1. Nineteen EOIs have scored ≥57 points while 17 EOIs fall below the mean.

[6]. CIF (January, 22, 2015), *Proposed Revised Selection Criteria And Process For New Countries.*

Table 2. EOI submission countries with their engagement in existing pilots involving forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Bank Region	Submitting Country	FCPF Readiness	UN-REDD National Program	FCPF Carbon Fund	BioCarbon Fund ISFL	Other
Africa	Benin					UNREDD partner, SREP
	Cameroon	x		x		UNREDD partner, GEF
	Congo, Republic of	x	x	x		
	Ethiopia	x			x	UNREDD partner, SREP, GEF, Norway
	Côte d'Ivoire	x	x	x		
	Kenya	x				UNREDD partner, SREP
	Madagascar	x		x		UNREDD partner, SREP
	Mozambique	x		x		PPCR, GEF
	Ruanda					SREP, WB Landscape Project
	Sudan	x				UNREDD partner, GEF
	Tanzania	x	x			SREP, GEF, Norway
	Togo	x				UNREDD partner, SREP
	Uganda	x				UNREDD partner, SREP, GEF
	Zambia		x		x	PPCR, GEF
South East Asia & Pacific	Afghanistan					
	Bangladesh		x			SREP, PPCR, CC resilience trust fund
	Nepal	x		x		UNREDD partner, PPCR, SREP
	Cambodia	x	x			SREP, PPCR, ADB Biodiversity Project
	Samoa					PPCR, SREP
	Vanuatu	x				SREP
Europe & Central Asia	Belarus					GEF
	Kyrgyz Republic					GEF
	Montenegro					-
	Turkey					GEF
Latin America & Caribbean	Dominica					PPCR
	Ecuador		x			
	Guatemala	x		x		UNREDD partner, GEF
	Guyana	x				UNREDD partner, Norway
	Haiti					PPCR, SREP*
	Honduras	x				UNREDD partner, SREP
	Nicaragua	x		x		SREP
	Saint Lucia					PPCR
	Uruguay	x				GEF
Middle East & North Africa	Jordan					
	Morocco					UNREDD partner, CTF support
	Tunisia					UNREDD partner

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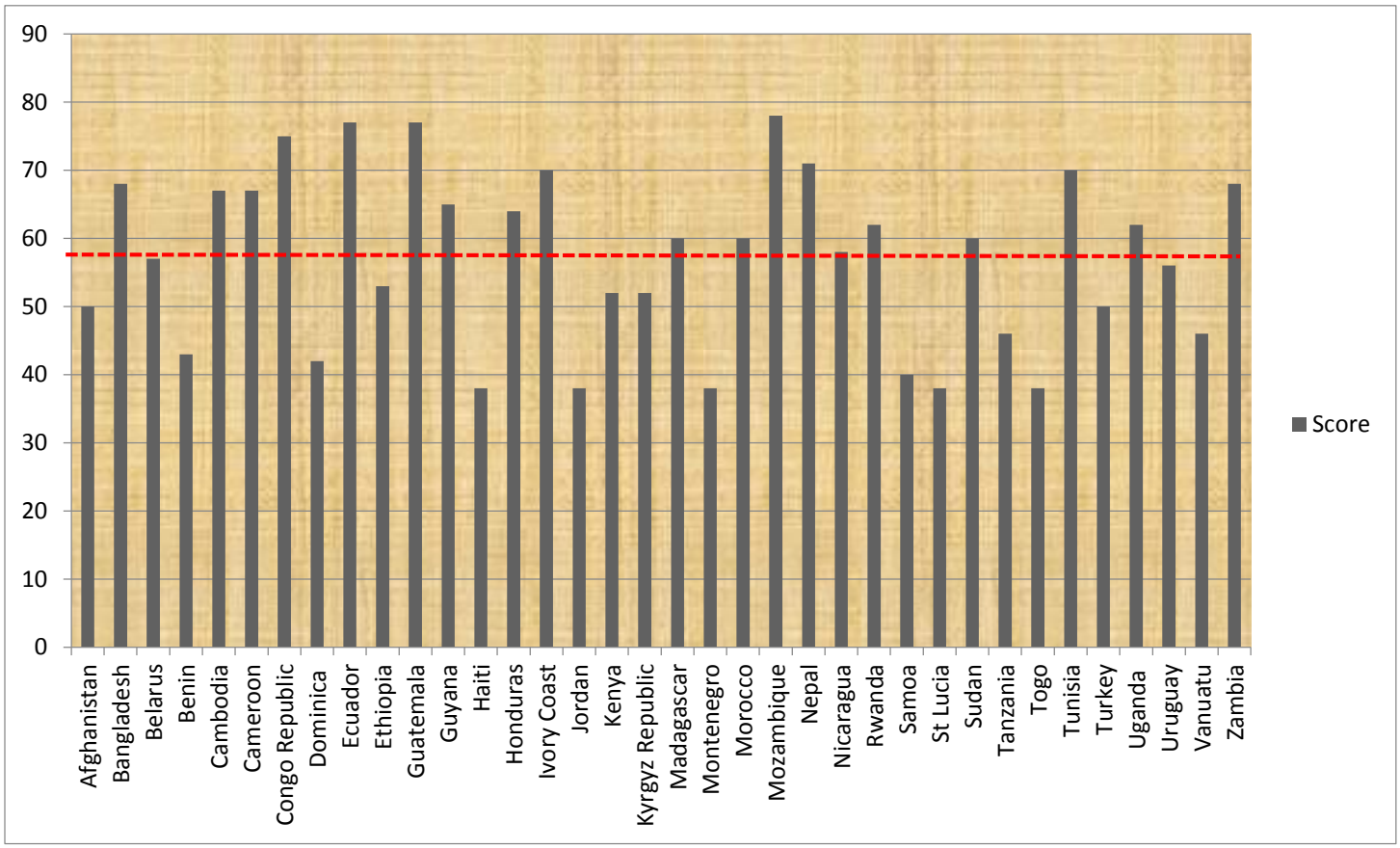
Figure 1. Alphabetical listing of the 36 EOI countries with scores



Red hatched line = mean score of all 36 EOI submissions.

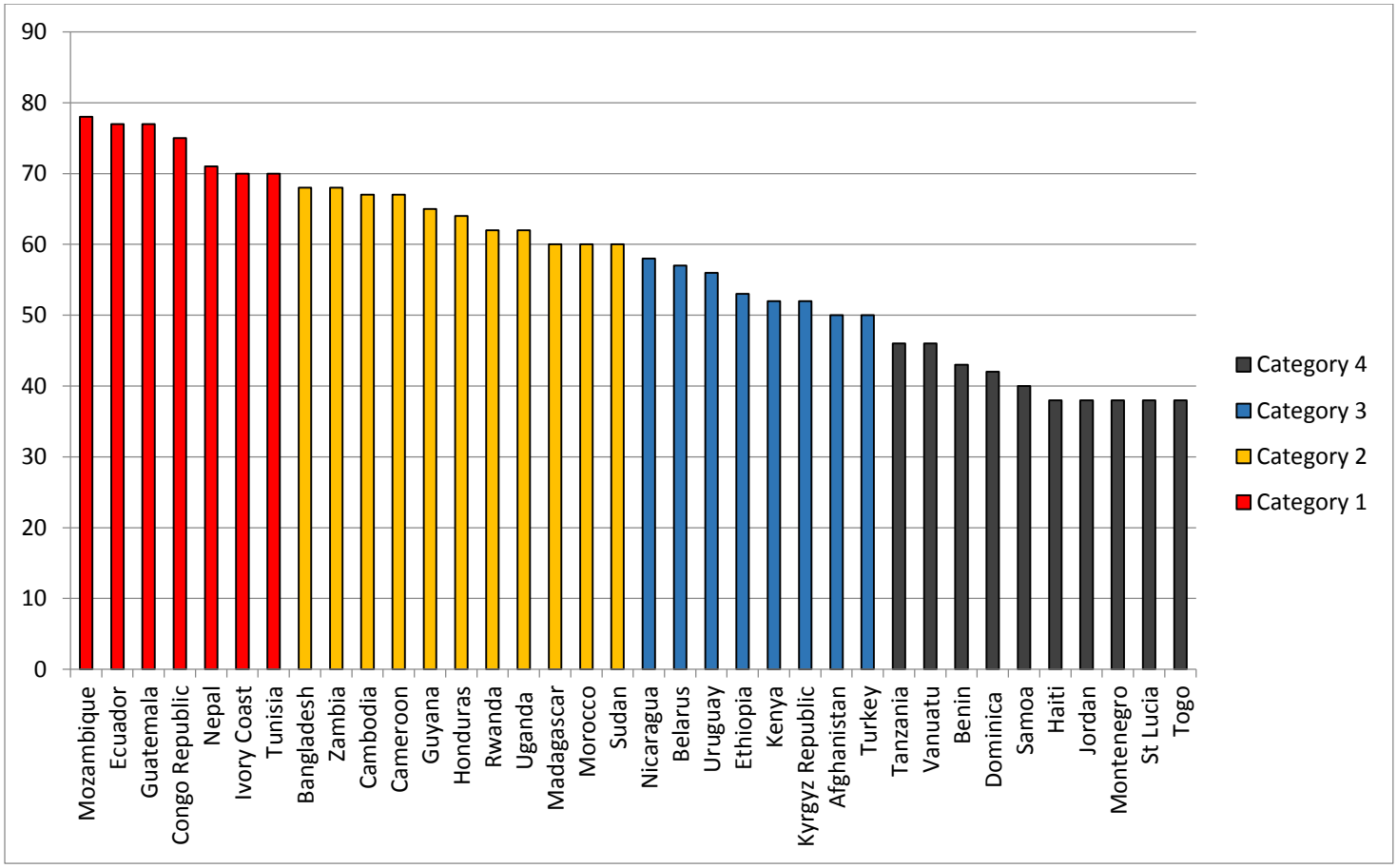
Table 3. Summary of the scores for the 36 EOIs by tiers, regions, and biomes

Criteria	Total Countries Submitting EOI	Overall Mean	Highest Score	Lowest Score	Weighted Mean
EOIs	**36**	**57.1**	**78**	**38**	
Categories					**58**
Tier I (≥70 points)	7	74.1	78	70	
Tier II (60-69 points)	11	63.9	68	60	
Tier III (50-59 points)	8	53.5	58	50	
Tier IV (<50 points)	10	40.7	46	38	
Regions					**55.8**
Africa	14	59.6	78	38	
South East Asia & Pacific	6	57.0	71	40	
Europe Central Asia	5	49.3	57	38	
Latin America & Caribbean	9	57.2	77	38	
Middle East & North Africa	3	56.0	70	38	

Biomes					55.9
Tropical	19	56.6	77	38	
Sub-Tropical	9	62.9	70	50	
Mediterranean	4	54.4	70	38	
Temperate	4	50.8	57	38	

4.2.2 Ranking of the EOI Scores by Groups or Tiers

Figure 2. Scores of the 36 EOI grouped into four categories (Tiers) based on the EG's assessment



Category 1: ≥70 points; Category 2: 60-69 points; Category 3: 50-59 points; and, Category 4: <50 out of 100 points.

Figure 2 depicts the scoring results of the same EOIs, however, these are now regrouped into four categories based solely on systematic groupings (Tiers) of points received. Seven EOIs shared the top category scoring ≥70 points. These EOIs have been rated high because they are, based on the evaluation by Expert Group, the strongest proposals, namely: Mozambique (78); Ecuador and Guatemala (77 points each); The Republic of Congo (75); Nepal (71); Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia (each with 70 points). Eleven EOIs shared the second Tier, scoring 60-69 points with the two highest rating countries in this category, Bangladesh and Zambia, each receiving 68 points; eight EOIs shared the third Tier, receiving between 50 and 59 points; and, ten EOIs were assigned <50 points, and thus comprise the fourth Tier.

Considering the four Tiers collectively, the average scores, highest and lowest scores, along with their weighted average are shown in Table (3). The overall weighted average score is 58 points for the four Tiers, with two EOIs above and two EOIs below the weighted average. Yet, variation within each Tier is not pronounced (Figure 2).

4.2.3 Ranking of the EOI by Regions

In order to further facilitate the process of selecting countries to receive FIP funds, the scores of EOIs were then sorted in descending order within each of the five regions (as defined by the World Bank): Africa (Af); South East Asia and Pacific (AP); Europe and Central Asia (ECA); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); and, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) as illustrated in Figure 3. The variability in the scores among the five regions is quite clear from the general overview provided in Figure 3.

These same data were then rearranged according to the five Regions (Figure 4). Fourteen EOI were submitted to FIP Administrative Unit from Africa, 9 from LAC, 6 from AP, 4 from ECA, and 3 from MENA. The EG's scores also varied considerably within each region (Table 2). It is noteworthy, however, that based on the average scores, the Region ranked as follows in a descending order: AF, LAC, AP, MENA and ECA. The cumulative or combined scores within each of the first four regions are higher than the overall EOI weighted average while only the ECA's average was lower (Table 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of EOIs classified by their scores and associated geographical region

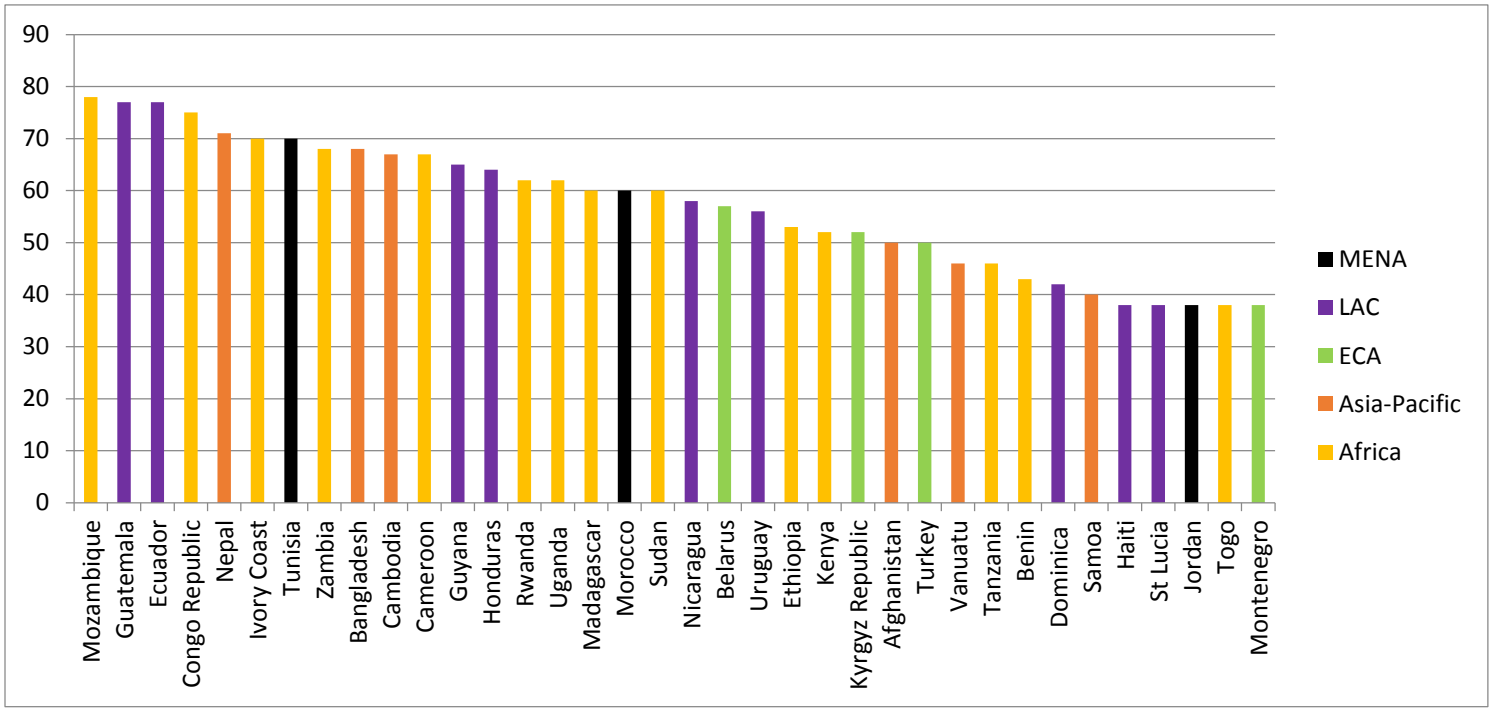
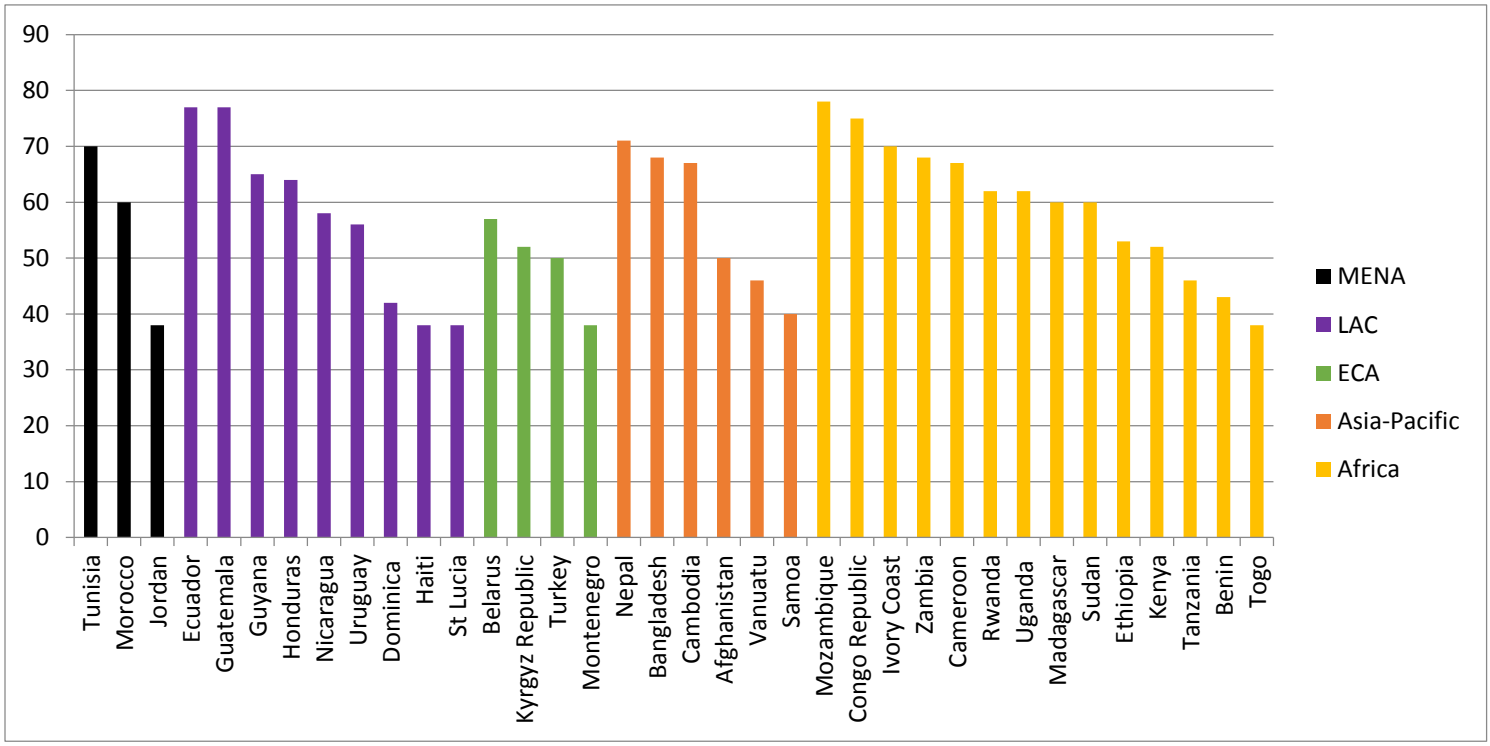


Figure 4. Distribution of EOI Scores by region



4.2.4 Ranking of the EOI by Biomes

In order to further assist the FIP-SC to evaluate the EOIs based on another important criterion, the biomes where EOI originated, the Expert Group re-examined scores based on four broad geographical 'biomes': Tropical, Sub-tropical, Mediterranean and Temperate (Figure 5).

As expected by the Expert Group, EOI scores varied considerably by biome, but without exhibiting any clear trends. However, when these data were re-grouped by biomes (Figure 6), Tropical countries represented 53% of EOIs (*n* = 19) submitted, with 25% of EOIs from the Sub-tropical countries (*n* = 9), while the Mediterranean and Temperate nations were each represented by four submissions. The average, highest and lowest scores for the four biomes (Table 3) decreased in the following order: Sub-tropical (including tropical dry), Tropical, Mediterranean, and Temperate. However, variation within each biome appeared to be normally distributed.

Figure 5. Distribution of EOI submissions classified by relative score and biome

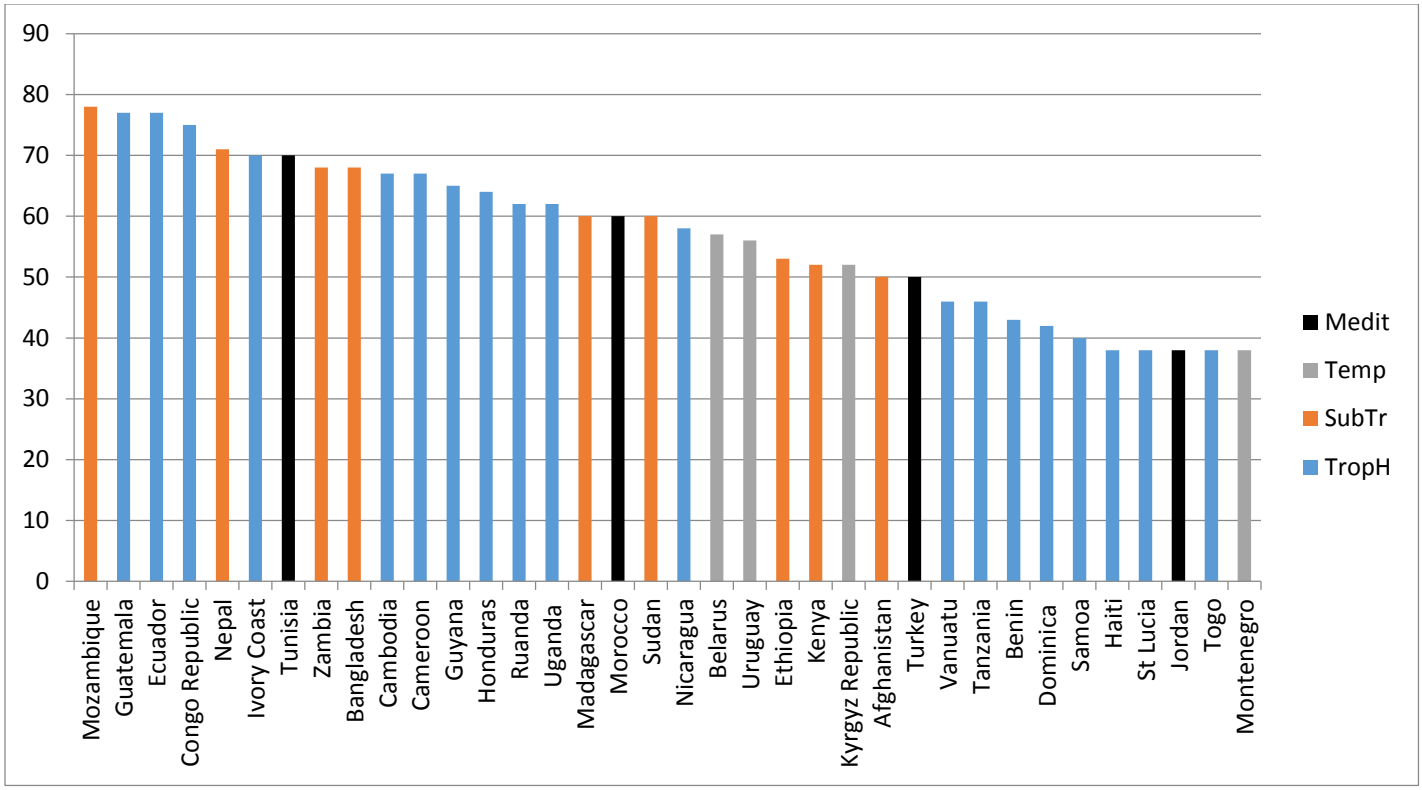
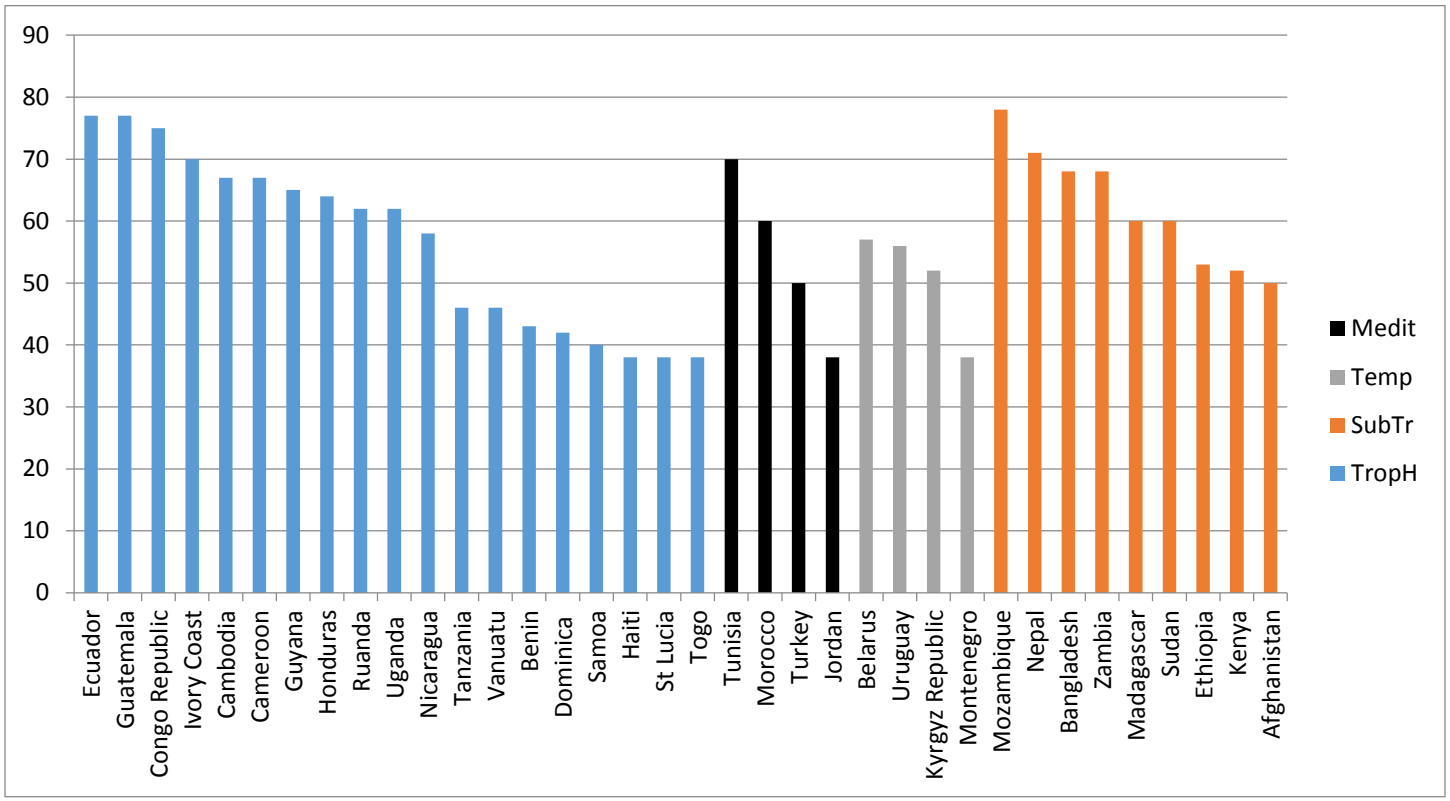


Figure 6. Distribution EOI submissions displayed by score within each of four biomes



Unlike the regional grouping, the mean Subtropical biome is higher than the weighted average of all four biomes.

4.3 Summary evaluations of each EOI

The detailed appraisals of the 36 EOI are provided in Annex 5 arranged in alphabetical order by country. However, the following are salient points extracted from each appraisal.

01 Afghanistan: 50 points

Laws and plans are in place to undertake REDD+ activities, but the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles are quite weak. Afghanistan requests FIP funds to promote on-going activities funded by other agencies without necessarily integrating these diverse programs. However, there is potential for value added enterprise development around pistachio forest management.

02 Bangladesh : 68 points

Bangladesh is interested in implementing a participatory natural resources management program based on a pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy in six protected areas located within a mangrove ecosystem. There is significant potential to generate contributions to REDD+ and provide lessons for managing forested wetlands for multiple benefits.

03 Belarus: 57 points

Belarus proposes activities within a pilot area to reduce emissions and increase Carbon stocks in forests and wetlands. However, REDD+ Readiness activities have yet to be conducted. The submission also lacks sufficient information.

04 Benin: 43 points

Benin's multi-tasked EOI focuses on developing communal forests through supporting private sector investments in forest plantations. REDD+ Readiness approach not yet advanced. The EOI does not fulfill the criteria established for FIP financing.

05 Cambodia: 67 points

A high forest cover country, yet deforestation has been accelerating largely from complex mix of diverse drivers. The EOI has yet to recognize the need to engage diverse agencies to address key drivers of deforestation. EOI aims to test forest safeguards focused on transparency and accountability in the forestry sector. REDD+ Phase I is intended to be completed in 2016.

06 Congo, Republic of: 75 points

Congo has an articulated strategy for using FIP funding to achieve emission reduction, co-benefits for forest dependent communities and institutional capacity and preparedness for implementation as well major efforts to build private sector engagement and participation. This well formulated EOI focuses on SMF and agricultural investments.

07 Dominica: 42 points

Dominica has begun to develop REDD+ conceptual framing and proposed projects. Although in the initial phases, the projects offer a promise to rehabilitate Eastern Caribbean tropical forest. At this stage, however, the EOI requires further development of specific plans for mitigations as well as financial costs and co-benefits.

08 Ecuador: 77 points

Ecuador has achieved significant institutional progress toward inter-sectorial agreements and national strategies. The country has also demonstrated efforts toward reforestation, land use policies coupled with extensive smallholder agreements garnering considerable co-benefits across diverse landscapes. The country is now poised for major transformational change with private sector and smallholder initiatives under FIP.

09 Ethiopia: 53 points

Ethiopia requests FIP funds to scale up tree planting and rehabilitation of severely degraded land mainly for fuel wood production. Reasonable targets have been established for emission reductions. However, potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles are relevantly modest in comparison with other submissions.

10 Guatemala: 77 points

Guatemala's EOI is a clearly presented and comprehensive submission with major co-benefits outlined. However, the EOI may be overly ambitious in scale, scope and extent for effective implementation. Cross-sectorial institutional framework and policy changes provide an enabling environment to facilitate FIP transformational change.

11 Guyana: 65 points

Guyana has shown considerable progress in strengthening institutions, coordinating development priorities and enhancing capacity. The proposed engagement with the private sector, indigenous and smallholder communities lacks sufficient information to evaluate specific aims, objectives and outcomes under FIP. Given considerable bi-lateral and multi-lateral donor investments to date, FIP financing at this time would unlikely garner considerable value-added investment.

12 Haiti: 38 points

Haiti has embarked on the conceptual phase of a forest mitigation and adaptation plan, but this has yet to be developed. Coupled with limited institutional capacities, considerable efforts are required to improve and to enable regulatory and policy framework as well as address the absorptive capacity challenges given the suite of ongoing programs.

13 Honduras: 64 points

Honduras has made major institutional, political and socio-economic advances in design and implementation of land registration and building co-management with smallholders and indigenous peoples. The country has a strong forestry sector that could be transformed through management plans and targeted financial investments. Although REDD+ strategy has not been elaborated well yet, new coordinated efforts appear promising.

14 Côte d'Ivoire: 70 points

The EOI indicates considerable potential to successfully implement the objectives of REDD+ Phase 2 program. Given high deforestation rates, considerable pressures on forests and poverty of rural smallholders, this EOI has the potential to generate major co-benefits and relatively high C reductions. Although in the initial stages of their REDD+ preparation process, EOI demonstrates that solid institutional support and capacity exists for successful REDD+ and FIP implementation.

15 Jordan: 38 points

The country has many strategies and policies to combat desertification, conservation of biodiversity, afforestation and general forest management. Potential to enhance carbon sequestration or reduce GHG emissions is relatively low. Contributions to FIP objectives including capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change are quite low.

16 Kenya: 52 points

EOI seeks the support of FIP funding primarily to increase forest cover. Although EOI identified three quite general forest sector components outlined in their National Climate Change Action, identifying key activities, regions or sectors for FIP financing were not specified. EOI did not demonstrate a coherent REDD+ readiness strategy to be pursued with FIP funding.

17 The Kyrgyz Republic: 52 points

The Kyrgyz Republic has not embarked in a REDD+ Readiness process, nor has the country developed a REDD+ strategy, but a national forest program is being implemented quite successfully. FIP funding is requested to reinforce and extend their National Forest Program (NFP). However, the proposed activities in the broad NFP framework hardly justify the FIP support.

18 Madagascar: 60 points

Madagascar is an important nation from a developmental perspective. Although many challenges are recognized, the EOI attempts to address an overwhelming suite of issues that are mismatched given the modest investment offered by FIP. The EOI would be improved considerably by developing a focused approach for FIP investments that will complement particular critical elements of the REDD+ strategy.

19 Montenegro: 38 points

Montenegro has yet to develop major plans for the role of forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The EOI describes, albeit vaguely, the expected role of FIP investments to improve enabling conditions for SFM. The important area of coppice forests is mentioned, but concrete ideas have not been offered on the types of investment under such forest management scheme.

20 Morocco: 60 points

Morocco has good preparatory studies on forests for climate change mitigation potential and testing REDD+ in pilot areas. The corporate social responsibility platform for forest finance serves as a structure for channeling private sector funds to implement REDD+ projects. However, the EOI does not show links to FIP objectives nor highlight potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change.

21 Mozambique: 78 points

Mozambique's EOI is comprehensive with clearly defined objectives and well-selected pilot areas that include strong justification as investment priorities. Landscape level activities are coordinated with sound and feasible investment strategies. Co-benefits span many areas. Integrated collaborative exchanges and institutional investments with Brazil demonstrate value of FIP portfolio.

22 Nepal: 71 points

Nepal expressed an interest to implement a sub-national REDD+ project in 12 districts of its Terai Arc, and to use FIP investment funds to undertake intervention strategies lacking in the country's ER-PIN. The potential pay-offs in livelihood benefits and ecosystem services generation, including carbon sequestration, are significant in both scope and scale and may provide valuable comparative insights on strategic investing for transformational change.

23 Nicaragua: 58 points

Within its National Development Plan, Nicaragua has established concrete targets on reducing deforestation, restoring lands, increasing carbon sinks, and reducing GHG emissions. The EOI is consistent with national policy and legal frameworks. The EOI specifically identified main drivers of deforestation and degradation, yet did not adequately identify projects for implementation under FIP.

24 Rwanda: 62 points

Rwanda is still in the early stages of developing a strategy for REDD+ Readiness. Ongoing projects are contributing to national experience, institutional development and capacity building for REDD+ and for possibly implementing FIP-type

investments. However, it remains unclear how stakeholders will be engaged sustainably, what instruments will be used to provide incentives for engagement, and how realized benefits would be equitably shared.

25 Samoa: 40 points

Samoa proposes to undertake an integrated program at landscape scale involving key ministerial and natural resource sectors. Interventions planned are similar to those to be undertaken under the PPCR. Whether successful or not, insights and experience from the proposed interventions will offer valuable lessons even beyond Samoa. However, the potential for scaling up and expected contribution to climate change mitigation appear to be relatively low.

26 Saint Lucia: 38 points

Notwithstanding the considerable ecosystem diversity, major needs to restore and rehabilitation wetlands and mangroves and enhance C stocks, the country has yet to develop a national REDD+ strategy. The EOI is an initial contribution and could be enhanced with additional measures of co-benefits. The relatively small areas, low C stocks as well as the limited co-benefits are a major disadvantage.

27 Sudan: 60 points

Sudan's EOI is well prepared EOI albeit seemingly missing the central crux of FIP investment to a large extent. Duplicating work undertaken by other projects and packaging activities not demonstrated in the EOI seems unavoidable. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles is not clearly evident.

28 Tanzania: 46 points

Although a solid EOI, this submission would be substantially improved if FIP could be clearly identified with particular programs, aims and objectives. Several components exist, yet these are in the initial project phase. Questions still surround institutional capacities for scaling projects.

29 Togo: 38 points

Togo only recently renewed international cooperation in the forest sector and initiated a REDD+ Readiness process with FCPF that is now only in the initial stage. EOI describes the current situation well, but does not make a compelling case for the Forest Investment Program at their current stage of REDD+ development.

30 Tunisia: 70 points

Tunisia's EOI is well developed. National strategies and implementation plans are well established. The potential for GHG reductions is possible though modest on the global scale. Similarly, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles, especially FIP investments to induce initiate transformational change could be feasible if coordination among the many REDD+ projects is sought.

31 Turkey: 50 points

The EOI is a mix of several forest management interventions, but specific REDD+ related activities are not particularly convincing. Accordingly, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles are modest as presented. If a more elaborate and focused proposal is presented, FIP investment merits serious consideration.

32 Uganda: 62 points

Projects proposed are linked to long-term national development plans and seek to expand forest cover. Proposed activities aim to reduce pressure on natural forests and protect and restore watersheds for hydropower. Uganda will, however, require concerted efforts to complete their REDD+ Readiness Strategy.

33 Uruguay: 56 points

Uruguay has strong institutional capacity to enhance Carbon sinks in native and planted forests. However, the Carbon stocks, threats for deforestation and degradation, biomes represented, and co-benefits delineated are all relatively low especially when contrasted with other regions.

34 Vanuatu: 43 points

Vanuatu is in the process of developing its REDD+ Strategy and has allocated FCPF resources to cover some basic components of its' R-PP. FIP funds are sought to implement the remaining components. However, institutional capacity and enabling conditions are, as yet, insufficiently developed for FIP investment.

35 Zambia: 68 points

The EOI holds major promise for climate change mitigation via an integrated suite of REDD+ related land, watershed management and forest protection programs. Strong justification has been made for FIP support. If well managed, Zambia's vast forest cover has considerable potential for carbon storage.

36 Cameroon: 67 points

Cameroon's EOI is clearly articulated within a strategic national REDD+ program. Based on the EOI, GHG emission reduction potential is relatively high. Actions to be undertaken under FIP investments are far too general and could be applied to other on-going projects. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives is reasonable.

4.4 Tier 1 countries: Overview of FIP Investment, Approaches and Instruments

In line with its mandate to generate a ranked list of countries, but not to recommend a subset of countries for selection, the EG gleaned from the EOIs some additional information on the countries in respect to their proposed investment approach (Table 4). This section presents the findings from countries included in Tier 1.

The investment areas and approaches outlined in the EOIs of Tier 1 countries build on national strategies and on-going REDD+ initiatives (Table 2). To varying degrees, all EOIs propose to undertake further institutional strengthening and governance reform, to incorporate or scale up community participation in sustainable forest management, and to expand the scope for private sector engagement in reforestation, forest restoration and agroforestry. Most Tier 1 EOIs include

investments aimed at improving agricultural systems through agroforestry and climate smart practices. Majority of the EOIs seek to enhance forest products value chains, to improve livelihoods and links to markets, and to address energy-related issues. Majority of the EOIs also propose to develop or implement incentive schemes to promote behavioral change and to foster community, civil society and private sector partnerships.

Table 4. Overview of the investment approach for Tier 1 countries

Country	Areas of Investment	Approaches and Instruments
MOZAMBIQUE	Scaling up successful community-based forest management Strengthening forestry sector policies and governance Promotion of climate smart agriculture and green supply chains Enhanced energy efficiency in sustainable charcoal production Strengthening institutional capacity for landscape management Improved private sector management of national forests	National reforestation goal of 7 million hectares of planted forests and private plantations Promotion of forest-based value chains and local industries Private sector-led out grower schemes Integrated landscape approach focused on conservation agriculture Private, community-led sustainable logging and NTFP harvesting Protection of high conservation value forests Forest certification, incentives for rehabilitation of degraded areas under private concessions
ECUADOR	Strengthening Climate Change Strategy regarding forests using a landscape approach Mainstreaming FIP Investment in Ongoing Policy Framework and Development Activities Committing Star 6 GEF Allocation to leverage FIP resources: • Climate change component (US$3 million); • Biodiversity component (US$2 million); • Sustainable Forest Management (US$2 million)	Ecosystem restoration to link fragmented landscapes (target of 500,000 hectares for 2014-2017) Commercial reforestation of at least 120,000 hectares until 2018 Sustainable forest management Use of voluntary conservation agreements between MAE and public executors (natural persons, popular and solidary economy organizations, nonprofit legal entities, profit seeking legal entities) and payment of monetary incentives

GUATEMALA	Civil society participation in protection and sustainable management of forests Promotion of private investment in forest protection, production and restoration of forest cover Agroforestry in private smallholder targets Governance improvement (esp. FLEG), institutional capacity building and technical support	Financing, promotion and support of civil society participation in protection and sustainable management of forests Linking forest, industry and market to strengthen development of regional clusters through value chain and international trade Incentives for private sector participation, esp. through agroforestry in private smallholder targets Incentives for small land owners of forests and agroforestry
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF	Sustainable Forest Management as part of REDD+ Improving agricultural production systems Rationalizing production and use of wood energy	Target: GHG emission reductions of 50% by 2030 Certification, management planning and tracking of logging concessions, reduced impact logging Participation of local communities and indigenous peoples Community agroforestry, industrial plantations and public-private partnership Strengthening cooperatives, social and economic interest groups Afforestation/ reforestation, energy plantations Improved cook stoves and carbonization techniques

NEPAL	Addressing capacity gaps in sub-national REDD+ in Terai Arc Landscape and expansion outside REDD+ project areas Sustainable forest management, land use planning Improved forest law enforcement and governance Expansion of alternative energy Private sector engagement in sustainable production and value chain enhancement	Focus on investments that will generate lessons for regions outside Terai and for national level Community forestry, co-management in partnership with the private sector Private plantation on abandoned and fallow land Targeted capacity building Expanded biogas plants and improved cook stoves Multipurpose tree plantations on private lands, contract farming Private sector technical backstopping and complementary services Forest products processing and marketing
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Implementation of "zero net deforestation cocoa", focus on the "cocoa belt" Restoration of gazetted forests Developing more sustainable mining practices Securing land through private sector engagement Reforestation and restoration of savannas and degraded lands by villagers Fuelwood plantation and improving energy efficiency Formalization of the charcoal industry, promotion of alternative energy	Agricultural intensification through agroforestry Governance strengthening Participatory forest development planning and strengthening role of communities in forest management Development and implementation of safeguards policies and regulations Independent monitoring of mining practices by NGOs and local communities

TUNISIA	Strategic Interventions in Forest and Rangelands as part of National Strategy for the Development and Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands (2015-2024) Adaptation of the institutional and legal frameworks and capacity enhancement Optimization of forest and rangeland contributions to national socio-economic development Maintaining and improving environmental functions and services of forest and rangeland resources Consolidation and improvement of forest cover and rangelands	Restoration and enhancement of forest and rangeland landscapes (e.g., cork oak forest, pine forest and Alfa steppes, natural rangelands, protected areas representing desert and lagoon biomes) Reform of legal, institutional and policy framework Introduction of co-management practices at field level Creation of employment and livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged rural populations Plan to eventually seek World Bank loan of US$50 million to complement FIP grant funds

4.5 Relative Position of Tier 1 Countries by National Forest Cover and Deforestation Rate

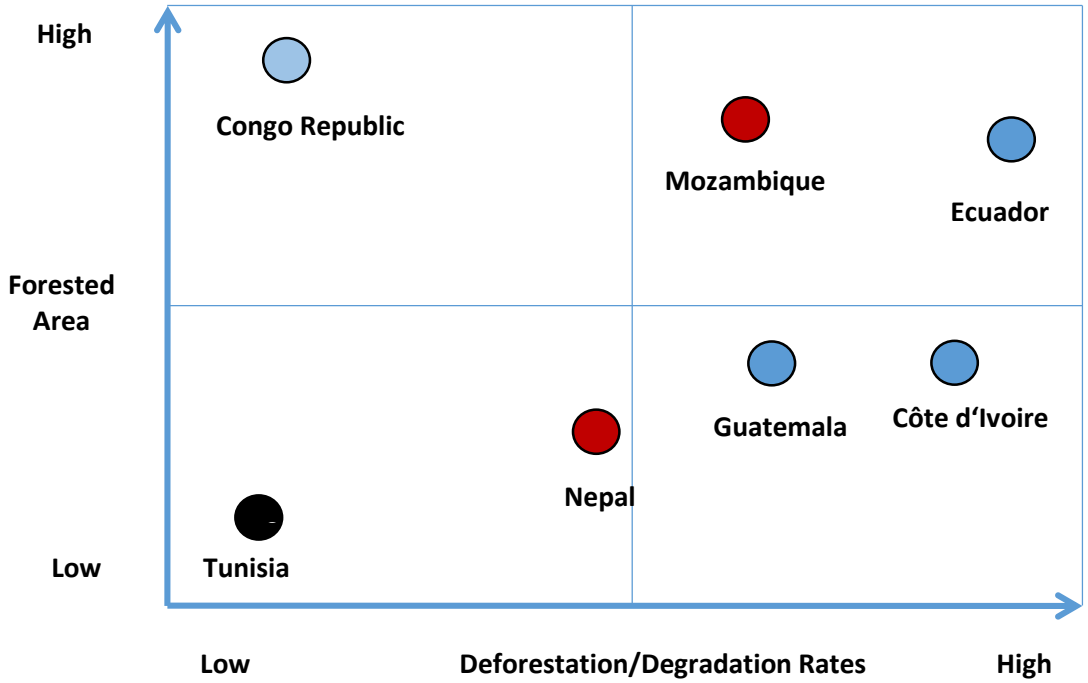
To illustrate further the relative potential of the seven highest ranked countries to contribute to carbon emission mitigation based on their forest conditions, each country was assigned to one of four broad groups based on forest cover and deforestation rates:

1) low forest cover with low deforestation;
2) high forest cover with low deforestation;
3) low forest cover with high deforestation; and,
4) high forest cover with high deforestation.

These results are depicted in Figure 7 which was constructed only for relative comparison and not drawn to scale. Though not intentional, all four Tiers are represented with a one country in the high forest cover/low deforestation category, and two countries in each of the other three categories..

Tunisia represents countries with relatively low forest cover resulting from both natural conditions as well as human induced activities leading to desertification; Guatemala and Côte d'Ivoire also possess relatively low forest area, yet relatively high deforestation rates; Congo Republic is a high forest cover country with relatively low deforestation rate; while Mozambique and Ecuador are high forest cover and high deforestation countries.

Figure 7. Comparative positions of the seven countries Tier 1 according to their respective forest cover and deforestation/degradation rates



Their relative position was weighed by percentage of total land area, deforestation rate, forest area, and percentage area deforested (World Bank, 2014; Hansen et al., 2013). Dense forest area, as defined by FAO, 2010, was considered to best reflect their carbon stocks. Biomes represented by: Blue = Tropical; Red = Subtropical & Sub-tropical dry; Black = Mediterranean.

5 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

In line with the Terms of Reference and based on implementation of the FIP Criteria using a scoring system outlined in section 2, the EG reviewed the 36 EOI submissions and organized them into groups for FIP-SC consideration. These groups, presented in section 4, are based on a ranking of scores overall as well as by region and biome. In this concluding section, the EG provides some general observations, notes some issues, and offers some suggestions.

Enhanced Quality of EOI Submissions

Overall, the 2015 EOI submissions were of higher quality relative to the submissions received in 2010. It appears that the effectiveness of the FIP criteria and the EG evaluation process contributed to greatly enhanced EOIs. Nevertheless, significant variability in the quality of the EOIs remained. It was apparent that most of the strong submissions have benefited from technical support. Discussions with MDBs confirmed that their staff had assisted, mostly in response on the basis of explicit country request for support, by providing guidance, information, peer review, and English translation. The provision of similar support to interested countries and proactive engagement of MDB partners can play an important role in further enhancing FIP proposals and ensuring consistently high quality of submissions in the future.

Responding to the FIP EOI template provided, most country submissions contain relatively little detail on the investments proposed for FIP financing. It would greatly facilitate future assessments if the FIP EOI template would advise countries to include specific information on their proposed FIP investments.

The quality and coverage of the submissions could also be enhanced by a well publicized and extended time frame for submission. In the course of discussions with the MDBs and CIF AU, the EG was informed that several other countries had verbally expressed interest in submitting EOIs, but were unable to meet the deadline. In most cases, countries required additional time to complete their submissions.

Complementarity of FIP and other REDD-related funds

The general picture that emerged from a review of all the EOIs indicates that countries are putting in place the institutional infrastructure for REDD+ Readiness, and are proceeding at varying paces as resources and capacities permit. Some countries solicit FIP funds to fill capacity gaps and build on the momentum from planned or on-going REDD Readiness activities. Countries that are further along in the process, and have the essential institutional capacity in place, are expected not only to be able to effectively absorb FIP funds, but also to be able to implement proposed investments successfully. To a large extent, the ranking of countries reflects this expectation according to the EG's assessment.

Several of the countries included in Tier 1 had received and evidently benefited from complementary FCPF, UN-REDD Programme, PPCP, SREP and other REDD+ related support. It appears that the full portfolio under CIF/SCF has been effective and thus provided the enabling conditions for these countries to effectively transition to Phase 2 Readiness. For example, Mozambique and Nepal were also highly ranked in the initial 2010 FIP EG evaluations. Both countries received

FCPF Readiness and FCPF Carbon Fund as well as SREP, GEF or UN-REDD funds. Clearly, the outstanding quality of their 2015 EOI submissions reflects, in part, the effective use and application of these investments. Guatemala, Côte d'Ivoire and The Republic of Congo also received FCPF Readiness and FCPF Carbon Funds in addition of being UN-REDD National, UN-REDD Partner or receiving GEF funds, while Ecuador and Tunisia were UNREDD partners or participated/developed in UN-REDD national programs before EOI submission. In addition, several of the highly ranked Tier II submissions (e.g., Cambodia, Cameroon, Madagascar, Sudan, Uganda, Guyana, and Honduras) also benefited from FCPF support.

FIP Funding for Plantations

Plantation establishment as part of reforestation, afforestation and degraded land rehabilitation initiatives is a common feature of most EOI submissions. Most EOIs do not provide details though some specifically mention out-grower schemes and agroforestry involving local communities, some in partnership with the private sector, as their chosen mode of plantation establishment.

Many EOIs feature private sector plantations (monoculture or few species) of high value crops, such as pulp and paper and palm oil, in land concessions. Because plantations are generally harvested in 20-30 year cycles, their effectiveness in contributing to long-term GHG emissions reduction and biodiversity conservation needs to be evaluated in perspective and appropriately weighted in FIP investment decisions. Accountability and transparency in land acquisition arrangements for plantations – especially free prior informed consent and potential fair compensation – must be delineated in FIP proposals as well as how these processes will be maintained. FIP investment risks could also be mitigated by encouraging more species diversified plantations. Institutional models for plantation establishment and maintenance that engage local communities in ways that maximize flows to local economies are more likely to deliver the co-benefits expected from FIP investments, should be prioritized over standard models of private concessions.

Ensuring Equitable Sharing of Benefits

All the EOI submissions explicitly state or implicitly suggest that benefits from their proposed investments will be widely shared and would benefit local communities. However, few EOIs trace the pathways through which such benefits are expected to flow to their intended beneficiaries. Except for passing reference to safeguards (generally still in nascent stages of development) in a few EOIs, there is rarely any discussion of mechanisms to minimize damage or negative impacts. Fewer still refer to specific mechanisms to ensure equitable sharing of benefits as an integral part of FIP investment planning and implementation. This lacuna needs to be filled, possibly by making this a specific information requirement in the FIP EOI template in the future. Ensuring that benefits from FIP investments are equitably shared, especially with those most affected by FIP funded initiatives, is particularly important where funds subsidize commercial ventures, including plantations, that may have adverse impacts for local and other stakeholders.

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FIP Design for the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to be established under the Forest Investment Program	11/29/2011
FIP Procedures for the Preparation of Independent Technical Reviews of Investment Plans under the Forest Investment Program	11/28/2011
FIP Results Framework	05/13/2011
FIP Operational Guidelines	06/29/2010
FIP Investment Criteria and Financing Modalities	06/29/2010
FIP Expert Group: Recommendations for Additional Pilots Under the FIP	06/04/2010
FIP Report of Expert Group: Recommendations for Pilots under the FIP	03/03/2010
FIP Criteria for Selecting Country and Regional Pilots under the FIP	11/11/2009
FIP Criteria for Selecting Expert Group Members under the FIP, Terms of Reference and Working Modalities	11/11/2009
FIP Design Document	07/07/2009

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Expert Group Composition

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Annex 3. Proposed Revised Selection Criteria and Process for New Countries

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Annex 5. EOI Evaluation Reports

Annex 1: Expert Group Composition

Name	Title and Organization
Francis Bisong	Professor of Conservation Biogeography, Department of Geography & Environmental Science, University of Calabar, Nigeria
Juergen Blaser*	Ord. Professor for International Forestry and Climate Change Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Switzerland
Doris Capistrano	Senior Fellow, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines
Lisa M. Curran	Lang Professor in Environmental Anthropology & Senior Fellow Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment Stanford University
Hosny El-Lakany*	Professor Emeritus, Alexandria University, Egypt and Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Carlos Manuel Rodriquez	Conservation International Costa Rica

*Co-chairs of the Expert Group

Annex 2

February 23, 2015

Terms of Reference

Expert Group for the Selection of New Pilot Countries & for the Selection of New Projects/Programs in Existing Pilot Countries on a Competitive Basis under the

Forest Investment Program (FIP)

Background

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF), comprising two new funds, the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). The Forest Investment Program (FIP) is a targeted program under the SCF which was established to support developing countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). Channeled through the multilateral development banks (MDBs) as grants and near-zero interest credits, the FIP is country-led and builds on national policies and the activities of existing adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

At its last meeting in November 2014, the FIP Sub-Committee agreed that, in order to advance the consideration of new countries in the FIP (including the DGM), the CIF Administrative Unit should invite countries eligible for FIP funding to submit an expression of interest in participating in the FIP.

The FIP Sub-Committee (SC) also agreed to make available existing unallocated FIP resources as well as previously pledged resources, once available, to existing FIP pilot countries on a competitive basis to complement activities supported under their endorsed investment plans through public or private sector programs or projects.

Expert Group Selection

The documents, *Proposed revised selection criteria and process for new countries*, and *Proposed selection criteria and process for allocating resources to existing FIP pilot countries*, agreed by the FIP Sub-Committee, stipulate that the establishment of expert group is to be a decision by the Sub-Committee members based on a proposal submitted by the CIF AU in consultation with the MDBs taking as a basis expert groups previously established – 2 or 3 experts from developing countries and 2 or 3 experts from developed countries.

The CIF Administrative Unit, in consultation with the FIP MDB Committee, has invited members of the Expert Group previously selected by the FIP Sub-Committee to recommend pilot countries in 2010 or to recommend private sector set-aside concepts for the FIP in 2013. Where this has not been the case, the experts have been selected from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's roster of experts for the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). The Expert Group composition is based on gender balance, geographic balance including experts from both developed and developing countries, and balance between public and private sector experience.

Duties

There will be one Expert Group for the selection of new project/programs in existing FIP pilot countries under a competitive basis and for the selection of new FIP pilot countries. The Expert Group will be asked to complete both tasks separately.

The experts will be retained as short-term consultants by the CIF Administrative Unit. The experts are expected to carry out the following duties:

1. Selection of new FIP pilot countries

In performing its task, the Expert Group will be guided by the FIP design document and the document, *Proposed revised selection criteria and process for new countries* to select the new pilot countries or regional pilots. The expert group will aim for a ranked list of countries and not a particular recommendation of up to [X] countries. The expert group may make qualifications or sub-groupings if appropriate.

The experts are expected to carry out the following duties:

a) Familiarize themselves with the background documents provided by the Administrative Unit that will facilitate them to carry out their work;
b) Participate in a virtual organizational meeting and an expert group meeting in Washington, DC;
c) Review expressions of interest submitted by eligible FIP countries;
d) Develop a methodology (including a score card based on criteria agreed on by the FIP Sub-Committee) and carry out analysis that will lead to the recommendation of new countries that could benefit from the FIP program while contributing to the overall programmatic objectives of FIP.

2. Selection of new projects/programs in existing FIP pilot countries on a competitive basis

In performing its task, the Expert Group will be guided by the FIP design document and the document, *Proposed selection criteria and process for allocating resources to existing FIP pilot countries* to select the new projects or programs in existing FIP pilot countries. The expert group will aim for a ranked list of projects/programs and not a particular recommendation of up to [X] projects/programs. The expert group may make qualifications or sub-groupings if appropriate.

The experts are expected to carry out the following duties:

a) Familiarize themselves with the background documents provided by the Administrative Unit that will facilitate them to carry out their work;
b) Participate in a virtual organizational meeting and an expert group meeting in Washington, DC;
c) Review project/program concept notes submitted by existing FIP pilot countries;
d) Develop a methodology (including a score card based on the criteria agreed on by the FIP Sub-Committee) and carry out analysis that will lead to the recommendation of projects or programs that should complement existing FIP pilot countries' Investment Plans.

Co-Chairs

The expert group will be invited to select, or reappoint, two co-chairs of the group: one co-chair should be a national from a developing country and one co-chair should be a national from a contributor country. The co-chairs will be responsible for the chairing the expert group meeting and for facilitating discussions and negotiations in preparing the recommendations.

Rapporteur

The expert group may also wish to agree on one or two of the members of the group to be responsible for preparing the expert group reports.

The expert group should also agree on one member from the group to present its report to the FIP Sub-Committee in May 2015. Such presentation may be through virtual means if that proves to be the most cost effective option.

Provisional Timeframe

March 6, 2015	Deadline for Expression of Interest (EOI) submission by eligible countries
March 9, 2015	Initial virtual meeting of the expert group to agree on the process and method to use to accomplish the task, namely, select the co-chairs, agree on who writes the report for the Sub-Committee, who will present the report at the meetings and methodology on reviewing the EOIs and concept notes
March 10-15, 2015	Off-site review of EOIs by individual expert group members in preparation for the meeting in Washington D.C.
March 16, 2015	Deadline for project/program concept note submission by FIP pilot countries
March 16-19, 2015	Meeting of expert group in Washington, D.C. to discuss the weights and ranking of EOIs by each panel member (does not include travel time)
March 20-22, 2015	Meeting of the expert group in Washington, D.C. to select new projects/programs in existing FIP pilot countries (does not include travel time)
April 3, 2015	Expert group submits its recommendations for new FIP pilot countries to CIF Administrative Unit
April 6, 2015	Expert group submits its recommendations for new projects/programs in existing FIP pilot countries to CIF Administrative Unit
April 15, 2015	CIF Administrative Unit circulates expert group recommendations to the FIP Sub-Committee
May 15, 2015	Designated member of the expert group presents expert group reports to the FIP Sub-Committee and FIP Sub-Committee makes a decision.

Remuneration

a) 5 days to review expressions of interest and prepare for the expert group meeting in Washington D.C. The Expert Group may divide this task among its members as required;
b) 7 days to carry out its work in Washington, D.C., plus per diem and travel costs;
c) Up to 5 days to review and comment on the draft expert report virtually after meeting in Washington D.C.

The member preparing the report may require up to 4 additional days to prepare and finalize the expert report.

The member presenting the report to the Sub-Committee may require up to one additional day to present the expert group report to the Sub-Committee.

Experts will be remunerated and travel will be arranged in accordance with World Bank rules and regulations. The Expert Group meeting will be assisted by the CIF Administrative Unit during the course of its work. Arrangements will be made for the Expert Group to meet with the MDBs to discuss, on a regional basis, countries and their potential to be included in the FIP. In particular, the MDBs will be expected to share their experience and knowledge in the existing pilot countries.

To avoid any potential conflicts of interest, expert group members who, in their personal capacity or affiliated with a firm, are working or seeking or anticipating to work in, or have any contractual arrangement with, or are seeking or anticipating a contractual arrangement with, as consultants or otherwise, a country under consideration for FIP funding, shall disclose this information to the FIP Sub-Committee co-chairs and head of the CIF Administrative Unit at least two weeks in advance of the first or any subsequent meeting of the expert group. On the initiative of the expert group member concerned or at the discretion of the co-chairs and/or the head of the Administrative Unit, expert group members may be recused from offering an opinion on the selection of any candidate country or project/program in which he or she had, has or may have a professional or financial interest, or had, has or may have significant involvement in any capacity; and from attending FIP Sub-Committee discussions, if a candidate country in which he or she has said interest or is under consideration or if the project/program takes place in a country in which he or she has said interest.

Any expert in possession of financial, business proprietary or other non-public information obtained in the course of this assignment shall not, without written authorization from the manager of the CIF Administrative Unit, disclose to any third party for any reason or otherwise use such information in furtherance of a private interest or the private interest of any other person or entity. These obligations continue after separation from the service provided as experts, unless and until permission is granted by the head of the CIF Administrative Unit. "Non-public information" is defined as information generated and/or issued by any of the CIF Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) partners that has not been approved for release outside the MDB in accordance with the MDB's rules.

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

January 22, 2015

PROPOSED REVISED SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR NEW COUNTRIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its last meeting in November 2014, the FIP Sub-Committee (SC) agreed that, in order to advance the consideration of new countries in the FIP (including the DGM), the CIF Administrative Unit should invite countries eligible for FIP funding to submit an expression of interest in participating in the FIP by no later than February 27, 2015.

2. Moreover the FIP SC invited written comments on the criteria and procedures for the selection of new FIP pilot countries. The proposal below reflects written comments received from several SC members as well as the recommendations by the FIP MDB Committee.

3. Taking into account the developments related to international and national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation since the selection criteria for FIP pilot countries were agreed upon, it is suggested to adjust the previously agreed selection criteria in order to create a selection framework that is more in line with the new national contexts and the international architecture. Recent developments in national and international contexts include, as elaborated upon in *FIP/SC.13/6, Further Elaboration of the Options for the Use of Potentially New Funds under the Forest Investment Program*:

a. The clarification of the role of FIP in the phased approach to REDD+;

b. The development of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus (COP19);

c. The development of the agenda for FIP results monitoring and reporting; and

d. New research on forest-related mitigation option.

4. The selection of new FIP countries will provide an equal and fair opportunity for new countries as well as additional biomes to be considered in light of recent developments in the FIP and the international REDD and REDD+ architecture.

5. With the confirmation of the role of the FIP in the phased approach to the REDD/REDD+ architecture and the need for substantial upfront technical assistance and investment resources, three criteria with weightings are proposed (below) for selecting new FIP pilot countries. These selection criteria aim at ensuring that new pilot countries offer emissions reduction potential (through avoided deforestation/degradation, forest conservation, sustainable forest management, enhancement of carbon sinks and stocks, greenhouse gas substitution and other relevant interventions), enhanced co-benefits and potential for timely mobilization, while maintaining a balanced geographic distribution of pilot countries as well as a balanced distribution of biomes. The proposed criteria are:

Potential to Contribute to Climate Change mitigation (40%):

6. Countries should have potential to contribute to forest-related climate change mitigation, including but not limited to through reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, managing forest landscapes in a sustainable manner, preserving or enhancing forest carbon stocks (for example through forest landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, afforestation/reforestation and preservation of biota and soil). Forests from any biomes may be considered[7].

Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%):

[7] There is strong climate change mitigation potential in forests of all biomes/extents of forest cover in countries. Climate change mitigation potential in biomes may be assessed through: patterns of land-use change, patterns in historic biodiversity assessments, forest fire frequency.

7. Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits such as enhancing the livelihood of poor rural and forest-dependent people through for example land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, financial flows, and positive impacts on water and soil resources. Conservation of biodiversity and other environmental services should also be enhanced.

Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%):

8. Countries will not necessarily have to be a formal part of the Forest Carbon Partnership (FCPF) Readiness Fund or UN-REDD but should state whether they are, or not. They must be able to demonstrate an ability to develop, implement, and monitor actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for forest monitoring and information.[8] This should include evidence that the country is committed to providing a policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers. It should also include evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders. Countries should also demonstrate the institutional and technical capacity and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully.

9. Countries should be able to demonstrate the potential to realize transformational impact as well as the potential to scale up public, private and other resources and activities to achieve transformational change on issues including, but not limited to, GHG savings, forest governance, industry behaviour, tenure security, and management practices. Countries should demonstrate evidence of capacity for transformational change, such as past investments and policy reforms in place which demonstrate a willingness to go beyond the business as usual scenario. Countries should also articulate the potential for private sector engagement in the programme, and the potential to enhance the enabling regulatory environment that supports the development of the private sector or new models for private sector investments.

10. Furthermore, countries should provide information on how the FIP program would fit with and complement other large ongoing and planned national or internationally-supported REDD/REDD+ and associated programmes, forest conservation and forest management programmes and plans, as well as with national climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. Countries should provide evidence of coordination with on-going national and international forest programs, as well as the potential to build on planned and on-going investments through the MDBs, and possibilities to leverage funds from the private sector or other sources of investments.

II. SELECTION PROCESS

11. The CIF AU and the MDBs will work on establishing a long-list of eligible countries to the FIP[9]. These eligible countries will be asked to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs). The templates for the EOIs should ensure that sufficient information is generated to allow a sifting exercise based on these criteria[10].

[8] For the purposes of these criteria and procedures, readiness is not defined strictly in line with REDD+ readiness, and implies instead "an ability and interest to undertake REDD+ initiatives and to address key direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account government efforts to date and government willingness to move to a strategic approach to REDD+ and to integrate the role of forests into national sustainable development", in accordance with the *FIP Design Document*.

[9] In accordance with the FIP *Design Document.*

[10] Expressions of Interest are not to exceed 10 pages, *excluding* tables, charts and annexes. EOIs are not to exceed 30 pages *including* tables, charts and annexes. EOIs submitted that exceed these limits will not be considered.

12. In the preparation of their Expressions of Interest, countries should keep in mind the average country allocations from the last selection of FIP pilot countries (around US$30 million) in order to provide realistic narratives and allow for a fair comparison between countries.

13. Geographic balance is stressed as an underlying principle of the FIP. The sub-committee will assume the role of selecting new pilot countries based on the expert group's assessment of candidate countries, taking into account that the programme should aim to promote a balanced distribution across regions. There should additionally be a balanced distribution across biomes.

14. In preparing their EOIs, countries may use tools such as the FCPF readiness assessment framework or draw from information included in status updates on the progress of the REDD+ readiness activities supported by either the FCPF or the UN-REDD Programme in their countries.

15. The steps in the selection process are as follows:

a. Invitation for expressions of interest to eligible countries in accordance with the templates for the EOIs[11] which will be created in accordance with the above criteria. The selection of new FIP pilot countries should be carried out through an open and transparent process, open to all countries that fit the above criteria, set out by the FIP Sub-Committee.

b. Establishment of expert group (decision by the Sub-Committee members based on a proposal submitted by the CIF AU in consultation with the MDBs taking as a basis expert groups previously established– 2 or 3 experts from developing countries and 2 or 3 experts from developed countries))

c. Assessment of the Expressions of Interest by the expert group and preparation of report with recommendations. The report will note which eligible countries have already contacted the CIF Administrative Unit in previous years expressing a general interest in FIP funding during the selection of the first pilot countries and at any other time after this. The Expert Group will also consult with the MDBs before finalizing the report. Additionally, it will be considered that adequate resources will be reserved for financing the DGM projects in the new countries and that the allocation of FIP resources for additional countries will be proportional to the allocation provided for current FIP pilot countries

d. Selection of new FIP pilot countries at the FIP Sub-Committee meeting in May 2015 and invite them to develop investment plans (IPs).

[11] Drafts for these were presented in in Annex 3 of the *Further Elaboration of Options for the Use of Potentially New Funds under the Forest Investment* but will be edited based on the agreed upon criteria.

Annex 4: Background to apply the selection criteria

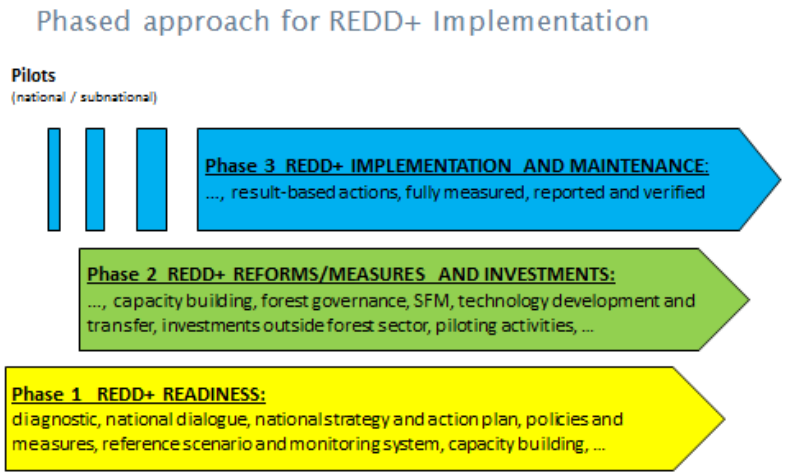
FIP Overall selection criteria

- Potential for GHG reductions
- Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles (including potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change)
- Diverse regional and ecological representation
- Country preparedness, ability and interest—institutional and otherwise—to undertake REDD initiatives and address drivers of deforestation

REDD+ Readiness and FIP

Readiness is embedded to a large extent within the FIP program design including Objectives and Principles, Criteria for Initiating Transformational Change, Country Selection and Investment Criteria, and Core Indicators from Results and Monitoring Framework.
Generally, a country requesting to be part of the FIP developed a national REDD+ strategy (or equivalent) that provides guidelines for implementing REDD+. This could include climate, land use, forestry, and other policies that address land tenure rights, social and environmental safeguards, drivers of deforestation, and so on.

FIP: transformational change projects focused on the PHASE 2 of the REDD+ Development Framework



Annex 5: EOI Evaluation Reports

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Afghanistan **Rating (out of 100): 50** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 65.2	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 29	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 28.5	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 1.7	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 2.6	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Arid to Semi-arid; Emission GHG 28,759 Gg CO_2 equiv	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Laws and plans are in place to undertake REDD+ activities, but the country is a conflict area. Thus, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles is quite weak. EoI requests FIP funds to promote on-going activities funded by other agencies without integration of a diverse portfolio of projects and programs. Target is to increase forest cover to 3% by 2030. Although this goal is quite reasonable given the context, this forest restoration would impart only modest effects on GHG mitigation and adaptation. Thus, potential for GHG reductions are minimal. Project area spans montane regions - a potentially new biome for FIP. Noteworthy potential for value added enterprise development around pistachio forest management.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)	Weight 40	Points 19
1.1.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.2.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	4
1.3.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	5
1.4.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.5.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	3

Comments:

Request FIP investment for a variety of objectives, but REDD+ is not clear from the EoI; yet considerable contributions would accrue to disaster risk reduction.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 18
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	9
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Potential for co-benefits expressed, but evidence is weak.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 13
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	2
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	3

Comments:

Weak institutions and limited technical capacities for implementation, albeit many projects and funds provided by a myriad of bi- and multi-lateral development assistance agencies.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Bangladesh **Rating (out of 100): 68** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 0.2	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 1225
Population (m): 154.7 (158)	Forest area per capita (ha):0.00932	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):247
GDP per capita (US$): 957.8	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 1.443	Forest carbon stock (mt): 324	Planted forest area ('000 ha):237
Relative forest area (%): 11.1 (17.5)	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

As a densely populated (1203 persons/km^2) coastal country with high incidence of poverty, Bangladesh expresses interest in implementing a participatory natural resources management program based on a pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy. The proposed participatory, climate resilient afforestation and reforestation investment program to be implemented in six protected areas in the Sundarbans, located within the world's largest contiguous mangrove ecosystem. These efforts have considerable potential to generate substantial contributions to REDD+ and provide lessons for managing forested wetlands for multiple benefits.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**26**
1.6.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.7.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.8.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.9.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.10.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

Bangladesh has a well developed National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009) that provides the overarching framework of REDD+ implementation in line with a low carbon sustainable development pathway. The investment program based on improved management and conversion of degraded forests to state and community co-managed protected forests is estimated to yield average annual emission reductions of 15.52 TCO_2 ha^{-1} over 30 years.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**23**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	13
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

This investment program builds on decades of experience with integrated resource management and rural development programs in a region that frequently has to contend with environmental disasters and deal with post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation. In addition to the expected co-benefits for livelihoods, security, social empowerment, health and ecosystem benefits, the program may offer key lessons for disaster risk reduction in other similarly vulnerable areas and regions.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**19**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Bangladesh has the policy and institutional framework necessary for effective REDD+ implementation. They have conducted initial carbon stock assessments and inventories, developed participatory monitoring indicators and have initiated capacity building training for government forest department staff, civil society and local communities. Because this proposed investment program builds on previous pilot projects involving a broad range of partners, FIP is expected to benefit from existing significant institutional, technical and management capacity.

Assessment of FIP Proposals 2015

Country: Belarus Rating (out of 100): 57 Provisional Category: III

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 20.76	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 8123
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha): 0.9	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (000' ha, 2015): 9477	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 2198
Relative forest area (%): 46	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Temperate broadleaf and mixed forests, temperate coniferous forests	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Belarus has an important production forest estate (PFE) with 8.1 M ha including a remarkable 95% under FSC-certified forest management (7.7 M ha) as well as an extensive peat land area with substantial below ground C stocks. EoI aims to concentrate efforts within a pilot area of 4-6 state forest enterprises (≥ 600,000 ha) to reduce emissions and increase C stocks in forests and wetlands. Also they propose to enhance C sink activities and to improve forest management practices. However, REDD+ readiness activities have yet to be conducted to date; Belarus does not have an operational National REDD+ or forest NAMA strategy. However, regular national GHG emission monitoring and forest carbon stock assessments follow the LULUCF framework.

Belarus has demonstrated strong commitment to sustainable forest management and a proven capacity to reduce emissions and sequester carbon through forestry. However, the potential for generating social and livelihood co-benefits will likely be limited given that forests are exclusive property of the State. While the EoI recognizes the necessity of increasing people's awareness and participation, this submission lacks sufficient information surrounding: i) incentives to motivate people's participation; ii) forest resource rights; iii) distribution of benefits; and, iv) how these and related issues will be addressed within this FIP context.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** **40**	**Points** **17**
1.11.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.12.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (certified forest mgtm)	10	2
1.13.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks (potentially huge SFM and wetlands conservation)	10	5
1.14.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.15.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	3

Comments:

The country regularly reports on its GHG emissions including forests, maintains good records on LULUCF activities and monitors forest biomass on a regular basis. The unique wetlands and temperate peat lands contain exceptionally high C stocks and likely of global importance to biodiversity conservation. Potentially major contributions of forests and peat lands to mitigate C. EoI is particularly vague on the methods and approaches they will employ to effectively capture such contributions.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	9
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	4
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Considerable forest areas are under sustainable timber management and increased use of woodfuel would further contribute to the forest sector's contribution to their declared national Green Economy objectives. This EoI, however, is particularly weak in presenting and defending potential co-benefits generated for livelihoods, employment and forest governance.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **19**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	5
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	5

Comments:

In Belarus, outstanding technical and operational knowledge exists to manage forests sustainability. The scientific foundation and baselines are available for robust carbon assessments and managing MRV. Important mitigation assets include considerable forest stock and wetlands/peat lands.

However, this EoI has not demonstrated that Belarus has the REDD+ institutional and leadership capacity to serve as a transformational pilot model for temperate and wetland biomes under FIP.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Benin **Rating (max = 100): 43** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area ('000 ha): 114,763	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): n.a.
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 843
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha): 62
Forest area ('000 ha, 2015):7, 670	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area (000'ha): 237
Relative forest area (%): 68	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Tropical dry forests, riparian forests and some moist broadleaf forests	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

EoI is centered on developing communal forests including forest tenure reform and livelihood support, enhancement of sinks through supporting private sector investments in forest plantations, and the development of payment schemes for ecosystem services. Benin has not yet advanced in any REDD+ readiness approach, but has integrated forests and trees outside forests in broader climate change adaptation strategies. This EoI does not fulfill the criteria established for FIP financing.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**12**
1.16.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.17.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (only in initial stage)	10	2
1.18.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	4
1.19.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.20.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	1

Comments:

Overall, the investment proposal deals with addressing deforestation and particularly with sink enhancement. Nevertheless, the project does not specify how it is embedded in a structured mitigation approach, nor provides any detail on the type and location of investment pilots. In the absence of a readiness approach and an initial REDD+ strategy, EoI does not fit into the REDD+ phase transition.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**15**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	7
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	1
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Co-benefits are primarily livelihood support through the promotion of communal forests and tenure reform as well as employment (e.g., plantation development). EoI does mention links to climate change adaptation and to broader landscape level development programs. As the carbon approach has not been specifically developed, it is difficult to refer to vague "co-benefits".

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**16**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Willingness and dedication to conduct a forest investment program that addresses the role of forests for improving livelihoods and enhancement of sinks through commercial afforestation. The proposed program, however, does not fit the FIP criteria and may be addressed elsewhere with more appropriate financing sources.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Cambodia **Rating (out of 100): 67** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 17,652,000	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): **1.1%:1990-2010 (2%: 2000-2005)**	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):15.14	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):1,007	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 10.36	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 69
Relative forest area (%): 60%	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): **tropical humid**	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Cambodia is a high biodiversity country with considerable forest cover. The country has made substantial improvements in their institutional capacity especially in the forestry sector surrounding illegal logging. Yet, Cambodia's deforestation has been accelerating largely from complex mix of diverse and often international drivers (e.g., industrial plantation expansion). This EoI has critical Ministry of Finance support, yet recognizes their need to engage diverse ministries and agencies beyond the forestry sector to address key drivers of deforestation. Notably, they seek to pilot and to test forest safeguards especially focused on transparency and accountability in the forestry sector. Overall, REDD+ Phase I is to be completed in 2016.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 27
1.21.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.22.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.23.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.24.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.25.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

Highest forest cover in mainland SE Asia (~60% of country), but under distinctive threats with considerable land areas being converted to agro-industrial plantations (e.g., sugar). High C stock and evidence in their ability to attract investments through the voluntary C market in Oddar Meanchey Province and with carbon pilot projects. Strong participation in REDD+ since 2007. Their draft of the National REDD+ strategy has been completed and currently under discussion. They seek

FIP for enhancing National Forestry Monitoring Systems and it is commendable that they seek to improve transparency and accountability in the forestry sector. Drivers of deforestation and degradation are not necessarily under the forestry sector, yet REDD+ Task Force recognizes that they must engage all key ministries. They seek FIP assistance to address these institutional challenges for effective implementation.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	11
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Over 84% of rural households depend on fuelwood charcoal. EoI co-benefits would compliment ADB's $27M biodiversity corridor with Cardamom Mountains as well as their entire portfolio of poverty reduction, smallholder development and livelihoods. This EoI is highly distinctive because it aims to pilot REDD+ Safeguards and to refine their application with local communities and CSOs in several key areas. However, the EoI does not describe any specific projects that allocate or distribute co-benefits with performance payments.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **19**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

In 2013-14, from a diverse suite of international donors, Cambodia's forest sector received $22M in support. As a result, institutional capacity has improved substantially in the logging/forestry sector

through various programs (e.g., EU-FLEGT), policies (e.g., 2002 logging moratorium) and other capacity building investments.

National Forest Reference Emission levels will be submitted to COP 21 in December 2015 so MRV could be developed under this EoI or in the near future. This EoI also requested assistance with this process.

At this stage in their REDD+ development, this EoI conceivably could be revised and potentially suitable for submission to FCPF as a means to build additional capacity and to facilitate the development and implementation of pilot REDD programs.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Cameroon **Rating (out of 100): 67** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 1% per year	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 12.65
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%): 10	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 22, all types	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 46.3	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Sub-tropical, Equatorial rain forests to dry woodland	Carbon stock: 5 Gt

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Well-presented EoI for SFM, biodiversity conservation and combating deforestation within a strategic national REDD+ program. High forest-cover and relatively high deforestation and forest degradation is coupled with strategic REDD+ interventions to reduce land cover change. Drivers of deforestation are clearly identified and relevant national laws enacted with appropriate environmental regulations and capacities for implementation. Based on the EoI, GHG emission reduction potential is relatively high. Actions to be undertaken under FIP investments are far too general and could be applied to other on-going projects. EoI provides clear references and links to FCPF, R-PIN, ER-PIN, FLEGT activities. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives is reasonable.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 28
1.26.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.27.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	7
1.28.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	8
1.29.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.30.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

EoI provides sufficient evidence of substantial investments in REDD+ as well as significant progress in developing their National REDD+ Strategy and enabling policies and regulations for implementation. High rates of deforestation with associated high C stocks and biodiversity, identification of multi-sectorial drivers of land use change (e.g., forestry, mining, agriculture), diverse biomes, and enhanced governance and accountability in the forestry sector (e.g., FLEGT) indicate substantial contributions to REDD+. At this stage, contributions to transformational change are relatively low as

planned activities, pilots, focal regions, and associated investments are not well articulated for FIP funding.			
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	12
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Although the EoI broadly describes a suite of co-benefits surrounding the diversification and improvement of livelihoods, enhancement of environmental services and strengthening of governance, the specific means and activities to generate such benefits are not explicitly stated nor developed. Valuation of services and the distribution of benefits to be acquired from FIP investments are also unclear and thus challenging to evaluate. Yet, given the rural forest dependent communities, high conservation value and C mitigation potential, this EoI does offer major potential for co-benefits if specific plans were described.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **18**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

EoI indicates REDD+ readiness well advanced. Capacities for implementation developed with the assistance of the development agencies operating in the country. FIP investments requested to provide support for cross-cutting institutional activities for broad engagement and consultations,

devolution of natural resource management and removal of barriers to produce a multipurpose investment plan. These activities appear to be quite distant to FIP investment priorities.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: The Republic of Congo Rating (out of 100): 75 Provisional Category: I

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 34,200	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 3.8	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%): 10	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area ('000 ha, 2015): 22,471	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref yea)r:	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

The Republic of Congo has an articulated program and strategy on how the intervention from FIP funding will be applied to achieve the tripartite objectives of emission reduction, co-benefits for forest dependent communities and institutional capacity and preparedness for implementation. This is evidenced by demonstrable potential to achieve success in the near completion of all requirements of the REDD+ readiness process combined with extant legal, policy and institutional arrangements. EoI clearly articulates their major efforts to build private sector engagement and participation. This well formulated EoI focuses on SMF investments and agricultural investments.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)	Weight 40	Points 31
1.31.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.32.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	8
1.33.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	8
1.34.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.35.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	8

Comments:

The Republic of Congo has an existing draft National REDD+ Strategy with an expressed commitment to reduce 50% C emissions by 2030 although baselines are currently under development. This target is estimated to reduce C emissions by ~40 $MtCO_2$ from 2015-2020. The interventions proposed to achieve their emission reduction targets include sustainable forest management, FSC certification and timber tracking within 29 logging concessions (>10 M ha) combined with improved agro production systems as well as sustainable production and use of fuel wood to reduce pressure on forests. Pilot areas are centered in the Northern Congo Republic — a critical region that is now

accessible through a functional road — is considered the most dynamic zone for agricultural development, mining and forestry. This region is an area of strategic importance for piloting viable forest –based investments and expected to result in 11.7 Mt avoided CO_2 emissions by 2020.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 22
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	13
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Programs under FIP are integrated as a major component of their National REDD+ Strategy. FIP support is sought to deliver 'development' co-benefits focused on: 1) securing land tenure (Law No. 43-2014); 2) enhancing livelihoods (e.g., promoting cash crops in degraded lands with micro credit facilities; and, 3) strengthening governance & biodiversity through community participation in protected area management.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 22
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

A multi-sectorial National REDD+ Coordination unit is operational and appears able to advance to phase 2 investments while transitioning from the REDD+ ness process. The country has embarked employing an ERPA approach, but needs to develop further its policies and measures to become efficient and effective for an ER-Program. Backed by a vision statement articulated in the National Development Plan (2012-2016) along with a revised legal and regulatory framework, The Congo

Republic is pursuing and investing in all phases of REDD+ articulated in UNFCCC with evident capacity for delivery (e.g., including leveraging on other funds). Private sector engagement (OLAM) strongly underlies The Republic of Congo's effort at C emission reductions.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Dominica **Rating (out of 100): 42** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): **750.6 km^2**	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population: **71,293 people**	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (ha, 2015): **45,000**	Forest carbon stock (mt): **9.6-10.8MtC**	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 60%	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): trop humid dry forest & montane	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

The Commonwealth of Dominica has begun to develop REDD+ conceptual framing and proposed projects. Although these are in the initial phases, these projects offer great promise to maintain and rehabilitate Eastern Caribbean tropical forest. At this stage, however, their EoI requires further development in specific plans, mitigations as well as financial costs and co-benefits.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**11**
1.36.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**3**
1.37.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**2**
1.38.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**3**
1.39.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**2**
1.40.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**1**

Comments:

Dominica has outlined a forest management policy that compliments their low carbon resilient strategy to protect and to manage 45,000 ha of five diverse forested ecosystems (e.g., dry scrub woodlands, montane, rain forest). Although they do not have a National REDD+ strategy, they propose co-benefits through multi-purpose tree planting and preparing forest management plans.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**15**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	**7**
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**3**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**3**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**2**

Comments:

Proposed watershed rehabilitation to reduce soil erosion, protect water sources and increased PA management will result in positive contributions. Co-benefits for the indigenous Kalinago are proposed indirectly through supporting small-scale extractive industries and NTFPs. Financial mechanisms or potential for investments are not well described.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**16**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**4**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**3**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**2**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**3**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**4**

Comments:

Although Dominica has recently completed a Low Carbon Climate Resilient Dev Strategy & Draft Forest Policy, they are in the early conceptual phase of Phase I REDD+.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Ecuador **Rating (out of 100): 77** **Provisional Category: I**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 2008-2012: 65,880 (0.54%)	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):11,307,627	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Andes tropical montane & coastal TH & mangroves; dry zones	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Ecuador has made significant institutional progress toward inter-sectorial agreements and national strategies. They have demonstrated their efforts toward reforestation, land use policies coupled with extensive smallholder agreements garnering considerable co-benefits across diverse landscapes. They are poised for major transformational change with private sector and smallholder initiatives under FIP.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**31**
1.41.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**4**
1.42.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**7**
1.43.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**8**
1.44.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**4**
1.45.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**8**

Comments:

They focus on reforestation and restoration of ~500,000 ha with monetary incentives from 2014-2017 with a residual potential of an additional 1M ha restoration. These activities span the Eastern slope Andes (reduces soil erosion, protects watersheds) to the Coastal Esmeraldas province with high deforestation. Climate Change Strategy & National Development Strategy transforming energy matrix policies to hydropower. REDD+ reforms indicate Phase 2 with considerable potential for transformational change.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**25**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	**13**
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**3**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**4**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**5**

Comments:

As of 2015, Ecuador has made significant achievements in investing in rural poor and forest-dependent livelihoods under Socio Bosque with 173,233 beneficiaries and 2,748 agreements covering 1,434,062 ha. They clearly detail the economic incentives under enrichment ($218 $ha^{-1}yr^{-1}$) and assisted natural regeneration ($136 $ha^{-1}yr^{-1}$). They present a sound plan under commercial reforestation credit refunds. They provide detailed materials & annexes coupled with thorough financial and management plans by region, biomes, with specific costs and beneficiaries. Programs have demonstrated effectiveness and they are poised for significant scaling across diverse landscapes. They have outlined solid plans for enhanced agricultural co-benefits with diverse tree crops.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**21**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**5**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**4**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**4**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**3**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**5**

Comments:

Ecuador's Climate Change Inter-institutional Committee was established in 2010 and engages diverse ministries and national public entities. Their REDD+ national strategy will be completed in mid-2015; so MRV and CO_2 mitigation targets, C stocks etc. are to be determined. Given the depressed oil/gas prices and Ecuador's national budgets, timely opportunities exist at present for FIP surrounding institutional engagement from the Ministry of Finance. Many programs (e.g., SNAP, PCB-REDD & JNP-UN-REDD) are slated for completion in 2015 so currently at early phase II REDD+. FIP investments appear to be critical to maintain momentum for this portfolio of programs.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Ethiopia **Rating (out of 100): 53** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 120	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 1 – 1.5 %	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): > 80	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 3.6 (2013)	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Arid to semi-arid / Mountains	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Well elaborated EoI. Request FIP funds to scale up tree planting and rehabilitation of severely degraded land. They aim to plant 9 million ha mainly for fuel wood production. Harmonized relevant national policies developed. Complementarities are possible with on-going project, though harmonization is not evident from the EoI as major relevant activities are supported mainly by Norway. Proposed project sites contain diverse eco-geographic characteristics especially in mountainous locations. Reasonable targets have been established for emission reductions. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles are relevantly modest in comparison with other submissions.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 17
1.46.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.47.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.48.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	4
1.49.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.50.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	2

Comments:

Their goal is to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2015, which is commendable though challenging to achieve based on the EoI as 50% of forestry-related emissions are from conversion to agriculture. Accordingly, reconciliation between targets and realities on the ground will be rather difficult. Huge fuel wood consumption seems to continue at a high rate in the foreseeable future and currently contributes ~46 % of deforestation.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 18
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	2
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Plan to afforest 9 million ha by 2025 aspiring to reach zero emission, but actually to accommodate the increasing consumption of fuel wood. An elaborate list of potential co-benefits is included, but little action thus far.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 18
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Sector policies are in place and human resources relatively modest to implement a FIP investment. Several multiple and bi-lateral partners with a broad diversity of projects. However, cross-sectorial policies are not clearly described in the EoI.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Guatemala **Rating (out of 100): 77** **Provisional Category: I**

Country Basic Data* mid IDB

Land area (ha): 10,899,000	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 2006-10:38,597 (1%); 2001-06:48,084	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):15.07	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (ha, 2015):3,722,595	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): tropical humid	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Excellent submission, clearly presented and comprehensive with specific and substantial CO_2 reductions, financial costs and proposed areas and investments delineated. Major co-benefits outlined for poverty alleviation, rural livelihoods and diverse participation by rural and indigenous communities with considerable previous effective implementation. Although sound in all critical components, this EoI is overly ambitious in scale, scope as well as extent (i.e., regional programs/municipalities) for effective implementation. Given the considerable merits, programs should be scaled in phases or focal regions given the FIP timeframe. Comprehensive cross-sectorial institutional framework, support and major policy changes provide an enabling environment to facilitate FIP transformational change.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**31**
1.51.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.52.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	8
1.53.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	8
1.54.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.55.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	7

Comments:

Country has reduced deforestation 20% from 2006-2010 compared with 2001-2006. High potential GHG reductions through both avoided deforestation and increases in C stocks. Noteworthy annual timber deficit (5.7M m^3) and major firewood consumption impart considerable pressures on forests.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**22**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	**12**
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**3**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**3**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**4**

Comments:

They describe historical $63M direct payment program with aims to generate ~ 900,000 new non-agricultural jobs. Major activities also involve reductions in soil erosion (8.7Mt) in or near areas of high biodiversity (e.g., Peten Mayan Biosphere Reserve) along with providing clean energy cook stoves to reduce firewood use. Their REDD+ national strategy states they will reach ~400,000 people in poverty. This EoI is quite optimistic regarding their objectives and goals especially under FIP. Moreover, many of these stated targets can be misleading as they span various periods (e.g., 5, 10, or 20-30 years), so challenging to discern the proposed FIP targets embedded in these reported figures.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **24**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**6**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**5**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**4**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**4**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**5**

Comments:

From considerable previous investments and a robust interagency institutional framework (e.g., INAB, CONAP, MAGA & MARN) coordinating the development under the REDD+ National Strategy & recent institutional and policy reform, Guatemala appears to have significant potential for transformational change and clearly in Phase 2 implementation. Financial investments are required to offset illegal logging and firewood collection. Incentives under performance payments have great potential in this particular context. However, major changes are required surrounding natural resources especially in the forestry sector often dominated by private sector timber interests.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Guyana **Rating (out of 100): 65** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):0.05%	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 18.47 M ha	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 85	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): tropical humid	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Guyana has made considerable progress in strengthening institutions, coordinating development priorities and enhancing capacity with REDD+, MRV, FLEGT, ELTI along with engaging in independent auditing/certification. Although they are poised to build on these strengths, their proposed engagement with the private sector, indigenous and smallholder communities lacks sufficient information to evaluate their specific aims, objectives and outcomes under FIP. Given considerable bi-lateral and multi-lateral donor investments to date, FIP financing at this time would unlikely garner considerable value-added investment.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**24**
1.56.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**3**
1.57.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**8**
1.58.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**6**
1.59.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**2**
1.60.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**5**

Comments:

With substantial external financial and institutional support, Guyana has developed capacity toward MRV, forestry law enforcement and forest management, REDD+ and produced a low carbon development strategy. They aim to use FIP to engage the private sector in REDD+, but they do not specify how this would work and to what aims especially surrounding C mitigation. Given low deforestation rates, lack of major threats, and relatively low transformational change anticipated with FIP, these private sector initiatives are rather vague and need to be described with sufficient detail as well as justified investments with clear returns. Noteworthy, Guyana is the only submission with high forest area with high C stock and low deforestation (HFLD).

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 16
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	1
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	2

Comments:

FIP financing would be used toward developing capacities for 'assessing forest resources' within ~2.5 M ha indigenous lands along with ~2 M ha within the State forest estate small-scale operators. Yet, they have not outlined the specific objectives, outcomes, potential payments schemes (e.g., contributions to Trust Fund?) or engagements required and for what aims.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 25
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	5
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	7

Comments:

Guyana has made considerable progress toward developing a strong enabling regulatory environment, cross-sectorial natural resource and land use policies (e.g., National Forest Policy 2011). They have enhanced institutional capacity and a solid collaborative REDD secretariat and GFC with independent audits. They have earned ~$150M in payments for climate services through this interim REDD+ partnership. Currently, Guyana appears to be transitioning from Phase 2 to 3, and thus, much further along this process relative to all other countries in our current EoI portfolio review.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Haiti **Rating (out of 100): 38** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): **27750 km²**	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): **10.4 M 2012**	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):**760**	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): **subtropical, pine forest, mangrove, deciduous**	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Haiti has embarked on the conceptual phase of a forest mitigation and adaptation plan. This EoI addresses several major issues surrounding forest cover change (e.g., firewood demand) and forest restoration with potential C offsets with high social co-benefits. Yet, the implementation plan for these programs is not well developed, nor did they identify the managing agencies and their contributions. Coupled with limited institutional capacities, Haiti requires considerable efforts to improve their enabling regulatory and policy framework and absorptive capacity challenged given the suite of ongoing programs.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** **40**	**Points** **12**
1.61.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**3**
1.62.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**2**
1.63.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**3**
1.64.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**2**
1.65.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**2**

Comments:

EoI clearly identifies the drivers of deforestation: wood energy, illegal logging, land conversion for coffee and cacao (>600 m a.s.l.) as well as fires. They propose to: 1) initiate extensive restoration programs in protected areas and within mangroves; and, 2) reduce fuel wood demand.
Aims to reduce soil erosion are critically needed, sound feasibility and with relatively solid C benefits as they estimate combined above and belowground C stocks at ~10.47 Mt. Mangrove restoration would face considerable challenges, but, if successful, has multiple and diverse social, economic and climate mitigation benefits.

		Weight	**Points**

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	30	17
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	8
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	2

Comments:

They delineate five options under FIP with associated co-benefits from improved cook stoves for 3 M urban households to fishermen communities under mangrove restoration. This EoI would be strengthened by additional plans on how to deliver these through some form of financial flows or investment requirements from FIP within these outlined options.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 9
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	2
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	2
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	1

Comments:

Although Haiti has yet to develop a REDD+ strategy, they have considerable ongoing related programs (e.g., CRPP climate resilience, watershed management program, PNUD, natural disaster mitigation: PROFOR). Challenging institutionally as appears to have limited in-country capacity with several major active programs. Yet, these forest programs could be incorporated into an integrated portfolio. Currently, absorptive capacity appears limited for transformational change under FIP.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Honduras **Rating (out of 100): 64** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):1.84M
Forest area (m ha, 2015): **84,302 km^2**	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): **75**	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3): **2.3M m^3**
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): tropical dry	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Major institutional, political and socio-economic advance in design and implementation of land registration and building co-managed forest landscapes with smallholders and indigenous peoples. Strong forestry sector that could be transformed through management plans and targeted financial investments. Although REDD+ strategy has not been delineated well here, several new ministry developments and coordinated efforts appear promising for these initiatives.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** **40**	**Points** **25**
1.66.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**5**
1.67.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**6**
1.68.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**7**
1.69.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**3**
1.70.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**4**

Comments:

Strong central forestry component involves 868 timber management plans; $45 M timber exports (2010) plus NTFP as well as major offsets (56MtC) and extensive land area (13-42% area, 1.4-4.7 M ha). State financial flows and investments appear robust, timely and value added in the forestry sector. Program also includes a major restoration effort (post hurricane Mitch).

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent	15	**12**

	people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)		
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**2**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**4**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**3**

Comments:

Effective new institutional developments surrounding land use with the 2014 National Land Institute where land digitization, demarcation and property registration of 2M ha provides secure tenure and thus potential capital/assets for smallholders (e.g., loans, investments etc.). Robust inclusion of ~2M ha in co-managed forests with rural communities and indigenous lands with enhanced legal clarity. Payments surrounding hydropower developments are distinctive. If well designed in the implementation phase, potentially effective in compensating farmers and providing considerable co-benefits and participation.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**18**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**5**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**3**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**3**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**3**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**4**

Comments:

IDB engaged with renewable energy, but has recently struggled with changes in government. Yet, FIP EoI sponsored from new Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment & Mines. Unfortunately, cannot discern where they are in their National REDD+ Strategy development as not included in their EoI submission.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Côte d'Ivoire **Rating (out of 100): 70** **Provisional Category: I**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 32,246,200	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 22,000,000	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 6,267,730 (2014)	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref yea)r:	Main biome(s): TH	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

EoI indicates considerable potential to successfully implement the objectives of REDD+ Phase 2 program. They have identified the critical drivers of deforestation and have developed a detailed and feasible plan to address: 1) agricultural expansion of perennial export crops; 2) unregulated use of fuelwood and timber; as well as, 3) uncontrolled mining operations. This clearly articulated plan targets key dynamic regions, presents sound, feasible, and focused activities, and includes key incentives for diverse agents and actors. Given high deforestation rates, considerable pressures on forests and poverty of the majority of rural smallholders, this EoI has the potential to generate major co-benefits as well as relatively high C reductions. EoI describes high level of political commitment and provides evidence of a potentially strong and functional institutional environment. They have made remarkable progress in revising their regulatory environment including clarifying tenure under their new Forest Code and reforms in public finance.
An Inter-Ministerial Task Force on REDD+ has been established to facilitate integrated development planning and policy dialogue to support REDD+. This Task Force is expected to serve as the FIP national steering committee. However, the Task Force and much of the institutional infrastructure necessary for successful REDD+ and FIP implementation still in the early stages of development.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** **40**	**Points** **26**
1.71.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.72.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.73.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.74.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.75.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	7

Comments:

Côte d'Ivoire has recently had its R-PP validated (2014). The plan aims to stem the key drivers of deforestation — oil palm, cocoa, and rubber expansion — through eco-friendly agronomy practices, decoupling agriculture from deforestation, and thus enhancing forest carbon sequestration. These efforts have major potential to mitigate an estimated 2 Mt C per year. However, the critical building blocks and milestone towards REDD+ readiness are not yet operational with REDD+ Strategy expected for 2016-2017.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **23**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	12
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	4
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

EoI offers opportunities for multiple socio-economic benefits from improved domestic energy supplies and job creation for communities to protecting community health through enforcement of mining code and payments for ecosystem services. Specifically, they aim to increase and enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of coffee and cocoa producers and improve the value chains within these sectors. Efforts also include focused land management of oil palm and rubber crops and their expansion in the cocoa belt in central Côte d'Ivoire. Strong conservation efforts in the critical southwest region including Taï National Park and network of reserves and forested areas. PES scheme is linked to agricultural value chains and positioned to be effective if well designed and implemented.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear	8	6

	accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully		

Comments:

A National Commission on REDD+ has been established (Decree #2012-1049) with an inter-ministerial task force to drive the process. The proposal envisages synergy among private sector led and funded actors with the Government and other technical partners to support programs to be conducted with FIP funding. FIP would be transformational for critical implementation of identified key activities, National PES System as well as promoting soft commodity production while stabilizing land and forest use.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Jordan **Rating (out of 100): 38** **Provisional Category: IV**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 8,900	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Arid to Semi-arid / Mediterranean	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

The country has many strategies and policies to combat desertification, conservation of biodiversity, afforestation and general forest management. Potential to enhance carbon sequestration or reduce GHG emissions is relatively low. FIP funds are requested to support on-going afforestation efforts and rehabilitation of degraded lands. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles including potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change are quite low.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**10**
1.76.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.77.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	1
1.78.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	3
1.79.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	1
1.80.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	2

Comments:

Extremely modest, if any, potential contribution to climate change mitigation or adaptation.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**14**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	5
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3

2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Co-benefits stated include rangeland rehabilitation and poverty alleviation, but little on forest/climate nexus specifically.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**14**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	2
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	2

Comments:

National NRM plans are in place. Much development assistance within related sectors. Far from initiation of REDD+ ready or capacity to implement FIP projects.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Kenya **Rating (out of 100): 52** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Kenya seeks the support of FIP funding to increase its forest cover of total land area from 6.9% to 10% to fulfill a constitutional obligation. Overall, strong regulatory improvements and political engagement along with enhanced REDD+ capacity supported by a diverse suite of donors and programs including FCPF. Although EoI identified three quite general forest sector components outlined in their National Climate Change Action as restoration of degraded lands, degraded forests and reducing deforestation and forest degradation, they did not specifically identify key activities, regions or sectors for FIP financing. Moreover, the EoI did not demonstrate a coherent REDD+ readiness strategy to be pursued with FIP funding.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** **40**	**Points** **16**
1.81.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	2
1.82.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	4
1.83.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	4
1.84.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.85.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	4

Comments:

The programs identified to mitigate C emissions from FIP funding are vague and, as such, their value and their contributions cannot be effectively ascertained.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **16**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	8
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	2

Comments:

Restoration of degraded lands is identified and is to be conducted in accordance with Kenya's constitutional provision. While these programs may restore watersheds and improve water supply for hydropower and domestic uses, their links to livelihood enhancement and poverty alleviation should be refined and elucidated more clearly in this EoI and for FIP REDD.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **20**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Kenya has produced a national development blueprint concurrent with several other policies and action plans to support environment and national resource management. With donor assistance, they have completed National Forest Cover mapping, reference emission levels and initiating their MRV system. REDD+ institutional structure presently is subsumed within the Department of Environment & Natural Resources in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. A cross-sectorial coordinating mechanism for REDD+ is now required to enhance country capacity for effective REDD+ implementation.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: The Kyrgyz Republic Rating (out of 100): 52 Provisional Category: III

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 864
Population (m): 5.0	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area ('000 ha, 2015): 0.954	Forest carbon stock (mt): 56	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 57
Relative forest area (%): 5.4	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref yea)r:	Main biome(s): Temperate coniferous forests and xeric scrublands with unique walnut/fruit forests in the south	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

The Kyrgyz Republic has not embarked in a REDD+ readiness process, nor has the country developed a REDD+ strategy, but they have implemented a quite successful national forest program (NFP) 2005 -15 with considerable investments and international support (JICA, KOIKA, GIZ, EU-FLEG, FAO and World Bank). The FIP is requested to reinforce and extent this NFP by introducing innovative practices, including carbon accounting, for both forest rehabilitation (increasing forest cover by 6% in 2025-30) and sustainable forest management in several pilot oblasts. However, the proposed activities in the wider NFP framework hardly justify FIP support.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**16**
1.86.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.87.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (in this case NFPs)	10	3
1.88.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	3
1.89.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.90.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	3

Comments:

Extension of the current NFP has been proposed for FIP. While NFPs can be considered as a basic foundation and framework for a broad stakeholder approach to SFM, they have not included any REDD+ readiness methodologies per se. EoI mitigation activities are quite modest and do not appear to impart any scaling potential. Also, EoI appears not to be embedded within a broad REDD+ or in a forest-NAMA framework. Thus, this EoI only marginally fulfills this criterion.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**18**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

The proposed approach — through a coordinated NFP framework — has a clear cross-sectorial component that provides for a diverse albeit general suite of co-benefits. Employment and poverty reduction rank high in the EoI; however, neither the actual measures to be implemented nor the potential to achieve such co-benefits is explicitly stated. Carbon is mentioned as a co-benefit; however, FIP itself ranks carbon emission reduction as the main objective.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**18**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	3

Comments:

Since 1992 with the start of the Swiss KIRFOR program, the country has received continuous attention to re-organize and improve governance within the forest sector. Devolution of institutional forestry is introduced. Despite considerable constraints, unique walnut-fruit forests have been satisfactory protected. The capacities to implement an expanded NFP, however, remain limited without considerable external support. Climate change mitigation and adaptation should be included in such an extended NFP. Currently, the institutional structures may be inadequate to secure FIP support.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Madagascar Rating (out of 100): 60 Provisional Category: II

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (000' ha, 2015): 9500	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests and dry forests, xeric shrublands	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Important nation from a developmental perspective: 1) poverty pressure on remaining natural resources; 2) unique ecosystems and species biodiversity; 3) challenging demographic development; 4) limited investment opportunities; and, 5) weak governance structure. Although many of these challenges are recognized in the document, the EoI attempts to address an overwhelming suite of issues that are mismatched given the modest investment offered by FIP. This EoI would be improved considerably by delineating a focused approach for FIP investments that complemented particular critical elements of the REDD+ strategy.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**25**
1.91.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.92.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (being developed)	10	6
1.93.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.94.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.95.	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

Proposed investments are distributed widely throughout several sectors (agriculture, energy, tourism) and indirectly address mitigation. EoI proposes to introduce an integrated landscape approach (watershed management) in four selected areas in semi-humid and humid northern and northwestern Madagascar that could then serve as pilots for upstream investments in other regions. Private sector involvement is stressed as a means to complement investments.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**17**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	8
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

A broad overview and general description of co-benefits is included that covers all relevant aspects (e.g., poverty reduction, governance, socio-economic conditions, cultural values, biodiversity etc.). Nonetheless, no direct link has been provided to FIP-type of investments and how these specific investments will then lead to creating co-benefits. Thus, FIP investments appear to be viewed as supplementing other funding and programs to address the diversity of challenges occurring within the Malagasy context (e.g., poverty, fuelwood, precious lumber, food, biodiversity loss, attracting tourism, etc.).

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**18**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Overly optimistic plans are outlined that lack consideration of their feasibility within the FIP timeframe. Moreover, considerable risks are embedded within the proposed investment approach. Given current socio-cultural and economic conditions coupled with population pressures on natural resources, the relatively modest input that FIP could provide cannot conceivably lead to the major transformational changes especially as described in the EoI. Investments would be substantially improved by focusing on the core issues of the proposed REDD+ strategy that directly address the poverty/forest degradation dynamics. In turn, such targeted investments would then be better positioned to generate realistic outcomes within the FIP financing period.

Assessment of FIP Proposals 2015

Country: Montenegro Rating (out of 100): 38 Provisional Category: III

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 125
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%): 0.3	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (000' ha, 2015): 740	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 59.9	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Mediterranean forests and transition to temperate broadleaf/conifer forests, planted forest	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Montenegro has yet to develop any major work on the role of forests for CC mitigation and adaptation. EoI describes, albeit vaguely, the role of FIP investments to improve enabling conditions for sustainable forest management, including conservation areas, afforestation and combating forest fire. The important area of coppice forests (~50% of the forest estate) is mentioned, but no concrete ideas have been offered on the types of investment that could be conducted under such forest management scheme. Coppice forests are widespread throughout the Balkans and appropriate investment schemes (e.g., fuel wood and biodiversity) could have a scaling effect as a combined adaptation/mitigation approach (i.e., when consider increased vulnerability of forest stands).

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 12
1.96.	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.97.	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	2
1.98.	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	2
1.99.	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	1
1.100	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment (promotion of private investment)	10	3

Comments:

No clear link is made to organized approaches to include forests as a climate change mitigation option. Some coarse estimates are provided for enhancement of carbon sinks using a 1990 baseline comparison. The EoI has not been sufficiently developed to provide in-depth value assessment as an effective FIP/mitigation approach.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** 30	**Points** 12

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	5
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	2
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

The role of forests has been stressed as potential co-benefits in: 1) rural economy, including timber and other forest products; and, 2) forest services, ecotourism, in particular. However, EoI does not elaborate regarding the types of FIP investments or how these proposed investments would actually generate such enhanced co-benefits.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**14**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

A 2014 national forest development strategy has been approved along with operational planning documents to manage Montenegro's forests. Knowledge and institutions (private sector) are sufficient at present to conduct afforestation work and ecotourism. To develop and enhance these approaches, a technical support program should be established to support institutions and policy makers to promote the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Morocco **Rating (out of 100): 60** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 9?	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Mediterranean to Arid	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Good preparatory studies on forests for climate change mitigation potential and testing REDD+ in pilot areas. Potential co-benefits are well illustrated. Sound institutional arrangements, well-developed human resources and clear governance plans. The cooperate/social responsibility platform for forest finance serves as a structure for channeling private sector funds to implement REDD+ projects. Moreover, these local measures have potential for mobilizing sustainable funding. However, the EoI obscures links to FIP objectives and does not highlight potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**22**
1.101	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.102	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	7
1.103	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	5
1.104	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.105	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	4

Comments:

Based on the information provided, Morocco may have the potential to implement the different phases of REDD+, but the EoI does not present a strong case for FIP. Evidence of advanced analytical studies of cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ serves as the foundational basis for investment in REDD+

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**18**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	9
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Co-benefits are presented, however, these co-benefits are not detailed as required particularly surrounding FIP objectives. Financial flows and potential for investment are modest at best.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**20**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

The country has a legacy re: forest traditions, well-trained staff and strong institutions; all supported by government funds. Several bi- and multi-lateral development assistance agencies operate in the country. EoI states that the nation will be ready for REDD+ implementation based on preliminary studies and analyses. However, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles is not included in the EoI.

Assessment of FIP Proposals 2015

Country: Mozambique Rating (out of 100): 78 Provisional Category: I

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 26900
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 13100
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha): 13800
Forest area (000' ha, 2015): 40100	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area (000'ha): 200
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Tropical and subtropical shrubland, dry deciduous forests, Mopane and Miombo forests	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Comprehensive EoI with clearly defined objectives and well selected pilot areas that include strong justification as investment priorities. Landscape level activities (e.g., afforestation, climate smart agriculture, energy/improved wood fuel and forest management) are coordinated with sound and feasible investment strategies. EoI submitted by three ministries that intend to collaborate in forestry-based investments in coordination with communities and private sector. Co-benefits span rural livelihoods, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and wildfire management. Strong potential for transformational change. Collaborative exchanges and institutional investments with Brazil integrate and demonstrate value of FIP portfolio.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 31
1.106	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	5
1.107	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (in development)	10	8
1.108	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.109	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.110	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	8

Comments:

Investments are well oriented towards mitigation targets with strong links to the valuation of landscapes, including productive and protective functions and considering the wider role of forests for mitigation and adaptation. EoI is clearly embedded in the phased approach of REDD+. However, forest concession management appears overly optimistic. Considerable efforts are likely required in information sharing and forest law enforcement to encourage sustainable investments.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 23
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	13
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Two distinctive project areas are selected with particular features and investment opportunities that are focused on providing co-benefits for poor rural communities and forest-dependent households. Solid mix of economic activities is described to generate incomes and protective measures (including carbon). Partnership with private sector needs to be designed carefully to reach the described livelihood benefits.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 24
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	6
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

The proposed investments are well embedded in an overall REDD+ readiness / emission reduction programmatic approach as upstream investments. Proposed pilots are centered on core activities proposed in the REDD+ strategy. The document is clearly written and demonstrates the close collaboration between delivery partner and state administration. The proposed investment pilots, however, will depend on quality technical advice for successful implementation; concerted efforts to build capacity will likely be required to achieve such scaled efforts. While there is a clear intension to work at landscape level, the ministries, technical agencies, communities and private sector still must prove that they will be able to deliver such ambitious targets as planned.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Nepal	Rating (out of 100): 71	Provisional Category: I

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 14.3	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 27.5	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 526
GDP per capita (US$): 694.1	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 43
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Nepal expressed an interest to implement a sub-national REDD+ project in 12 districts of its Terai Arc, and to use FIP investment funds to undertake intervention strategies lacking in the country's ER-PIN. This sub-national emissions reduction program is expected to contribute critical lessons relevant for emissions reduction at the national level. A combination of community based forest management regimes with private sector engagement is planned to bring all production forests in the Terai Arc region (300,000 hectares) under sustainable management by 2020.

The program will build on Nepal's track record and experience in participatory forest management in the country's hill areas that resulted in well-documented socio-economic, institutional and environmental transformations. Compared to forests in Nepal's hill areas, forests in the Terai have been subjected to higher rates of deforestation and more intense pressure, and pose a distinctive set of challenges. However, the potential pay-offs in livelihood benefits and ecosystem services generation, including carbon sequestration, are significant in both scope and scale and may provide valuable comparative insights on strategic investing for transformational change.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 26
1.111	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.112	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	7
1.113	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.114	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.115	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

Nepal is committed to adopting and implementing REDD+ and related strategies to address drivers of deforestation. The proposed interventions in the Terai Arc will be conducted at the landscape scale and designed to foster enabling conditions for enhanced livelihoods and investments. From the portfolio of interventions, CO_2 emission reductions are estimated at ca. 14 Mt (5 yr.) and ca. 42.7 Mt (10 yr.).

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **25**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	13
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	5

Comments:

Based on the outcomes achieved from similar interventions in Nepal's hill areas over the past three decades, the proposed investment has high potential to deliver livelihood, governance and ecosystem service benefits. These outcomes could, in turn, encourage further investments and transformational changes. However, such interventions are also likely to confront and thus must address issues surrounding resource rights, benefit sharing, enterprise development, technology transfer and innovation as well as mechanisms for reducing and managing conflict.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **20**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Nepal has strong political commitment to REDD+ and regards REDD+ as one of the most feasible options for financing sustainable forest management and ensuring multiple social and environmental benefits from the country's resources. The policy, institutional, and strategic

framework for REDD+ have been developed including: Forest Policy 2015; Low Carbon Development Strategy 2014; Land Use Policy 2012; and, Draft REDD Strategy. Nepal has also made significant advances towards REDD+ readiness and expects to complete all planned readiness activities by mid-2015.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Nicaragua **Rating (out of 100): 58** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 130,642 km^2	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 72,455	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 58,000
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3): 210,720 yr^{-1}
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):tropical humid	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Nicaragua's National Development Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan (2010-2015) with broad engagement of the Central Bank & Ministry of Finance indicates major potential for collaborative advancements and transformative investments with links to Policy to Adapt & Mitigate Climate Change (PAMCC). High level Presidential engagement with broad Cabinet participation is indicative of strong impetus for effective implementation.
Within the National Development Plan, Nicaragua has established concrete targets on reducing deforestation, restoring lands, increasing carbon sinks, and reducing GHG emissions. Overall, the EoI is consistent with their policy and legal frameworks and corresponds directly to targets and goals in the National Development Plan. EoI specifically identified main drivers of deforestation and degradation, yet did not adequately describe their identified projects for implementation under FIP.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 23
1.116	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	4
1.117	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.118	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	6
1.119	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.120	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	4

Comments:

Major targets proposed to reduce C emissions through a combination of increasing C stocks, reducing deforestation, and recovering agro-silvo-pastoral systems. Although quite sound in theory, critical practical aspects of the approaches to be employed, estimated costs as well as the spatial and temporal scales of these investments would have greatly enhanced assessments of feasibility under FIP.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 18
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	11
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	2
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

In the Atlantic region, they plan to engage ca. 200,000 small to medium size rural producers/households with the stated aims to increase productivity, enhance food security, and reduce frontier expansion. Yet, the EoI lacks concrete activities that will specifically address these issues with targeted investments. They propose to strengthen the forestry sector with the major objective to reduce illegal logging as well as enhance fire protection in both forested and agricultural areas.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 17
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	2
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	5

Comments:

Current plans for FIP appear to be stabilizing land use in agricultural frontiers, enhancing forest governance and value chains within both the agricultural and forestry sector for small to medium producers. With several strong national plans for human development, environment and climate change strategy/action plans, interagency coordination appears to be shifting focus to implementation. REDD+ does appear central to this process (e.g., annex includes RPP for REDD

process). Cross-institutional coordination requires policy coherence and institutional adjustments within the private sector-forestry arena for effective implementation.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Rwanda **Rating (out of 100): 62** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):2.5	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): -2.4	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):11.5	Forest area per capita (ha): 0.039	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 62
GDP per capita (US$):638.7	Part of forests on GDP (%): 13	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 0.45	Forest carbon stock (mt): 44	Planted forest area ('000 ha):428.6
Relative forest area (%): 18	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

In 2011, Rwanda committed to restore 2 M ha of forests and agricultural land, maintain 30% forest cover and protect ≥10% of land area by 2020. Current national and sectorial strategies and plans enable actions to follow through on this commitment.

Rwanda is still in the early stages of developing a strategy for REDD+ readiness. They have a suite of current and recently completed projects that address REDD-related issues and/or pilot test mitigation measures and approaches. These projects are contributing to Rwanda's experience, institutional development and capacity building for REDD+ and for possibly implementing FIP-type investments. Evident opportunities exist for mitigation and generating co-benefits as outlined in Rwanda's EoI. However, it remains unclear how stakeholders and local communities will be engaged, what types of instruments are contemplated to provide incentives for their sustained engagement, and how realized benefits could be equitably shared.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**23**
1.121	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.122	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	5
1.123	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	8
1.124	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.125	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	3

Comments:

Through a robust portfolio of on-going and recently completed projects supported by national and international funding, Rwanda has been implementing a range of complementary actions in line with Rwanda's Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development (2011- 2050). Priority actions

under the Strategy are: 1) landscape restoration, agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation using mixed species and improved germ plasm; and, 2) efficient cook stoves and sustainable charcoal production. These projects offer opportunities for productive and profitable engagement with local communities and the private sector.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **22**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	4
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	5

Comments:

Apart from the ecosystem benefits (e.g., biodiversity, soil and water), actions proposed for FIP funding hold potential to generate employment and investment opportunities and likely serve to catalyze other sectors, including in the dynamics of resource governance. Realizing the potential for broad-based distribution of benefits from these investments will require Rwanda's attention to issues of resource rights, tenure, benefit distribution and mechanisms for managing tensions that typically accompany punctuated periods of reconfiguration and change.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **17**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	3

Comments:

Rwanda is in relatively early stages of building the institutional foundations and developing capacities necessary for cross-sectorial landscape management and REDD+. Mechanisms and incentive structures to promote and successfully implement genuinely participatory, coordinated actions will require concerted efforts and cross-sectorial engagement.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Samoa **Rating (out of 100): 40** **Provisional Category: IV**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):0.28	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):0 (0.2)	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):0.189	Forest area per capita (ha): 0.895	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):2
GDP per capita (US$): 4212.4	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):0.169 (0.165)	Forest carbon stock (mt): 45.736 million t	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):60.4 (58)	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Samoa proposes to undertake an integrated program at landscape scale involving key ministerial and natural resource sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, water and sanitation, community development and energy). Interventions planned are similar to those to be undertaken under the PPCR, including institutional strengthening for improved forest management and governance. If successful, these interventions may yield important co-benefits and be transformational for Samoa's people and resource management trajectory. Whether successful or not, lessons and experience from the proposed interventions will offer valuable lessons even beyond Samoa. However, the potential for scaling up and expected contribution to climate change mitigation appears to be relatively low.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 15
1.126	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.127	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	4
1.128	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	5
1.129	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.130	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	1

Comments:

Forest protection, restoration and forest resource development through agroforestry and woodlot development are strongly supported in Samoa's Draft National Forest Policy Statement (2014) and sectorial plans. REDD+ elements have been incorporated in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012-2016).

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** 30	**Points** 16

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	8
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity (Central Savaii Rainforest)	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water (upland water catchments)	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	1

Comments:

Potential livelihood co-benefits could result directly from FIP investment considering Samoa's high dependence on agriculture, with 65% households engaged in agricultural production for subsistence and household consumption. Given the predominance of customary land ownership (81% of total land), benefits from productivity- enhancing investments may be broadly distributed and therefore have multiplier effects. Protection of critical water catchments and key biodiversity areas identified for priority conservation are also slated to yield critical environmental service co-benefits.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **9**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	1
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	1
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	2

Comments:

Despite progress achieved through an expanding portfolio of national and externally supported projects and regional/international cooperation initiatives, Samoa's present institutional capacity appears inadequate to implement the proposed FIP interventions outlined in the EoI. Significant capacity building support over an extended period is necessary to build a strong cohort to implement programs.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Saint Lucia **Rating (out of 100): 38** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 616 km^2	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (ha, 2015): 20,000	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 35	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): montane tropical; mangroves & wetlands	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Saint Lucia is a stable medium income nation with solid national institutional capacities. However, they have yet to develop a national REDD+ strategy. Saint Lucia has considerable ecosystem diversity, major needs to restore and rehabilitation wetlands and mangroves and enhance C stocks. This EoI is an initial contribution and could be enhanced with additional measures of co-benefits, C stocks and reductions in emissions. Moreover, evidence of the development of potential financing mechanisms would enhance evidence for effective implementation. Unfortunately, the relatively small areas, low C stocks as well as the limited co-benefits are a major disadvantage when comparing other FIP requests with much greater transformational capacity and extensive social, economic and forestry impacts.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**13**
1.131	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**2**
1.132	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**3**
1.133	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**4**
1.134	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**2**
1.135	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**2**

Comments:

They propose restoration of wetlands and mangroves, watershed management and rehabilitation of a plantation. Yet, areas are quite small relative to other regions ~6500 ha. Island has ~ 2.8 M m^3 in commercial timber.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**12**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	**5**
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**3**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**2**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**2**

Comments:

Co-benefits include increased tourism revenues, protection of mangroves and fisheries as well as enhanced ecosystem services. However, the populations or peoples who will benefit from these particular activities are not identified nor are the mechanisms for disbursing or distributing such benefits.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**13**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**4**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**2**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**2**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**2**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**3**

Comments:

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science & Technology is leading this charge and appears to be integrated throughout many sectors of the island's economy and management.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Sudan **Rating (out of 100): 60** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 163	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 10	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Arid to Semi-arid	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Well prepared and presented EoI albeit seemingly missing the central crux of FIP investment to a large extent. The main thrust of the proposal is a mixture of using the FIP funds to substitute levy collected by the government on some agricultural and forest products especially fuelwood (charcoal), in addition to addressing the drivers of deforestation and conservation. Historic, yet vibrant forestry traditions, multiple forest laws and well-trained staff indicate sufficient institutional capacity and regulatory conditions in the forestry sector. Duplicating work undertaken by other projects seems unavoidable and packaging activities not demonstrated in the EoI. Potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles – including potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change – is not clearly evident.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 22
1.136	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.137	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.138	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	6
1.139	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.140	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	5

Comments:

Provision of fuelwood and expanding tree planting are the main driving forces for proposed investments.

REDD+ strategy options are presented, but complementarities are not clear among the different projects currently operating within the country among others proposed or in the pipeline.

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	Weight 30	Points 21
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	12
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	3

Comments:

Used R-PP to develop REDD+ programs for enhancing co-benefits.
Numerous co-benefits, but too diverse to contribute significantly to FIP investment.

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 17
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	2
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	5

Comments:

With institutional capacities in place, FIP funds are to be used to reconcile current conflicting policies, however, many have been developed. Private sector engagement is expected to expand especially with the production and trade in fuelwood and NTFPs.
Monitoring has high potential, but requires substantial funding. A broad range of bi- and multi-lateral development assistance agencies currently operate in the country, but complementarities among them are not clear from the EoI.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Tanzania **Rating (out of 100): 46** **Provisional Category: IV**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): miombo woodlands, highlands Kilimanjaro	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Although a solid EoI, this submission would be substantially improved if FIP could be clearly identified with particular programs, aims and objectives. Several components exist, yet these are in the initial project phase. Strong progress in development of National Climate Change Strategy (2012) and National REDD Strategy (2010), yet questions still surround institutional capacities for scaling projects.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**21**
1.141	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	**4**
1.142	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	**5**
1.143	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	**4**
1.144	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	**3**
1.145	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	**5**

Comments:

EoI states FIP contributes to all six existing programs – already with considerable bi-lateral, multi-lateral and NGO support – outlined in document, but EoI does not specify the two most appropriate projects (e.g., forest-based), nor do they identify the value added from FIP. Given this list, FIP will likely to be applied to the land degradation project in Kilimanjaro uplands and restoration of the Miombo woodlands. No C sink or mitigation measures are included, but strong MRV capacity and pilot C projects indirectly indicate sufficient capacity. Norway's support of REDD+ is underway so transformational change and investment would potentially occur in the near future, but not at present.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**13**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	**6**
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	**3**
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**2**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**2**

Comments:

Great potential for co-benefits, yet evidence surrounding governance, livelihood activities or performance payments are not described except briefly and only for the previously established Kilimanjaro rehabilitation project.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**12**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**2**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**3**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**2**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**2**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**3**

Comments:

Not explicitly stated and remains unclear who will be responsible for managing FIP projects and if inter-sectorial buy-in and active productive collaborations exist across ministries and agencies.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Togo Rating (out of 100): 38 Provisional Category: IV

Country Basic Data*

Land area ('000 ha): 56'600	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): 5.1%	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha): 287
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 793 (protected a.)
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area ('000 ha, 2015): 386	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area (000'ha): 50
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Tropical dry forests, riparian forests and some moist broadleaf forests	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Togo only recently renewed international cooperation in the forest sector and also initiated a REDD+ readiness process with FCPF that is now only in the initial stage. A bilateral project with GIZ is generating the national forest inventory (including carbon assessment) and assessing the fuelwood market. EoI describes the current situation well, but does not make a compelling case for a forest investment program at their current stage of REDD+ development.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 14
1.146	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	2
1.147	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation (first step in readiness)	10	4
1.148	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	4
1.149	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.150	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	2

Comments:

Although a wide array of investment opportunities are described (e.g., fuelwood/charcoal efficiency, shifting cultivation, wildfires, weak institutional environment, and weak forest revenue system), this EoI does not provide any ranking or identify priorities and/or importance for FIP investment. FIP investments now would appear to extend institutions beyond their absorptive capacities, as they appear full engaged with developing REDD+ readiness.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** 30	**Points** 12

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	5
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	1
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Co-benefits generally described as supporting local livelihoods. No further specifications are provided for other co-benefits.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**12**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	1
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	1
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Togo has demonstrated major interest and enthusiasm in initiating a REDD+ readiness process. High deforestation and forest degradation rates also require considerable future investments. However, institutions require substantial strengthening before FIP would be effective. Currently, absorptive capacity appears relatively low.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Tunisia **Rating (out of 100): 70** **Provisional Category: I**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 16.4	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 10.9	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$): 4,320 (2013)	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015): 1.3	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 8.2	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Mediterranean, Arid, Semi-arid, Sub- Saharan	

*sources provided in a separate annex.,

Overall appraisal

Well- developed and presented EoI. National strategies and implementation plans are well established. However, many REDD+ related projects are operating or in the pipeline with similar objectives and expected outcomes without a cohesive program designed to achieve complementarities and avoid duplications. The potential for GHG reductions is possible though modest on the global scale. Similarly, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles, especially FIP investments to induce initiate transformational change could be feasible if coordination among the many REDD+ projects is sought.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**25**
1.151	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.152	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	7
1.153	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, and enhancement of sinks	10	6
1.154	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	2
1.155	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	7

Comments:

Drivers of deforestation and forest and range degradation are well studied and recorded. Rehabilitation is advanced. Potential contribution to global GHG emission reductions is limited due to the relatively small forest area.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**22**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	4
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Expected co-benefits include rehabilitation of rangeland and water resources. Potential for other co-benefits is possible. However, the emission reductions may not be appreciable at the scale of operations outlined in the EoI.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**23**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	5
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	4
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

The country has developed and already adopted several relevant strategies and plans. The national capacities to implement REDD+ do exist, but capacity building is still required particularly for scaled up investment.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Turkey **Rating (out of 100): 50** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 77	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): -1.1	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m): 74	Forest area per capita (ha): 0.15	Natural protection forest ('000 ha): 1'600
GDP per capita (US$): 10'830	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area ('000 ha, 2015): 11'500	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%): 14.9	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s): Mediterranean, subtropical dry forests	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

The EoI is a mix of several forest management interventions, but specific REDD+ related activities are not particularly convincing. Accordingly, the potential to contribute to FIP objectives and adherence to FIP principles — including potential and capacity for FIP investments to initiate transformational change — are modest as presented in the EoI. Nevertheless, robust forestry traditions and high professional capabilities are characteristics of the country. Moreover, the forestry sector is well endowed in the national budget. If a more elaborate and focused proposal is presented, FIP investment merits serious consideration.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**20**
1.156	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	2
1.157	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.158	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.159	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, and innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	4
1.160	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	1

Comments:

The EoI highlights that the country has the lowest emission per capita among Annex 1 countries, yet they endeavor to implement REDD+ related activities. This is a commendable approach. Although Turkey has not proposed to establish a specific emission baseline year, emission mitigation activities and MRV are outlined within existing national plans and strategies.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**13**

2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.).	15	6
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	2
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	2

Comments:

The EoI states that FIP funds is expected to provide up front bridge finance for a loan from the World Bank, hoping to achieve transformational change. The co-benefits are implicit in the EoI. However the move towards Green Economy and sustainability and well as conservation of biodiversity are listed.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight**	**Points**
		30	**17**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	5

Comments:

Measures have been taken to integrate policies for emission reductions into National Development Plans. A National Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (2000-2020) has been developed. Good potential for collaboration on REDD+ activities with Mediterranean countries. The country attracts many bi- and multi-lateral funding opportunities that, if coordinated properly, would have appreciable positive impact on GHG emission reductions. EoI did not specifically identify projects or investments that FIP funds, if materialized, would be used or implemented.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Uganda **Rating (out of 100): 62** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Projects proposed (e.g., forest protection, reforestation, afforestation, industrial plantation, commercial tree farming) are linked to long-term national development plans and seek to expand forest cover relative to total land area (from 15% to 24% by 2040). In a country where 92% use traditional biomass for energy, these projects have promising potential to mitigate carbon emissions. Proposed activities aim to reduce pressure on natural forests and protect and restore watersheds for hydropower. They include a major emphasis of private sector engagement in plantation establishment and soft wood value chains. However, the specific regions, targeted areas and incentive structures have not been fully developed or presented in the EoI. Uganda participated in the REDD+ readiness process and is a beneficiary of the FCPF fund. Uganda will, however, require concerted efforts to complete their REDD+ Readiness Strategy.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 25
1.161	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.162	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	7
1.163	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, and enhancement of sinks	10	7
1.164	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, and innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.165	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	5

Comments:

EoI seeks FIP support to address critical policy and regulatory barriers and developing a functioning regulatory environment with sufficient capacity for managing private sector investments and secure their engagement in the forestry sector. The projects identified to be pursued center on private sector led commercial tree farming, restocking through reforestation, afforestation, and watershed rehabilitation. In turn, they assume these activities would indirectly reduced deforestation and forest degradation and provide enhanced C sinks. In combination, these activities could be expected to provide solid C emission reductions and mitigation.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **19**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.).	15	9
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

The EoI does not describe the specific co-benefits to be derived from the projects beyond the general forestry sector, nor have targeted beneficiaries been identified. FIP has been identified as a means for the government to increase citizen participation in forestry value chains. The EoI makes a major leap in stating that this participation will then provide co-benefits (e.g., C finance, employment, bio-based enterprises etc.), but it does not develop the means for capturing or distributing these potential 'gains' beyond this rather tenuous association. However, major co-benefits for biodiversity are provided in the EoI.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **18**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	3
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	4

Comments:

Extant legal, policy and institutional structures related to REDD+ implementation in Uganda are aptly captured in the EoI. The EoI clearly articulates financial, technical and management risks. The Ministry of Water and Environment along with lead agencies have lead policy and legal mandates for the forest sector, National Climate Change Policy and coordinate Uganda's REDD+ Process with strategic policy oversight from the Ministry Top Policy Organ and it is assumed, yet not explicitly stated, that they would coordinate the interventions supported from FIP funding. Although considerable institutional capacity is evident and the nation is on track re REDD+ R-PP etc., FIP financing would not lead to transformational change at this stage.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Uruguay **Rating (out of 100): 56** **Provisional Category: III**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha): neg	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (ha, 2015): 849,960	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha): 695,093
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Uruguay has strong institutional capacity to enhance C sinks in native and planted forests. However, their C stocks, threats for deforestation and degradation, biomes represented, and co-benefits delineated are all relatively low especially when contrasted with other regions.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country EoI to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 22
1.166	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.167	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.168	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	5
1.169	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.170	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	5

Comments:

Although +2Mt CO_2 yr^{-1} (i.e., C sink), Uruguay has proposed to expand native forests, recover degraded areas to forests, and ban logging in native forests. R-PP REDD approved in 2014 under discussion so to date, currently in the initial REDD phase. However, their National Forest Inventory is comprehensive.

2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**Weight** 30	**Points** 12
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc	15	5
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	2

2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	**3**
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	**2**

Comments:

EoI provides key examples to maintain hydrological systems along with decrease soil erosion as major co-benefits. They propose that forested landscapes would increase workers pay by 20%, but did not indicate how and why this wage increase would occur. Uruguay is a high-income economy with inequality-adjusted HDI (2013) ranked 50 of 187 along with ~95% population concentrated in urban areas. Thus, their co-benefits to rural poor are expected to be quite low especially when compared with other submissions.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **22**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	**5**
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	**3**
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	**4**
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	**5**
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	**5**

Comments:

The strong regulatory environment, extensive facilitating legislation coupled with institutional capacity indicates high feasibility in their abilities to implement proposed FIP programs. Currently, Uruguay is engaged in Low Carbon Development Study (WB) as well as PROBIO (GEF).

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Vanuatu **Rating (out of 100): 43** **Provisional Category: IV**

Country Basic Data*

Land area (m ha): 1.2	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):0	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):0.25	Forest area per capita (ha):1.75	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):10680
GDP per capita (US$):3276.7	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):0.433	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):36	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest financing (m US$, ref year):	Main biome(s):	

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal (2 sentences)

Vanuatu is in the process of developing its REDD+ Strategy and has allocated FCPF resources to cover some basic components of its' R-PP. FIP funds are sought to implement the remaining components particularly for: (i) developing reference emissions level; (ii) designing systems for monitoring forest and safeguards information; (iii) designing a program framework for monitoring and evaluation. Three sectors – forestry, agriculture and livestock, and tourism – will be accorded priority for FIP funding support. FIP funds will support community-based reforestation, agroforestry, agro-silvo-pastoral demonstration farms and biodiversity conservation.

Vanuatu has made some progress in implementing planned REDD+ readiness activities, and pursues complementary initiatives through several national, regional, and international programs. However, institutional capacity and enabling conditions are, as yet, insufficiently developed for FIP investment.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**Weight** 40	**Points** 15
1.171	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.172	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	2
1.173	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	5
1.174	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g., particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.175	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	2

Comments:

They report an increase in community-level reforestation through agroforestry and commercial tree farming activities. An estimated 10,000 ha has also been leased for plantation development although <50% has been planted to date.

		Weight	**Points**

2	Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)	30	17
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g., for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	10
2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	3
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	3
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	1

Comments:

This EI outlines considerable potential to generate livelihood, biodiversity and environmental co-benefits especially through community-led initiatives to protect forests and water catchments, as indicated by the increasing number of community conservation areas (CCAs).

3	Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)	Weight 30	Points 11
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	3
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	1
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	2
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	3
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	2

Comments:

Vanuatu's institutional and technical capacity has benefited from previous and on-going programs and initiatives, including REDD readiness. However, the REDD readiness process is still nascent and has yet to produce demonstrable results or sufficient evidence of increased institutional capacity.

Assessment of FIP Expression of Interest 2015

Country: Zambia **Rating (out of 100): 68** **Provisional Category: II**

Country Basic Data*:

Land area (m ha):	Deforestation rate ('000 ha):	Permanent forest estate ('000 ha):
Population (m):	Forest area per capita (ha):	Natural protection forest ('000 ha):
GDP per capita (US$):	Part of forests on GDP (%):	Natural production forests ('000 ha):
Forest area (m ha, 2015):	Forest carbon stock (mt):	Planted forest area ('000 ha):
Relative forest area (%):	Soil carbon stock (mt):	Est. total wood production ('000 m3):
Forest/Forest climate change financing (m US$, include reference year):		

*sources provided in a separate annex.

Overall appraisal

Zambia's national strategy for its REDD+ implementation is focused on the landscape management approach contextualized through an extensive network of watersheds and river systems spanning two-thirds of the country. The EoI holds major promise for climate change mitigation via an integrated suite of REDD+ related land, watershed management and forest protection programs. Strong justification has been made for FIP support. If well managed, Zambia's vast forest cover has considerable potential for carbon storage.

Selection Criteria to Assess the Country Proposal to FIP

		Weight	Points
1	**Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation (40%)**	**40**	**24**
1.176	Major contribution to managing landscapes on a sustainable manner	5	3
1.177	Existence of REDD+ strategies or equivalent and relevant policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation	10	6
1.178	Effective contribution to REDD+: Reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, managing forests sustainably, enhancement of sinks	10	6
1.179	Particular approach to forest-based mitigation (e.g. particular biome, particular method proposed, innovation factors in respect to mitigation)	5	3
1.180	Contribution to REDD+ Phase 2: REDD+ reforms and measures for transformational change and investment	10	6

Comments:

REDD+ related goals are captured in Zambia's long-term development plan. The strategic objectives in its EoI could make a significant contribution to mitigate climate change.

		Weight	Points
2	**Potential to Generate Enhanced Development Co-Benefits (30%)**	**30**	**23**
2.1	Evidence of the potential to generate co-benefits at the level of forest governance and livelihood (e.g. for poor rural and forest-dependent people through land tenure and land-use rights, poverty alleviation, food security, human health, protecting cultural values of forests etc.)	15	11

2.2	Contribution to conservation of biodiversity	5	4
2.3	Contribution to the protection of soil and water	5	4
2.4	Co-benefits through proper valuation of sustainable forest products and services, financial flows and potential for investment	5	4

Comments:

Zambia's population is ~90% rural and these communities are highly dependent on forest resources and products. An integrated program of sustainable management production systems within landscapes has considerable potential to enhance livelihoods, to create jobs and to provide enhanced ecosystem services. The potentially high biodiversity conservation co-benefits and soil water protection provide substantial justification for FIP support.

3	**Country readiness and capacity for implementation (30%)**	**Weight** **30**	**Points** **21**
3.1	Positive cross-sectorial landscapes management policies (with agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy ministries), good forest governance, positive incentives (PES, non-fiscal funds) rights base forest schemes, clear lands tenure systems	7	4
3.2	Ability, to develop, implement, and monitor in a reasonable timeframe actions that reduce forest carbon emissions and/or enhance forest carbon stocks, including progress towards developing systems for MRV	5	4
3.3	Evidence of a track record of forestry and forest-related projects that are managed with participation of government and other stakeholders	5	3
3.4	Policy environment supportive of sustainable forest management, including through the removal of important policy and regulatory barriers	5	4
3.5	Institutional and technical capacity and existence of a successful coordination mechanisms across government ministries and clear accountability within government for the FIP program and other REDD+ initiatives and political commitment to use FIP funding successfully	8	6

Comments:

Zambia's submission was supported by the Ministry of Finance to represent the Office for National Collaboration and regulation on climate change. The policy implementation framework for REDD+ programs is well articulated with appropriate institutional structures from the national level government (Inter-ministerial Secretariat) to the community-level.