

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCOPING MISSION FOR THE INVESTMENT
PLAN OF THE FOREST INVESTMENT (FIP) OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
6-9 October 2015**

1- Context

With nearly 22.4 million ha of forests – 65% of its territory – the Congo is part of the Congo Basin forest. It contains high levels of ecological diversity. 17 protected areas covering 4.5 million ha (or 13.2% of the national territory) have been created. Some 10.6 million ha of forest concession are under management, 4.06 million of which have management plans. The implementation of these management plans has enabled the certification of 2.5 million ha by the Forest Stewardship Council. This represents 50% of certified forests in the Congo Basin. The Congo also has the lowest deforestation rate in the Basin, at 0.08%. Nevertheless, more than 0.5 million ha of forests could disappear annually between 2015 and 2020 (CN-REDD, 2014) as a result of the development of agricultural plantations (oil palm, cocoa, coffee, rubber) and mining activities, as planned in the 2012-16 National Development Plan. The REDD+ process to which the Congo has committed itself is intended to combine forest conservation with development imperatives.

The Congo has been engaged in REDD+ since 2008, with the validation of its R-PIN. In 2010, the drafting of the Readiness Preparation Plan (R-PP) was launched, to be completed in September 2011. In the context of the development of the necessary tools, a national REDD+ strategy is being drafted. At the same time, the Congo has developed an Emissions Reductions Program (ER-P) with the Olam Group, in Sangha and Likouala Departments. Selected by the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in July 2014, the ER-Program should generate nearly 11.7 million tCO₂ in emissions reductions by 2020. A Letter of Intent has been signed with the World Bank in September 2014 for the sale/purchase of these emissions reductions.

In March 2015, the Congolese government officially submitted an expression of interest to the Forest Investment Program (FIP), centered on emissions reductions activities in the forest, agriculture, mining and energy sectors. The country is planning to develop these activities in the ER-P zone. The program also envisions the participation of local communities in emissions reductions activities via (1) the development of simplified management plans for designated community development areas; (2) the improvement of agricultural practices, and (3) their participation in biodiversity conservation. Their efforts to reduce emissions will be recompensed on the basis of the ER-P's benefits sharing plan. The country is also planning to promote the establishment of forest plantations with fast-growing species to serve the energy needs of large cities, in particular Brazzaville, and improvements in the efficiency of charcoal consumption (e.g. improved cook stoves).

The FIP will therefore represent a key strategic element to demonstrate the feasibility of REDD+ in Congo. It will contribute to the development of REDD+ in Congo, but also to the promotion of green growth.

The expression of interest was favorably received by the FIP-Sub Committee, and the Congo was selected among the 5 new pilot countries that will benefit from FIP support for the preparation of their Investment Plans (IP) and the implementation of investment projects.

The FIP is one of the four programs of the Climate Investment Funds. It aims to mobilize resources to assist developing countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, on the basis of the REDD+ process. Its resources are provided on a programmatic basis, resulting from a coordinated and broadly inclusive planning process for the development of its IPs.

2- Mission Objectives

The mission represents the starting point for the development of the FIP-IP in Congo. Its objective is to initiate a dialogue with the government and its primary stakeholders to identify and plan the activities that will enable the sound preparation of the IP.

Specifically, the mission will:

- (i) Establish contact with the Congolese authorities and relevant stakeholders of the REDD+ process and discuss the FIP with them, specifically its context, objectives, expected results, procedures, and implementation modalities, so as to ensure a sound understanding and a common vision of the program;
- (ii) Identify the primary stakeholders to include in the preparation of the IP ;
- (iii) Highlight the main points of the expression of interest, and in particular the manner in which the FIP fits in with the overall REDD+ process ;
- (iv) Validate the work by the Multisectoral Technical Working Group on the existing documentation on sustainable forest management in Congo, the information gaps identified, and the additional studies for the preparation of the IP;
- (v) Agree on a communications and consultation process with stakeholders during the preparation phase of the IP;
- (vi) Agree with the authorities on the roles and responsibilities of the principal actors in the process, including the two multilateral development banks ;
- (vii) Identify and plan the preparation activities of the IP;
- (viii) Agree on the institutional arrangements necessary for the preparation of the IP ;
- (ix) Agree on the modalities, stages, and timetable for the mobilization of the support grant for the preparation for the IP;
- (x) Finalize the grant request;
- (xi) Agree on the timetable for joint missions ;

3- Preparatory Activities

To prepare the mission, the government has convened a Multisectoral Technical Working Group that includes representatives of the ministries involved, as well as the National REDD+ Coordination. Its tasks are to:

- Collect and examine the relevant documentation for the development of the IP ;
- Identify possible synergies between the REDD+ process and the FIP;
- Identify any information gaps and additional studies that might be necessary;
- Propose a stakeholder consultation plan ;
- Propose the institutional arrangements for the development of the IP ;

As and when necessary, teleconferences will be held between the Working Group and the MDBs on the objectives of the FIP.

4- Expected Results

- (i) The MDB representatives have established contact with the Congolese authorities and other stakeholders and have discussed the objectives, goals, and procedures of the FIP;
- (ii) The objectives, goals, and procedures of the FIP have been understood by the stakeholders ;
- (iii) The principal stakeholders that will be involved in the preparation of the IP have been identified;
- (iv) The link between the FIP and the REDD+ process has been clarified ;
- (v) The preparation activities of the IP have been identified and planned ;
- (vi) The institutional arrangements of the preparation of the IP have been defined;
- (vii) The responsible parties of each stakeholder have been identified ;
- (viii) The joint mission calendar has been defined ;
- (ix) The grant support request has been written.

5- Mission Members:

World Bank

- Julian Lee, Task Team Leader, Environmental Specialist
- Aurélie Rossignol, Forest and Climate Change Specialist
- Amadou Ba, Senior Agricultural Specialist
- Lucienne M'Baïpor, Senior Social Development Specialist

African Development Bank

- GARBA Laouali, Sr Environmental Specialist
- KADIATA, BAKACH DIKAND J.B., Agronomist
- Kane Dia Nouridine, Country Economist

- Jean-Marc, Forest Management and REDD+ Specialist

Preliminary Mission Program

Time	Activity	Comment	Location
6 October 2015			
8.30-09.45	Internal MDB meeting		WB
10:00-11.00	Meeting with the FIP Focal Point and the National REDD+ Coordinator	Discussions on key messages for authorities and exchanges on the functioning of the FIP Focal Point.	MEFDD
11.30-12.00	Meeting with the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development	Presentation of mission objectives	MEFDD
14.00-18.00	Meeting with the Multisectoral Technical Working Group	Validate the mission agenda ; introduction to the FIP	WB
7 October 2015			
9:00-9.30	Meeting with the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Public Portfolio	Presentation of the FIP	
10:00-11:00	Meeting with the Minister of Land Use Planning	Presentation of the FIP	
12.00-13.00	Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock	Presentation of the FIP	
14.00-15.30	Meeting with the Multisectoral Technical Working Group	Identification of information gaps and additional studies Presentation of the DGM	WB
16.00-17.30	Meeting with civil society	Presentation of the FIP/DGM and potential role of civil society Discussion of consultation process	WB

8 October 2015			
9.00-10.00	Meeting with Land Ministry	Presentation of the FIP	
10:30-11:30	Meeting with the Ministry of Mines and Geology	Presentation of the FIP	
13.00-15.00	Meeting with the Multisectoral Technical Working Group	Discussion of IP preparation activities and the timetable.	WB
15.30-16.30	Meeting with REDD+ donors (AFD, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WWF, WCS, ATIBT etc.)	Presentation of the FIP and involvement of other donors	WB
17.00-18.00	Meeting with the private sector	Presentation of the FIP and opportunities for collaboration	WB
9 October 2015			
9.00-11.00	Meeting with the Multisectoral Technical Working Group	Discussions of 1) timetable, 2) preparation budget, 3) institutional arrangements, 4) grant mobilization; 5) next steps	WB
11.00-13.00	Drafting of the aide-mémoire		WB
14.00-15.00	Meeting with the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development	Wrap-up meeting	MEFDD