

REDD+
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Réduction des Emissions de gaz à effet
de Serre issues de la Déforestation,
et de la Dégradation des Forêts



REDD+ BENEFITS SHARING PLAN



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REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFOR:	<i>Agence foncière rurale</i> (Ivorian Rural Land Agency)
BSP:	Benefit Sharing Plan
CARE:	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CAZ:	<i>Chaîne d'Approvisionnement Zéro déforestation</i> (Cocoa Zero Deforestation Value Chain Project)
CF:	Classified Forest
CFI:	Cocoa and Forest Initiative
CIFOR:	Center for International Forestry Research
CLCG:	Local Co-Management Committee
CN-REDD+:	National REDD+ Committee
CO ₂ :	Carbon dioxide
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
ERP:	Emission Reductions Program
ERPA:	Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement
ESMF:	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF:	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC:	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FPRCI:	<i>Fondation pour les arcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire</i> (Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Cote d'Ivoire)
GHG:	Greenhouse Gas
GRM:	Grievance Redress Mechanism
Ha:	Hectare
IPMP:	Integrated Pests Management Plan
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEF:	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MINADER:	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINEDD:	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MINEF:	Ministry of Water and Forests
MRV:	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NDC:	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO:	nongovernmental organization
OIPR:	<i>Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves</i> (Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves)
PaM:	Policies and Measures
PES:	Payment for Environmental Services
PROFIAB:	<i>Promotion des Filières Agricoles et de la Biodiversité</i> (Promotion of Agricultural Value Chain and Development Project)
REDD+:	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SEP-REDD:	REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat
SESA:	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS:	Safeguards Information System
SN-REDD+:	National REDD+ Strategy
SNSF:	National Forest Surveillance/Monitoring System
SODEFOR:	<i>Société de Développement des Forêts</i> (Forestry Development Agency)
SRADT:	Regional Land Use and Development Plan
tCO ₂ e:	metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent
USD:	United States Dollar

DEFINITIONS

Absolute performance: An indicator that is used to allocate the variable benefit to each initiative under a Program or Non-Program Initiative benefit sharing plan. This absolute performance could be based on the carbon performance, non-carbon performance and Initiative effort and is set out in the benefit sharing plan for the ER program.

Beneficiaries: A subset or group of stakeholders identified in the benefit sharing plan to receive monetary and/or non-monetary benefits resulting from the emission reductions program in the emission reductions program area. There are two categories of Beneficiaries: (i) Direct Beneficiaries are field actors responsible for implementing the actual ER activities in the field, i.e., agricultural intensification and agroforestry; sustainable management of forests and conservation of Classified Forests and National Parks; afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands and forests; and (ii) the indirect beneficiaries are the actors responsible for guaranteeing the enabling environment for program implementation, including its governance, monitoring and evaluation, funds management and transfer.

Benefit sharing: The sharing of monetary and/or non-monetary benefits among beneficiaries in the context of the ER program in accordance with the benefit sharing plan.

Certified emission reductions: Quantities of ER produced, measured and reported by the SEP-REDD+, verified by an external auditor, and certified by a legal certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment, on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

Emission Reductions (ER): Units representing metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) that are sequestered, avoided or reduced by eligible REDD+ activities in the context of the national REDD+ strategy.

Emission Reductions Program: A set of initiatives coordinated by a single governance system and managed by the National REDD+ Commission to achieve the defined emission reduction objectives. It is prepared and implemented by various parties and covers several regions in an administratively defined zone.

ERPA payments: Revenues from the sale of emission reductions, distributed among the stakeholders in accordance with the ERPA Payments benefit sharing plan and utilization plan, either in cash or in kind (such as provision of equipment, capacity building and training).

ERPA Payments benefit sharing arrangement: Defines the processes, rules and procedures for the preparation of a plan for sharing and allocating the ERPA payments with the participation of the stakeholders and beneficiaries, including the forest dependent communities.

ERPA Payments Benefits sharing plan: A multiyear document that establishes the criteria for the prioritization and allocation of ERPA payments under a REDD+ program or initiative and the list of categories of budgeted activities associated with the categories of beneficiaries and the objectives to be achieved.

Forest carbon performance: The volume of emission reductions generated by a REDD+ initiative or program.

Grievance redress mechanism: An effective, accessible, transparent, equitable process and mechanism that is respectful of the local mechanism for resolving complaints related to the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism, amicably where possible. The grievance redress

mechanism comprises the process from the receipt of the complaint through to final resolution as well as the monitoring and reporting system, including the entities responsible and the processing time.

Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV): System for the calculation of emission and absorption factors and the analysis of activity data to develop the Reference Emission Level for Forests (NERF) and measure performance in terms of the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation and absorption relating to the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Monetary benefits: Cash collected by beneficiaries financed by payments received under an Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement or ERPA (ERPA payments). These benefits must be included in the benefit sharing plan.

Non-monetary benefits: The goods, services and other benefits directly related to the implementation and operation of the emission reduction (ER) program that incentivize the beneficiaries to contribute to the implementation of the ER program and can be monitored objectively (for example, technical assistance, capacity building, and contributions or investments in kind such as seed or other equipment.). These advantages are included in the benefit sharing plan.

Non-carbon benefits: All benefits produced by or in relation to the implementation and operation of an emission reductions program, other than monetary and non-monetary benefits (for example, enhancement of local means of subsistence, improvement of the forest governance structure, clarification of land tenure, enhancement of biodiversity and other ecosystem services, etc.). These benefits are specified in a separate section of the emergency program documents and are not part of the benefit sharing arrangements.

Program governance: A mechanism that brings together the stakeholders to plan, organize the program and make decisions on REDD+ activities.

REDD+: A mechanism for the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, including conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

REDD+ activities: Activities carried out under an approved REDD+ Initiative to achieve the following objectives: (i) reduction of emissions from deforestation and (ii) forest degradation, (iii) conservation of forest carbon stocks, (iv) sustainable management of forests, and (v) enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

REDD+ activity manager: One or more public or private legal entities that manage and monitor the use of ERPA payments.

REDD+ aligned initiatives: Enabling or sectoral activities that do not produce a measurable REDD+ result but contribute to the production of a measurable REDD+ result. For this reason, they may claim some of the REDD+ benefits under the Benefit Sharing Plan established by the REDD+ program/project in which they are participating. They must establish a link between their implementation and the REDD+ result to which they contribute and set up a monitoring system to track their own performance.

REDD+ financing: Contribution to the creation of an environment conducive to the implementation of effective REDD+ activities. Providers of REDD+ financing show no inclination

to link their participation in REDD+ performance and/or have made no effort to measure it quantifiably. Other financing that does not target the REDD+ mechanism as such but nonetheless participates in its implementation can also be included in this category.

REDD+ initiatives: REDD+ investments undertaken to produce measurable REDD+ results, but without the intention of enhancing the value of ERs certified on the carbon markets or via a funding mechanism. REDD+ initiatives are subject to the REDD+ framework established at the national level, but are not certified by a carbon standard. They are investments that demonstrate their contribution to the REDD+ objectives and can therefore increase their investment financially (particularly by a Payment for Environmental Services system), but without directly targeting the carbon markets or funds.

REDD+ programs: Have objectives to enhance GHG emission reductions similar to those of a REDD+ project but implemented on a larger scale. They can include so-called nested REDD+ projects (which generate certified ERs at their scale), REDD+ initiatives and/or REDD+ aligned initiatives.

REDD+ projects: Refer to a set of activities implemented within a geographically defined zone to enhance the reduction of emissions, increase greenhouse gas absorption or conserve forest carbon stocks via a carbon market or fund-type dedicated mechanism. It is understood that this carbon performance will have been obtained by altering the deforestation or forest degradation dynamic or increasing forest density or surfaces.

REDD+ social and environment safeguards: A set of measures aimed at ensuring that REDD+ activities are implemented in line with the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards applied to the Program.

Reserve: A percentage deducted from ER payments intended to cover certain operations in the case of non-carbon performance. The reserve is reallocated to field activities in the case of performance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **To address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation¹, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been engaged since 2011, in the Reduction of Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) process**, with technical assistance from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF-Readiness) that enabled the country to establish a National REDD+ infrastructure including: (i) a REDD+ strategy and policy framework and related safeguards instruments, (ii) a Safeguards Information System and National Forest Surveillance System; (iii) a reference baseline of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, (iv) a national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for emissions reduction; and (v) a REDD+ registry and REDD+ projects homologation manual. In order to support the coordination of REDD+ activities, the Government established an intersectoral framework headed by the Office of the Prime Minister.
2. **The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has also responded ambitiously to reverse the trends of deforestation and forest degradation with the 2018 Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Extension Strategy (FPRES)**, aimed at recovering the country's forest cover from 11% to 20% by 2040 and adopted a New Forest Code in July 2019, guided by the strategy.
3. **The country is now preparing an emission reduction program (ERP), which is the first jurisdictional REDD+ program for results-based payment** at large scale to implement Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ Strategy, thereby contributing to the FPRES. The Program targets five jurisdictions of the country's cocoa belt, the most pressured area in the country by deforestation and forest degradation due to cocoa development, and which encompasses the only remaining intact dense forest in the country (Tai National Park). The ERP targets 22 million tons of CO₂ equivalent in emission reductions by 2025, with a contractual volume of 16.5 million tons of CO₂ equivalent to be included in a transaction with the FCPF-Carbon Fund managed by the World Bank.
4. **To demonstrate its capacity to ensure “fair and equitable” compensation for the performance of the stakeholders in the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**, Côte d'Ivoire proposes a benefit sharing arrangement that will cover all REDD+ projects and programs developed in the ERP area. This arrangement for sharing the benefits resulting from REDD+ activities is based on the provisions of Law No. 2019-675 of July 23, 2019 on the Forest Code, particularly its article 13, and Decree No. 2012-1049 of October 24, 2012 on the creation, organization and operation of the National REDD+ Commission. It is based on the principles of equity, effectiveness and efficiency, on the alignment of national laws and regulations with the rights of communities, on transparency and inclusiveness, and on the recognition of efforts and the respect of legal rights.
5. **Eligible beneficiaries include any stakeholder in the ERP area who contributes directly or indirectly to reducing emissions** and sustain the success of the Emissions Reduction program interventions. These beneficiaries must sign an undertaking with the National REDD+

¹ The main direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation are: (i) the massive expansion of extensive slash-and-burn agriculture; (ii) the uncontrolled harvesting of forests, in particular for firewood; (iii) bushfires (accidental or intentional, often for agriculture or hunting); and (iv) mining, notably illegal small-scale gold mining.

Committee for the implementation of program activities, and an agreement with the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI), responsible for fund management and transfer to the beneficiaries. On this basis, the main beneficiaries (direct and indirect) identified in the context of the ERP following consultations with the stakeholders are:

- For Activities implementation in the field (Direct Beneficiaries): National Agency for National Parks management (OIPR); National Agency for Classified Forests management (SODEFOR); Forest-dependent communities, and Conservation NGOs.
- For governance and coordination (Indirect Beneficiaries): the REDD+ Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD), the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI), a selected Mobile telephone company to facilitate cash transfer to individual stakeholder with no Bank account, the Cocoa Board (*Conseil Café-Cacao*); Ministry of Water and Forests; the National Land Tenure Agency (AFOR); and Traditional Authorities.

6. **The benefit sharing plan makes special mention of forest-dependent communities** that are organized either in cooperatives or associations and receive payments to the organization bank, or are individuals that receive payment through mobile transfer. The distribution of monetary benefits will take place following the approval of the distribution matrix by the National REDD+ Committee.

7. **The benefit sharing plan under the ERP relies on national entities, particularly the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the National REDD+ Committee**, to achieve ownership and synergies and enhance coordination between the stakeholders. The initial beneficiary of ERP payments is the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). The funds are held in dedicated ERP accounts managed by the FPRCI based on a subsidiary agreement between the MEF and the FPRCI, for payments transfer to beneficiaries.

8. **The payment strategy** adopted by the program is, firstly, to evaluate the performance of beneficiaries working in collaboration with the lead agencies in each forest area. OIPR supervises activities related to national parks, SODEFOR oversees classified forests, the Cocoa-Board (*Conseil Café-Cacao*) supervises the cacao farmers in the rural domain, and Traditional authorities oversee reforestation, afforestation activities in the rural domain, with support from the Ministry of Water and Forests.

9. The objective is to ensure that all interventions are coherent with the framework program for the management of protected areas, the forest conservation, rehabilitation and expansion strategy, and the regional land use and development plans (SRADT).

10. **Stakeholder performance will be evaluated on the basis of the execution of individual activities in line with the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESF) and carbon performance.** Performance in the reduction of GHG emissions through the implementation of activities will be evaluated by the National Forest Surveillance System (SNSF), with coordination by the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD+), based on methodologies aligned with the FCPF methodological framework.

11. **The National REDD+ Committee, through the SEP-REDD+, will monitor overall implementation of the benefit sharing plan** in accordance with the procedures and requirements set out in the FCPF Monitoring Report Template as regards emission reductions and the agreements signed between the FPRCI and the representatives of various beneficiaries.

12. **In the context of benefit sharing, grievances (presumed damage, facts or grounds for complaints) may arise and result in complaints from the beneficiary stakeholders.** To manage this, the benefit sharing plan proposes: (i) the distribution of the gains resulting from emission reductions on a pro rata basis; (ii) non-payment to any direct beneficiary whose actions have cancelled out the efforts of other stakeholders; (iii) transparency in the management of payments to communities and regular reporting by all stakeholders on the risks relating to program implementation. Furthermore, a Grievance Redress Mechanism has been developed in line with World Bank Safeguards Framework.

13. The national and ER Program benefit sharing plan were informed by the inputs provided by stakeholders during consultations held throughout 2018, 2019 and early 2020 at the local, regional and national levels.

A. Country context and background

1. **Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa and has a total surface area of 322,463 km².** It is bordered by Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, and Ghana to the east. To the south, the country's long coastline of 550 kms runs along the Gulf of Guinea. Côte d'Ivoire is divided into two main geographic regions: a forest zone in the south (48.2% of the surface area), and a savanna zone in the north (51.8% of the surface area).

2. **Owing to its climate, which transitions from humid equatorial to dry tropical, Côte d'Ivoire has several ecosystems,** from the northern savanna to the dense evergreen forests in the south, that harbor a wide variety of species of flora and fauna, some of which are unique in the world. This diversity of ecosystems and species of both flora and fauna makes Côte d'Ivoire an ecological "cornerstone" in West Africa. It is home to the largest intact ecosystem in the Sudano-Guinean zone (Comoé National Park) and the only large primary forest in the West African subregion (Taï National Park), measuring 536,000 ha.

3. **The country's population, which was estimated at 6.7 million in 1975, increased to 23.8 million in 2016.** This rapid growth results from a combination of high natural population growth and significant immigration from neighboring countries (with non-native born Ivorians making up 24% of the population). This demographic dynamic has put increasing pressure on the country's natural resources, especially in the forest zone, where the vast majority of the population lives (75.5% versus 24.5% in the savanna zone). The agricultural sector is the main driver for economic growth employing more than two thirds of the active population, and producing approximately 28% of the country's GDP and over 50% of its export earnings. Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa and the sector accounts for about a third of total exports.

4. **Deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire has occurred at a rapid rate and has left little forest remaining.** From 1990 to 2015, Côte d'Ivoire had the highest deforestation rate in the world, losing on average 4.3% of its total area annually. Since 1960, Côte d'Ivoire has lost approximately 13 million hectares (ha) of forest cover, reducing forest cover from 37% to around 11% today². According to the National Forest Development Agency (SODEFOR), encroachment on the state's Classified Forests has increased from 18% (1996) to around 50% (2014). The main direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are: (i) the massive expansion of extensive slash-and-burn agriculture; (ii) the uncontrolled harvesting of forests for timber and fuelwood due to the weak of protection for Classified Forests, which is in turn caused by significant shortcomings in the management and governance of forest resources; (iii) bushfires (accidental or intentional, often for agriculture or hunting); and (iv) mining, notably illegal small-scale gold mining. Recent studies have shown that if nothing is done to reverse the trends of degradation and increase forest cover, Côte d'Ivoire, will risk losing over 90% of land suitable for cocoa cultivation (CIAT, 2011).

5. **In light of this and to ensure sustainable development that is resilient to climate change, Côte d'Ivoire has since 2011 been involved in the REDD+ mechanism.** With support from the World Bank through the FCPF-Readiness Fund, the French Development Agency (AFD) and UN agencies, the Country has established a national REDD+ infrastructure including: strengthening of the institutional framework through the creation of a National REDD+

² Source: Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Expansion Strategy, June 2018

Commission, development of a national REDD+ strategy and a National Forest Surveillance System, Safeguards instruments & a Safeguards Information System, as well as a Reference Emission Level, a national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for emissions reduction; and (v) a REDD+ registry and REDD+ projects homologation manual.

6. **The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has also responded ambitiously to reverse the trends of deforestation and forest degradation with the 2018 Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Extension Strategy (FPRES)**, aimed at recovering the country's forest cover from 11% to 20% by 2040 and adopted a New Forest Code in July 2019, guided by the FPRES. Côte d'Ivoire's ambition is to generate a transformational change through the adoption of an integrated approach that combines economic development, social well-being and the conservation of natural resources, and to increase forest cover from 11% to 20% by 2040. To this end, the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has adopted a zero-deforestation agricultural policy that is centered on the development of zero-deforestation supply chains. The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted by Côte d'Ivoire to UNFCCC in 2015 calls for mitigation measures in agriculture and forestry.

7. **To begin the investment phase effectively, Côte d'Ivoire is preparing an Emission Reduction Program (ERP) centered around the Taï National Park** and its adjacent Classified Forests as well as rural lands, and is currently developing instruments for its implementation, i.e., REDD+ investment approval directives and regulations on the management of emission reductions titles. The ERP is entitled "Taï National Park Area Emissions Reductions Payment Project". Sharing of ER payments among stakeholders that contributed to emission reductions being necessary to incentivize behavioral change, end deforestation and forest degradation practices, and reduce carbon emissions and leakage associated with REDD+, Côte d'Ivoire is proposing a fair and equitable benefit sharing arrangement that will cover all REDD+ projects in the ERP area.

8. **The Benefit Sharing Plan has been prepared to incorporate both monetary and non-monetary benefits distribution** and the institutions responsible for Emissions reduction payment transfers, the decision-making process for benefit sharing, and the monitoring and evaluation and grievance redress measures. The information in this Benefit Sharing Plan applies to the Emission Reductions Program for the Tai National Park area. Based on lessons learned, it will be scaled up to similar programs at the national level.

B. Overview of the Emission Reductions Program (ERP)

ERP framework

9. **The Emissions Reduction Program is the first phase of the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy developed by the Government.** The ERP will operationalize the instruments developed during the REDD+ preparatory phase (FCPF-Readiness), in the southwestern region of Côte d'Ivoire. With the decline of the former cocoa belt in central Côte d'Ivoire, this region has become a key area for cocoa farming and development of palm oil and rubber cultivation, which has resulted in intense population pressures owing to the migration of farmers and their families.

10. **The ERP area covers the most forested area of Côte d'Ivoire and contains the country's largest carbon stock.** Its forestland includes two national parks (Taï National Park and the N'Zo reserve) that together cover 581,016 ha, or 50% of the total surface area of the West African forest, as well as Mount Peko National Park and 24 Classified Forests (CFs) covering around 1.1 million ha. The Taï National Park and the N'Zo reserve are the only remaining primary dense forest existing in Côte d'Ivoire and together constitute a heaven for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. However, with the exception of the Cavally CF, these CFs are in a dire state of conservation, almost all being severely degraded or deforested.

11. **The ERP area includes the greatest wealth of endangered species in Côte d'Ivoire** and has lost a significant percentage of forest cover over the past 15 years, even if the rate of deforestation between 2000 and 2015 (estimated at 1.94 percent) has been lower than the national deforestation rate (2.66 percent).

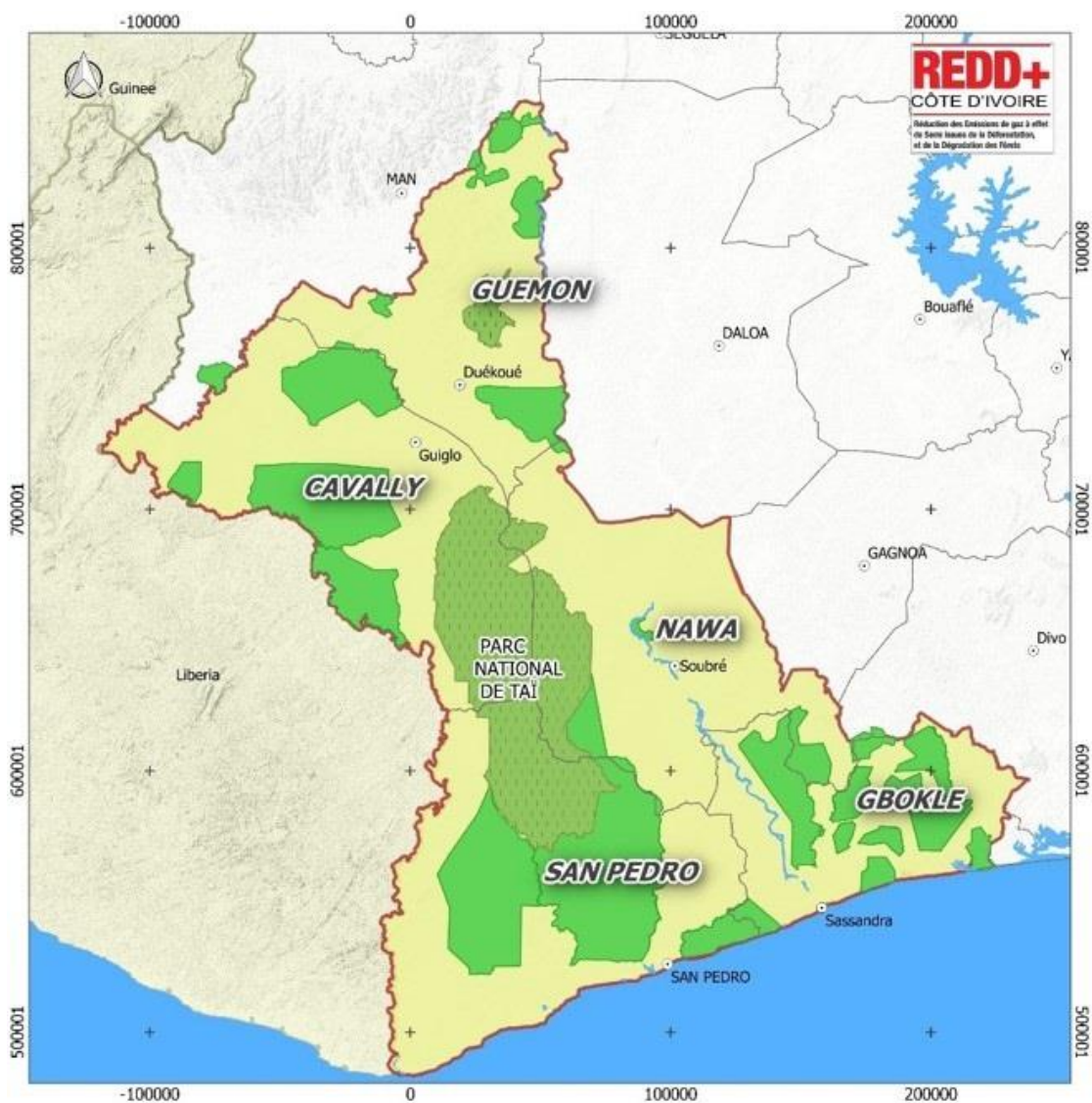


Figure 1. Map of ERP jurisdiction

12. **The ERP is based on the pursuit of a number of pilot initiatives and programs/projects managed by bilateral agencies** such as the GIZ through the CAZ and PROFIAB projects, multilateral institutions such as the World Bank through the Forest Investment Program (FIP), and private organizations such as Mondelez and NGOs already present, implementing activities to combat deforestation and forest degradation. This allows for the introduction of an alternative approach while testing the effectiveness of these activities. Building on these pilot projects, the program strategy is to: (i) expand by duplicating the objectives of existing projects and ensuring the continuation of activities based on lessons learned and; (ii) test results-based payments on a large-scale in the selected regions in the context of the REDD+.

Aim of the ERP

13. **Over the course of the program reference period (2000-2015), total deforestation in the ERP accounting area amounted to 416,301 ha, or 27,000 ha per year.** According to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Côte d'Ivoire projects a 28% reduction in GHG emissions from the 2012 levels, i.e., 24.5 MtCO₂eq by 2030 (excluding the forestry sector). One of its strategies is to reduce GHG emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, combined with sustainable forest management and reforestation policies. The ERP aims to contribute significantly to this objective, with an ambitious emission reductions of 41 million tCO₂e between 2021 and 2027.

14. **This ambition is fully aligned with the national REDD+ strategy adopted by the Government in 2017** and is based on a number of actions aim at addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation , including: (i) intensification and agroforestry towards “zero-deforestation” agriculture; (ii) afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands and forests; (iii) Sustainable management of forests and conservation of Classified Forests and National Parks; and, (v) Environmentally friendly mining. These are underpinned by three cross-sectoral options, namely (i) implementation of a payment for environmental services (PES)-type incentive system; (ii) land use planning and secure land tenure; and (iii) national planning and structural reforms for the transition toward a green economy.

15. **The aim of the ERP is thus to implement a green development model in the ERP jurisdiction** that offers alternatives and results-based payment incentives in order to combat climate change, diversify farmers' incomes, create zero-deforestation cocoa production, protect natural resources, restore forest cover, and protect biodiversity.

16. **The ERP is considered by the Government to be a pilot project** that will allow for the expansion of the benefit sharing mechanism at the national level. This BSP is therefore specific to the ER Program area and will be upscaled to the national level based on lessons learned from its implementation in the ER Program area.

ERP accounting area

17. **The ERP accounting area covers 4,632,941 ha** (more than 14% of the country) and five of the Côte d'Ivoire's 32 regions (Cavally, Nawa, San Pedro, Guémon and Gboklè). It has an estimated population of 3,659,904 inhabitants (General Population and Housing Census (RGPH, 2014).

ERP implementation period

18. The implementation phase of the ERP will follow the signing of the **Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA)** expected before end November 2020. The anticipated outcome of the program is Emission Reductions over a period of at least 20 years through to 2040. The payments will occur after verifications which will be conducted at the end of the Reporting Periods (see table 11 in section G). An upfront advance payment in the amount of \$1 million is requested to cover operational activities and project management costs for the period 2020-2021 as follows: (a) external monitoring and evaluation of the program by the independent civil society observatory, (b) coordination of the National System for Forest Surveillance/Monitoring and the MRV system by the SEP-REDD+ MRV Unit, (c) operationalization of the Grievance Redress Mechanism, (d) operationalization of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and execution and supervision of the environmental and social management provisions and measures, (e) regular coordination meetings of the National REDD+ Commission bodies and operating costs of the SEP-REDD+, (f) monitoring and implementation of the ERP, (g) implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy and stakeholders engagement, and (h) management of the national registry of REDD+ projects and initiatives.

19. An interim advance payment against monitored but not verified ERs is expected to be made in 2023, after the first ERPA payment expected in 2022. The ERPA commercial terms including the request for the upfront advance payment and interim advance payment will be subject to negotiations.

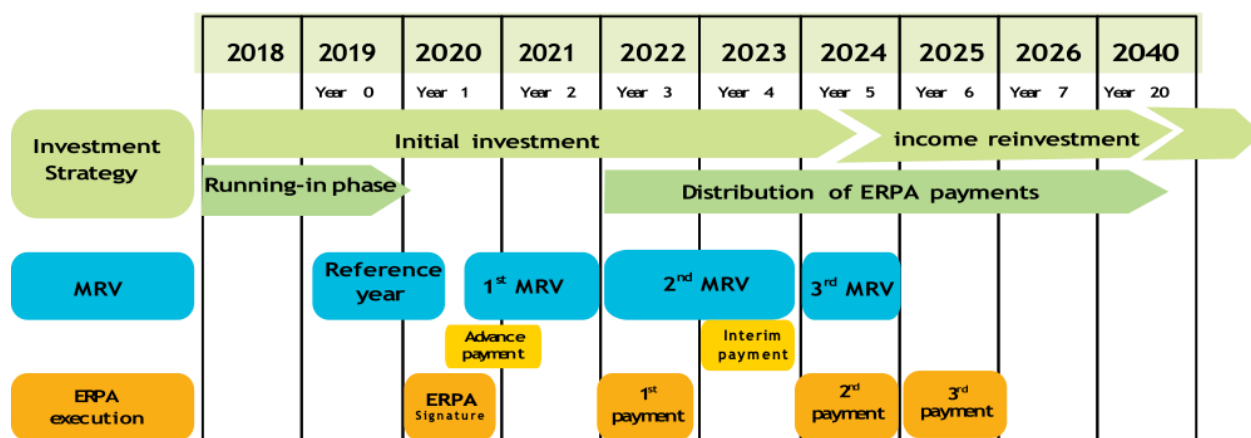


Figure 2. ERP Implementation Schedule in Côte d'Ivoire

ERP anticipated resources

20. The **Tai National Park ERP implementation cost is estimated at US\$230.5 million**, which will be financed for about 1/3 by ERPA payments which will provide a revenue stream to continue financing implementation of the ERP through activities that reduce deforestation, including reforestation, agroforestry, forest conservation and supported natural regeneration; and 2/3 by other sources, including public and private investments and contributions. See table 1 below.

Table 1. Estimated costs of the ongoing ER activities in ER-P jurisdiction over the 2020–2029 period

ER-P Activities	Total (\$)
Commodity Agroforestry and agricultural intensification	69,965,000
Agroforest	55,673,333
Fuelwood plantation (PES - rural areas)	4,175,000
Community agroforestry: Food plantation and fuelwood associations (Taungya)	4,248,333
Alternatives to wood energy - utilization of agricultural residues and timber	1,650,000
Small-scale timber plantation and protection of private and community forests	5,425,000
Restoration and protection of the natural tree cover in Gazetted Forests	3,623,333
Strengthening the protection of protected areas	14,184,000
Rationalization of artisanal gold mining	11,645,455
Land tenure security	10,761,000
Territorial development and Land use planning.	14,439,000
Improved and participatory management of Gazetted Forests	22,665,400
Program management	12,085,000
TOTAL	230,539,855

21. **The Tai National Park ERP is part of a larger Government ER Program which will be implemented over 10 years (2020–2029) in two phases:** (a) phase I will be implemented between 2020 and 2024 through a combination of public and private financing initiatives; and (b) phase II will be implemented between 2025 and 2029 to enable the scaling up of activities initiated during phase I in order to generate additional volumes of ERs whose revenues will be reinvested into activities generating additional ERs.

22. **There are a number of ongoing initiatives and upcoming projects and programs in the targeted landscape** that will contribute to generating ERs and to the enhancement of existing carbon stocks. These include the World Bank-financed Forest Investment Program (FIP, P162789), which supports agroforestry development, reforestation and alternative income streams for communities adjacent to the TNP to reduce human pressure on the park. This and other donor-financed projects in the ER-P area are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Projects contributing to generating ERs in the program area

Projects	Contribution to Tai National Park ER-P Objective	Financial Contribution to ER-P (US\$)	Duration
Forest Investment Program (P162789) (WB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening protection of protected areas Community agroforestry and agricultural intensification in Gazetted Forests and rural domain Agroforest, community agroforestry, restoration of natural tree cover, and participatory management of Gazetted Forests Fuelwood plantation, small-scale timber plantation, and rationalization of artisanal gold mining in rural domain Coordination, monitoring and evaluation, MRV, GRM, safeguards, and communications 	7 million (the equivalent of 20% of the total project value)	2018–2023
Support to economic and ecological development of rural territories (ECOTER) – funded through French Development Agency (AFD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land tenure security Territorial development and land use planning 	10 million	2020–2022

Projects	Contribution to Tai National Park ER-P Objective	Financial Contribution to ER-P (US\$)	Duration
Cocoa Value Chain Project (WB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocoa agroforestry 	49 million	2021–2025
Green Innovation Center for the Agri Sector in Côte d'Ivoire - German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale timber plantations and protection of private and forest areas (payment for environmental services [PES] - rural areas) • Commodity agroforestry and agricultural intensification • Community agroforestry in Classified Forests: Food plantation and fuelwood associations (Taungya) • Territorial development and land use planning 	1.5 million	2020–2021
Regional Indicative Program of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale timber plantations and protection of private and forest areas (PES - rural areas) 	1.5 million	2020–2022
Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire Endowment Fund (FPRCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the protection of Protected Areas 	1.1 million (annually)	2020–2029
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire State Budget Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved and participatory management of CFs • Rationalization of artisanal gold mining and ER-P management 	19 million	2020–2029
Private Investments through the CFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity agroforestry • Agroforestry • Agricultural intensification 	60 million	2020–2023

C. National Framework for the Benefit Sharing Plan

Legal basis of the BSP

23. **The benefits of the ER program that will be shared among the beneficiaries are the net ER payments.** The monetary benefits of the ER program come from the ERPA payments. The gross payments correspond to the total volume of payments for emission reductions made to Côte d'Ivoire during a given reference period.

24. **Legal clarification of the issue of who holds the carbon rights and obligations is an important phase in the implementation of benefit sharing.** In Côte d'Ivoire, carbon rights are not defined but have been declared by the Government as being the property of the State. A law legalizing carbon rights is being prepared to be promulgated by December 2020. It clearly stipulates that the Government may either keep its carbon rights for itself or choose to transfer these carbon rights to a third party, including local communities, on the basis of contractual agreements.

25. To define “carbon rights” as an object of ownership (public or private), whether in terms of the rights and/or obligations attached to carbon or in terms of the carbon itself, legal writings in Côte d'Ivoire consider that a distinction should be made between two aspects, as described in table 3 below.

Table 3. Aspects of Carbon Rights (ERP, 2019)

Aspects of Carbon Rights	Implication
The rights of ownership on carbon avoided, reduced or stored as truly identifiable (namely, Verified Emission Reductions).	<p>On account of this recognition as a means of fulfilling an obligation of reduction, stored or avoided carbon acquires a financial value and creates subjective rights in favor of the person who has made possible its realization.</p> <p>In REDD+ activities, avoided carbon may be interpreted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the natural result of a biological process of storage in the biomass, which is understood as an ecological function. It may then be categorized as a “natural resource” and, depending on the circumstances, form the subject of specific Projected ERs by Direct Beneficiaries based on lands areas in ‘1000 ha protection under the law; or the “fruit” of the tree, accessory to planting or activities. If the tree was planted, it may be considered that this is an industrial fruit. In the case of primary forests, it may be considered that this is a natural fruit. We can compare these notions of “fruit” with the notion of ecosystems services, which refer to the result of ecological functions; or the result of an action by man aimed at reducing emissions.
The right to obtain all or part of the benefits arising from the transfer of the rights of ownership on ER or the right to payment of all or part of the benefits arising from the realization of ERs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The right of payment is tantamount to the remuneration for a service rendered in order to realize emission reductions.

26. **The ERP maintains that the storage or avoidance of carbon in the form of fruit is the most logical reasoning** since the fruits are harvested by the owner of the property that produces them, in accordance with the right of use, which constitutes one of the three elements of the right of ownership (fructus). But they may also be harvested by those who enjoy rights in rem on the trees in the scope of the Program. This will be the case of a holder of a right of usufruct, a surface area right, a right of silviculture, or a right of a lessee, potentially a concession holder.

27. **The arrangement for the sharing of benefits resulting from forest activities is based on the following legal texts:**

- Law No. 2019-675 of July 23, 2019 establishing the Forest Code, particularly its article 13: “the State promotes the establishment of carbon sinks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, it establishes an arrangement for the sharing of benefits from the establishment of carbon sinks and the implementation of national forest policies and strategies. The terms and conditions for the implementation of this article are determined by decree.”
- Decree No. 2012-1049 of October 24, 2012 on the creation, organization and operation of the National REDD+ Commission, specifically in its article 5(4): “. . . establish a National REDD+ Fund and the terms and conditions for the management and awarding of subsidies and resources from the REDD+ process.” This Decree is the country’s legal instrument for Benefit Sharing under the ERP.
- An "ER title transfer decree", currently in preparation (to be signed before the effectiveness of the ER purchase agreement) will determine the "rules for the management of REDD projects and programs and greenhouse gas emissions titles resulting from the creation of carbon sinks".
- A formal letter by the CIV Government summarizing the reasons for the country's ability to transfer title to ERs from the ER Program to the FCPF Carbon Fund based on the draft

decree and the interim transfer arrangements and (ii) a legal opinion by a local reputable law firm or the CIV Attorney General, will be sent to the FCPF Carbon Fund before ERPA signature.

Principles and criteria for the Benefit Sharing arrangement

28. **Benefit sharing refers to the distribution of the net direct and indirect gains resulting from REDD+ implementation** (Luttrell et al. 2013; Pham et al. 2013b; Wong et al. 2016). Understanding REDD+ “benefit sharing” implies understanding the costs and benefits of REDD+. REDD+ implementation has benefits (i.e., improvement of environmental services and forest governance) and costs. There are two types of costs: (i) implementation and transaction costs: direct expenses incurred in setting up a REDD+ system and implementing the necessary policies; and (ii) opportunity costs: the foregone profits from the best alternative forest and land use (Pham et al. 2013b).

29. **A benefit sharing arrangement includes a series of institutional resources**, governance structures and instruments that distribute the net benefits and must be managed in a participatory manner. Owing to differing needs and preferences, stakeholders may not agree on the preferences and options for the benefit sharing arrangements. The challenge for policymakers is to decide on the options to be chosen on the basis of the various stakeholder proposals.

30. The present REDD+ benefit sharing plan adopts the 3E approach (see box below).

Box 1. The 3E Principles Applied to the REDD+ Benefit Sharing Arrangements

Effectiveness. The benefit sharing arrangements must be designed to contribute to the achievement of the REDD+ objective (reducing deforestation and forest degradation while improving well-being); increased participation (for example, greater participation of various social groups in the protection and development of forests); and improvement of environmental conditions (for example, increase in forest cover or improvement of forest quality).

Efficiency. The benefit sharing arrangements must be organized as economically and effectively as possible. It must take account of the associated opportunity costs, transaction costs, implementation costs, and administrative and social costs.

Equity. The benefit sharing arrangements must be designed in such a way as to recognize both the costs and the benefits for the various players. Several important aspects of equity must be taken into account:

- procedural equity refers to participation in decision making and negotiation of competing interests;
- distributive equity refers to the distribution of benefits and costs among the various stakeholders
- contextual equity refers to existing social factors, such as capacity;
- the recognition of the rights and contribution of the players.

31. In addition to the 3E principles, the ERP Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) is based on the following principles and criteria:

- **alignment with the national laws and regulations and the rights of communities:** the design and implementation of the BSP for the ERP must comply with the laws applicable in Côte d’Ivoire, including agreements and customary rights;
- **transparency and inclusivity:** the BSP for the ERP is designed and implemented transparently and inclusively;
- **recognition of efforts and legal rights:** the benefits are attributed to: (i) stakeholders who take verified measures to achieve emission reductions (performance); (ii) stakeholders with

legal rights (modern or customary) to the trees and forests; and (iii) stakeholders who are proven to be effective and essential facilitators for emission reduction activities;

- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent:** the stakeholders voluntarily agree to implement the program after being informed of all of the related terms and conditions.

D. Beneficiaries

32. The ERP targets two groups of beneficiaries: (a) Direct Beneficiaries and, (b) Indirect Beneficiaries:

- **Direct Beneficiaries** include: (i) 24 cocoa producing farmers cooperatives in Classified Forests (CF) totaling 200,145 people dependent on the CF for cocoa production; (ii) 50 farmer associations, a population of about 230,000 who depends on the TNP resources, especially non-timber forests products for their livelihoods; (iii) 971 cocoa cooperatives operating in the Rural Domain totaling about 100 000 members; as well as (iv) SODEFOR responsible for the management of the 24 CFs targeted by the program; (v) OIPR responsible for the two targeted National Parks and one Nature Reserve; and (vi) three conservation NGOs working along OIPR for the National Parks protection. The total targeted direct beneficiaries number is estimated at 527,000 people in addition to OIPR, SODEFOR and three conservation NGOs. ([Annex 1](#) presents the detailed list of Direct Beneficiaries).
- **Indirect Beneficiaries** are the institutions responsible for ERP Governance: REDD+ Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD), the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI) and a Mobile Phone Company to be selected for money transfers to individual beneficiaries, the Cocoa Board (*Conseil Café-Cacao*); Ministry of Water and Forests; Land Tenure Agency (AFOR); Traditional chiefdom.

Eligibility criteria

33. **Three types of beneficiaries are eligible for benefit sharing under the ER Program:**

- public bodies and administrations whose main mission at national or regional level, is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, through sustainable forest management, conservation and regeneration;
- private organizations or individuals engaged in activities that directly or indirectly contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation or forest degradation, including agroforestry, natural regeneration and reforestation in the ERP area;
- members of recognized rural community groups and associations whose livelihoods depend on one of the forests located in the ERP area and able to prove a presence of more than two years in the area.

34. In addition to these criteria, to receive a payment the representatives of the beneficiaries must sign the following agreements once the ERPA is effective and at the onset of the implementation of ER activities:

- with the National REDD+ Committee³, for the implementation of program activities;
- with the FPRCI responsible for the management of payments.

Roles & responsibilities

35. **The direct beneficiaries are the key stakeholders of the program responsible for implementing the actual ER activities in the field**, regrouped as follows : (i) intensification and agroforestry towards “zero-deforestation” agriculture in Classified Forests (CF) and Rural Domain (RD); (ii) natural regeneration and conservation in CF, RD and National Parks (NP); (iii) afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded Classified Forests; (iv) sustainable forests management and conservation in NPs, CFs and RD. The indirect beneficiaries will guarantee the enabling environment for program implementation, including its governance, monitoring and evaluation, funds management and transfer. Table 4 below depicts the roles of the each category of beneficiaries.

Table 4. Beneficiaries missions & roles in the ER program area

Beneficiaries missions		Beneficiary roles in ERP area
Direct Beneficiaries	Cocoa farmers in CFs Contribute to increase cacao production and maintaining the Country as the top cocoa producers worldwide	Agroforestry in Classified Forests and agricultural intensification to reverse deforestation trends
	National Parks farmers associations Contribute to National Parks co-management along with OIPR	Agroforestry in buffer zones around National Parks, co-management of NPs through participation to patrolling and awareness raising at the local level to ensure avoided deforestation
	Cocoa-agroforestry and agricultural intensification in Rural Domain	Cocoa cooperatives in the Rural Domain Contribute to increase cacao production and maintaining the Country as the top cocoa producers worldwide
	SODEFOR Responsible for the management of the country’s Classified Forests	Natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry and conservation of ER Classified Forests and awareness raising for avoided deforestation
	OIPR Responsible for the Country’s National Parks Management	Conservation of ER targeted national parks through enhanced patrolling, natural regeneration of degraded areas and awareness raising at the local level to ensure avoided deforestation,
	NGOs Support OIPR in NPs conservation	Conservation of ER targeted national parks through awareness raising at the local level
Indirect Beneficiaries	SEP REDD Conducts the intersectoral dialogue to reverse deforestation trends and cross-sectoral coordination for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy	Program coordination, monitoring-evaluation and reporting
	Cocoa Board (Conseil Café-Cacao) Responsible for managing the Cocoa sector, pricing and provision of inputs to coca cooperatives	Monitoring of Cocoa farmers in the Rural Domain for the adoption of smart agriculture, intensification and agroforestry
	Ministry of Water and Forests Policy guidance on forest resources management and monitor adherence to forestry policies and laws.	Monitoring and evaluation of reforestation in the Rural Domain

³ An inter-ministerial committee reporting to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Beneficiaries missions		Beneficiary roles in ERP area
	Coordinates the Cocoa and Forests Initiative	
	Traditional authorities Owners of customary rights on lands and natural resources in the rural domain	Supervision of reforestation activities in the Rural Domain
	FPRCI Conservation Trust Fund responsible for financing recurrent costs for sustainable management of National Parks by OIPR	ER funds management and transfer to beneficiaries
	Mobile Money Company (Cell phone service provider)	Funds transfer to individual beneficiaries via mobile phone
	AFOR National Land Certification Agency	Land certificates delivery in the rural domain
	Cocoa Industry (Private Sector)	Work with cocoa cooperatives, organize them, and provide cash advances to cooperatives to ensure good production to supply to the Industry

E. Benefits

36. The implementation of the ER program yields that may be monetary or non-monetary.

ERPA payments

Monetary benefits

37. **Monetary benefits are actual cash payments made to institutions or individuals from ERPA payments** in accordance with the Benefit Sharing Plan and the utilization plan. ER payments will be divided into two parts : (i) part 1 to be shared among the Direct Beneficiaries based on the ER volume that each category of beneficiary is expected to generate; and, (ii) part 2 to be shared among Indirect Beneficiaries responsible for the governance of the program to cover the related governance operational costs.

38. Table 5 below shows the respective percentages of the volume of ERs expected from each category of Direct Beneficiaries, which is calculated based on the areas of lands under their responsibility and subsequent volume of ERs generated by the implementation of ER activities (i.e.. intensification & agroforestry, natural regeneration and conservation, afforestation, reforestation and restauration of degraded lands, sustainable forests management and conservation). These expected volumes of ERs are used in section G. “Funds Flow” to calculate the share of ERPA payments for each category of beneficiary.

Table 5. Projected ERs by Direct Beneficiaries based on lands areas in '1000 ha

	ER activities types		Conservation of areas under high pressure			Reforestation			Natural regeneration and conservation			Agroforestry			Total area ('1000 ha)	ER	
	ER surface area estimates per type of activity ('1000 ha)		23			40			114			100			277		
	ER activities locations		CF	NP	RD	CF	NP	RD	CF	NP	RD	CF	NP	RD	Total	MtCO2e	%
Direct beneficiaries	Rural communities	Cocoa Farmers in CFs	7,0			30,0						80,0			117,00	9,420	43,3%
		NPs Farmers Associations									0,5			5,0	5,50	0,293	1,3%
		Cocoa Cooperatives in RD			5,0						4,1			5,0	14,09	1,695	7,8%
	SODEFOR		10,0			10,0			78,4			10,0			108,39	8,458	38,9%
	OIPR			0,7						30,2					30,89	1,843	8,5%
	NGOs										1,0				1,00	0,056	0,3%
	TOTAL		17,0	0,7	5,0	40,0			78,4	30,2	5,6	90,0		10,0	276,87	21,765	100,0%
	Indirect beneficiaries	SEP REDD		ER Enabling Institutionsfor program implementation, including its governance, monitoring and evaluation, funds management and transfer.													
Conseil Café Cacao																	
Ministry of Water & Forests																	
Traditional Chiefdom																	
FPRCI																	
AFOR																	
Mobile company																	
Cocoa Industry																	

CF: Classified Forests; NP: National Parks; RD: Rural Domain.

Note: Rural communities include women, youths and vulnerable groups (see lists in annex 1).

Non-monetary benefits

39. **The non-monetary benefits comprise a set of goods, services directly related to the establishment and implementation of the ER program.** These benefits may provide direct incentives to the beneficiaries to contribute to the sustainability of program activities. They may be monitored objectively (e.g., technical assistance, capacity building, and payments or investments in kind such as seeds, equipment, etc.).

Summary

40. Table 6 below summarizes, for Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries, the ER activities which entitle them to monetary benefits, vs the non-monetary benefits supporting the achievement of ER activities.

Table 6. Monetary benefits; type of non-monetary benefits & delivering beneficiaries

	Beneficiaries	Monetary benefits	Types of non-monetary benefits
Direct beneficiaries	Cocoa farmers in CFs	Receive ERPA payments for ER generated through the implementation of agroforestry, conservation of areas under high pressure and reforestation in CFs on 117,000 ha.	Receive technical and on the job field trainings from SODEFOR on the implementation of agroforestry schemes. Receive forest seedlings provided by SODEFOR for introduction in their cocoa farms and regular coaching and monitoring from SODEFOR as needed for the success of the program.
	National Parks Farmers' Associations	Receive ERPA payments for the implementation of agroforestry and natural regeneration in National parks buffer zone (Rural Domain) on 5,500 ha.	Receive technical training in conservation techniques provided by OIPR, as well for agroforestry schemes jointly provided by OIPR and SODEFOR
	Cocoa cooperatives in the Rural Domain	Receive ERPA payments for the implementation of agroforestry, conservation of areas under high pressure and reforestation in the Rural Domain on 14,090 ha.	Receive technical trainings provided by the Cocoa Board for the adoption of cocoa agroforestry schemes in the rural domain. Receive inputs from the cocoa industry, training, coaching and mentoring for high cocoa productivity through intensification and agroforestry
	SODEFOR	Receive ERPA payments for the implementation of agroforestry, conservation of areas under high pressure and reforestation on 108,390 ha in CFs.	Receive policy guidance from the Ministry of Water and Forests. Participate in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide in preparation, and financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness.
	OIPR	Receive ERPA payments for natural regeneration and conservation on 30,890 ha in National Parks.	Receive guidance on agroforestry schemes through the global cocoa agroforestry guide under preparation with funding from the FCPF-Readiness under the leadership of SODEFOR. The guide is expected to be disseminated before ERPA effectiveness and copy will be shared with OIPR for practical implementation with National Parks Farmers' Association.
	NGOs	Receive ERPA payments for its contribution to conservation and natural regeneration of NPs in support to OIPR on 1,000 ha in NPs.	Receive training from OIPR on conservation and natural regeneration techniques
Indirect beneficiaries	SEP-REDD+	Receive ERPA payments to support day to day management of the program including coordinating ER credits generation by the program, verification of carbon and non-carbon monitoring and reporting of ERs to the Carbon Fund, and diligence of environmental and social safeguards. The cash payment will cover: (i) the salaries three MRV specialists, M&E specialist, an environmental safeguard specialist, a social safeguard specialist and communication specialist; and (ii) operating costs related to program supervision, monitoring and reporting requirements.	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, under the leadership of SODEFOR.
	Conseil Café Cacao (Cocoa Board)	Receive ERPA payments to cover its operating costs related to field missions, capacity building in agroforestry schemes for cocoa farmers in the rural domain, agroforestry seedlings including cocoa inputs they provide to cocoa farmers.	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, under the leadership of SODEFOR.

	Beneficiaries	Monetary benefits	Types of non-monetary benefits
	Ministry of Water and Forests	Receive ERPA payments to cover its operating costs related to (i) awareness raising activities (workshops at the national and local levels) for the implementation of country's strategy for forest preservation, restoration and expansion to 20% by year 2040, (ii) policy guidance on the implementation of the new Forest Code, and, (iii) close supervision of the Cocoa Industry for the implementation of the Cocoa and Forest Initiative through regular field missions.	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, under the leadership of SODEFOR.
	Traditional authorities (chiefdom)	Receive ERPA payments to cover costs related to technical assistance and operating costs for the delivery of customary land certificates as well as operating costs relating to implementation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism.	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, as well as in trainings on the program GRM procedures by SEP-REDD.
	FPRCI	Receive ERPA payments to cover its managements fees consisting of: (i) the salary of additional staff to be recruited and dedicated to the program, i.e., a financial management specialist responsible for funds transactions; and a forestry specialist with M&E background for support to annual work plans development, and their monitoring & evaluation; (ii) annual audits and other reporting requirements; and (iii) operating costs related to field missions for data collection and reporting to SEP-REDD	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, under the leadership of SODEFOR.
	AFOR	Receive ERPA payments to cover technical assistance and costs related to the delivery of land certificates to beneficiaries in the rural domain, in line with modern land tenure law.	
	Mobile Company	Receive ERPA payments to cover transaction costs related to cash transfer to local communities without bank accounts, as well as provision of SIM cards and cell phone numbers to local communities in need, to enable the cash transfer.	
	Cocoa Industry	No ERPA payment.	Participation in agroforestry schemes trainings to be recommended by the global cocoa agroforestry guide financed by the FCPF-Readiness to be delivered before ERPA effectiveness, under the leadership of SODEFOR.

Non-carbon benefits

41. **Benefits not related to carbon are those received directly or indirectly by the stakeholders during the implementation of activities** (table 7 below). The benefits not related to carbon listed in the following table do not form part of the benefit sharing plan, which is limited to monetary and non-monetary benefits from ERPA payments.

Table 7. Non-Carbon Benefits

Areas	Non-carbon Benefits Priorities Related to Implementation of the ERP
Rural domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase in income ○ Fight against soil erosion ○ Increased soil fertility ○ Adoption of sustainable land use practices ○ Clarification of land tenure ○ Secure land tenure ○ Increase in forest cover
Private domain of the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved transparency and forest management ○ Increased soil fertility ○ Adoption of sustainable land use practices

F. Performance measurement

Emissions Reduction

42. The performance in terms of GHG emission reductions as a result of the implementation of the activities will be evaluated by the National Forest Surveillance/Monitoring System (SNSF), in coordination with the SEP REDD+ in line with the methodologies outlined in the FCPF methodological framework.

43. The first level of evaluation will be carried out in program areas that can be disaggregated by administrative regions. This is designed mainly to increase accountability, transparency and effectiveness in relation to the implementation and monitoring of the ER program.

44. The performance in terms of GHG emission reductions will be evaluated in relation to the average annual historical GHG emissions listed in the reference level for forests located in the program area. Annual emission reductions as a result of deforestation and forest degradation will be estimated by combining the annual variations in land use associated with REDD+ activities with the carbon stock from the related land cover area, obtained from the forest inventory.

45. For each year of accounting and evaluation, a land cover change map of the program area will be prepared by combining the Landsat and Sentinel images and by correlating these with the previous map to produce a land cover change map. This land cover change map data will be used to estimate GHG emissions and absorptions using the National Forest Surveillance/Monitoring System and in accordance with the monitoring plan of the ERPD.

Direct Beneficiaries performance

46. The Direct Beneficiaries' performance will be evaluated on the basis of the level of achievement of planned ER activities in line with the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework. The overall performance, measured using a few simple indicators, will modulate the amount of ERPA payments to paid to the beneficiary. The amount to be paid to a given beneficiary will be based on three variables: (i) the total volume of ERs generated over the

reporting period at the jurisdictional level; (ii) the percentage of ERPA payments allocated to the beneficiary category and, (iii) the Beneficiary performance coefficient, i.e. level of implementation of planned ER activities in the beneficiary Annual Work Plan (AWP).

Box 2. Principle of determination of monetary benefits to be paid to direct beneficiaries

<p style="text-align: center;">Beneficiary payment =</p> <p style="text-align: center;">total ER payments for the reporting period at the jurisdictional level x % of ERPA payments allocated to the beneficiary category x beneficiary performance coefficient</p> <p>Total ER payments for the reporting period = <i>payments for total verified ERs at the jurisdictional level (\$5 x n MtCO₂e)</i></p> <p><i>n = number of million tCO₂e generated over the period at the jurisdictional level</i></p> <p>share allocated to the beneficiary category = <i>percentage of ER payments allocated to the category of the beneficiary (as per table 11 in section G. Funds Flow para. 57 showing the percentages of ER payments allocated to each category of beneficiary).</i></p> <p>beneficiary performance coefficient = <i>AWP achievement, valued between 0 and 1. (see indicators below)</i></p>

Performance Indicators

47. At the start of the program, the method for determining the rate of execution of the action plans will be validated by all stakeholders and will serve as the basis for evaluating the performance of Annual Work Plan (AWP) implementation and modulate ERPA payments to beneficiaries. This will be based on the two indicators presented in table 8 below as they apply to the four categories of ER activities. The first indicator applies to three of the four ER activities, and the second applies to the fourth one, the value of each indicator ranging between 0 and 1 (see scenarios a and b presented below).

Table 8: Performance Indicators

Activities	Indicators
1. Agricultural Intensification 2. Agroforestry 3. Afforestation, reforestation and restoration	Ratio of ha achieved vs ha planned in AWP (number of hectares achieved / number of hectares planned)
4. Sustainable management and conservation	Evolution of forest cover from ERP start (number of hectares of actual forest in conservation area / number of hectares of forest covered by conservation AWP at project start).

48. **Scenario a:** after the verification following a given reporting period :

- the total verified volume of ER generated over the period at the jurisdictional level is 6 MtCO₂e ;
- the 200 cooperatives of the category "cocoa cooperatives in Rural Domain" have implemented their ERs Annual Work Plans (AWP), and the performance coefficient reach 0.9;
- 6,6% of ERPA payments are allocated to the "cocoa cooperatives in Rural Domain" category (see. table 11 in section G. "Funds Flow" para. 57).
- The global envelope of the ERPA payment for this category of beneficiaries for the applicable reporting period will be: \$5 x 6 Mt CO₂e x 6.6% x 0.9 = \$1,782 million to be shared between the 200

cooperatives proportionally (pro-rata) to their respective surface area and performance with regard to their respective AWP.

49. In the event of beneficiaries activities being subject to more than one indicator simultaneously, scores will be prorated according to the surface area of each activity as illustrated in **Scenario b**: at the end of a given reporting period:

- a total verified volume of 6 million tCO₂e of ERs has been generated at the jurisdictional level;
- SODEFOR piloted the implementation of 1,000 ha of activity 4 (conservation) and 100 ha of activity 1 (agroforestry)⁴;
- the performance has been rated 90% for activity 4 and 80% for activity 1, the consolidated performance coefficient for the two activities will be: $(1000/1100] \times 90\%) + (100/1100] \times 80\%) = 0.818 + 0.072 = 0.890$
- the SODEFOR percentage on ER payments being 33% (cf. table 11), the ER payment due to SODEFOR as direct beneficiary for the period will be $\$5 \times 6 \text{ million tCO}_2\text{e} \times 33\% \times 0.890 = \8.90 million .

50. In the event there is a balance remaining after ERPA payments are distributed, that balance will be added to the reserve funds and redistributed together with the 3rd and last ERPA payments, or reallocated to MRV, M&E and safeguards activities, in case on non-performance.

Safeguards Compliance

51. The Direct Beneficiaries' AWP, prior to their implementation, will be subject to a safeguards screening to ensure compliance with World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards Framework (ESF). Table 9 below presents safeguards to be factored in AWP and subject to close monitoring of the SEP-REDD safeguards team throughout program implementation to ensure full compliance with World Bank ESF.

Table 9: Environmental and Social Safeguards to be embedded in Beneficiaries' AWP

Stakeholders	Activities	Safeguards
Cocoa farmers cooperatives in CFs	Agricultural Intensification	Compliance with the Integrated Pests Management Plan (IPMP)
	Agroforestry	Compliance with agro-forestry schemes in Rural Domain (<i>average 50 trees / ha in agricultural plots</i>)
	Reforestation and restoration of degraded lands & forests	Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF) (<i>verified non destruction of physical cultural sites</i>)
NPs Farmers associations (RD)	Agricultural Intensification	Compliance with IPMP
	Agroforestry	Compliance with agro-forestry schemes in Rural Domain (<i>average 10 trees / ha in agricultural plots</i>)
	Afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands & forests	Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF) (<i>verified non destruction of physical cultural sites</i>)

⁴ These surfaces are given by way of example without concern for realism.

Stakeholders	Activities	Safeguards
Cocoa cooperatives in RD	Agricultural Intensification	Compliance with IPMP
	Agroforestry	Compliance with agro-forestry schemes in Rural Domain (<i>average 10 trees / ha in agricultural plots</i>)
	Afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands & forests	Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF) (<i>verified non destruction of physical cultural sites</i>)
SODEFOR	Sustainable management and conservation of CFs	Compliance with CFs Management Plans
		Verified involvement of communities in CFs Management Plans elaboration
		Compliance with Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF) (<i>verified no access restrictions for forest dependent communities otherwise verified RAP implemented</i>)
	Agroforestry in CFs	Compliance with agro-forestry guidelines in CFs (<i>average 50 trees / ha in agricultural plots</i>)
OIPR & NGOs	Sustainable management and conservation of NPs	Compliance with NPs Management Plans
		Verified involvement of communities in NPs Management Plans elaboration
		Compliance with Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF) (<i>verified no access restrictions for forest dependent communities otherwise verified RAP implemented</i>)

G. Funds Flow

Net ER Payments

52. The net amount of ERPA payment to be paid to Beneficiaries is determined after the deduction of 8.5% of the ERs gross payment to cover the operational costs incurred by two Indirect Beneficiaries : FPRCI (1%), and SEP-REDD (7.5%). These deductions set the net ERPA payment for the other beneficiaries, direct and indirect, at 91.5% of the ERP total amount, i.e., \$75.49 million.

53. The 5% reserve fund has not been added to the above deductions as it will be withheld from the first and second ERPA payments and redistributed to Beneficiaries with the third ERPA payment (see chapter "Mechanism for transferring funds to final beneficiaries" para. 68).

54. As indicated in table 6 above para. 40 the 1% FPRCI fee will finance its management and operating costs consisting of additional staff, annual audits and other reporting requirements, as well as costs related to field missions for data collection and reporting to SEP-REDD (see chapter "Mechanism for transferring funds to final beneficiaries" para. 68).

55. As indicated in the same table 6 above, the 7.5% deduction for SEP-REDD will cover operating costs of overall coordination of the Program by SEP-REDD: (i) salaries of three MRV specialists, two safeguards specialists (environment and social), and communication and M&E specialists; (ii) operating costs relating to (a) coordination of ER credits generation by the program, (b) verification of carbon and non-carbon monitoring reports, (c) monitoring and reporting of ERs to the Carbon Fund, (d) diligence of environmental and social safeguards, and (e) stakeholders

consultations and awareness raising at the national and local levels. Table 10 below shows costs related to project management.

Table 10. Operational Costs

Items	Amounts (US\$)					Total (US\$)
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
1. Communications and mobilization of stakeholders	223,920	223,920	153,920	153,920	153,920	909,600
2. Environmental and social safeguards	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	650,000
3. Measurement, reporting and verification	426,000	226,000	226,000	210,000	210,000	1,298,000
4. Monitoring and evaluation	347,800	147,800	147,800	247,800	347,800	1,239,000
5. Project management costs	450,000	440,900	400,000	400,000	400,000	2,090,900
TOTAL	1,577,720	1,168,620	1,057,720	1,141,720	1,241,720	6,187,500

*Estimation basis: \$1 = CFAF 500

Payments Distribution

56. The approach used to formulate the monetary benefit distribution grid is based on: (i) the mapping of activities of all stakeholders in the program area; (ii) the individual performance of each actor in each category of activity; (iii) the estimate of the extent of the contribution of the stakeholders to the attainment of the key results of the program; and (iv) the need to give recognition to the value of the contributions of local communities and to support local development (see table 5 para. 38). Table 11 below shows the payments distribution among the categories of beneficiaries.

57. It is estimated that the implementation of the ER activities during the ERPA term will lead to a generation of 21.765 million tCO₂e ERs, of which an available volume of 16.5 million tCO₂e. These ex ante estimates are based on three parameters: (a) the estimated emissions for the scenario with the program, (b) the amount of 4% ERs to be set aside to compensate for the level of estimation uncertainty⁵, and (c) the amount of 20.2% ERs to be set aside as part of the risk of reversals (nonpermanence)⁶.

⁵ The level of uncertainty associated with estimates of activity data and emission drivers for the reference scenario increases to 17.30%, which enables the ER portion to be fixed at 4% to be set aside to compensate for the level of uncertainty.

⁶ The requirements for the operation of these two buffers are established by the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework and the Carbon Fund Buffer Guidelines.

Table 11. Expected payments per category of beneficiaries

	BENEFICIARIES	ER GENERATION		PAYMENTS	
		MtCO ₂ e	%	%	USD
Direct beneficiaries	Cocoa Farmers in CFs	9 419,9	43,3%	36,8%	30 349 757
	NPs Farmers Associations	293,3	1,3%	1,1%	944 963
	Cocoa Cooperatives in RD	1 695,1	7,8%	6,6%	5 461 422
	SODEFOR	8 458,1	38,9%	33,0%	27 251 043
	OIPR	1 843,2	8,5%	7,2%	5 938 710
	NGOs	55,6	0,3%	0,2%	179 105
	TOTAL	21 765,2	100,0%	85%	70 125 000
Indirect beneficiaries	SEP REDD			7,5%	6 187 500
	Conseil Café Cacao			2,0%	1 650 000
	Ministry of Water & Forests			2,0%	1 650 000
	Traditional Chiefdom			1,0%	825 000
	FPRCI			1,0%	825 000
	AFOR			1,0%	825 000
	Mobile company			0,5%	412 500
	Cocoa Industry				
				15%	12 375 000
				100%	82 500 000

58. The distribution of the estimated net amount of revenues generated by future ER sales to be paid to Beneficiaries is based on the respective shares of the two sets of beneficiaries, fixed at : (i) 85% for Direct Beneficiaries, actual ER generating actors; and (ii) 15% for Indirect Beneficiaries, administrations or public or private organizations enabling ER generation.

59. The Direct Beneficiary share (\$70.125million) will be distributed amongst the six beneficiary categories by multiplying their expected % of share of benefits shown in table 11, which is fixed, by their actual performance level. The distribution of the Indirect Beneficiary share (\$12.375 million) has been established according to their activities pertaining to ER governance and management.

Financial Mechanism

60. **Subject to ERPA negotiations, the Carbon Fund will pay up to US\$82.5 million for the effective delivery of 16.5 million tCO₂e**, duly reported and verified over a five-year period (2020–2024) in accordance with the FCPF Carbon Fund’s Methodological Framework. This amount corresponds to the purchase of 75% of the estimated ERs in that five-year period. Table 12 below presents the provisional payment schedule of ERs.

Table 12. Provisional payment schedule

Payment period	Operations	Reporting period	ER Volume (tCO ₂ e)	Gross Amount (US\$)	Net Amount (US\$)
	ERPA signature (Nov. 2020)				
(2021)	Upfront advance payment*				1 000 000
	Verification n°1	Date of ERPA signature to December 31, 2021	1 000 000	5 000 000	

Payment period	Operations	Reporting period	ER Volume (tCO ₂ e)	Gross Amount (US\$)	Net Amount (US\$)
2022	1st ERPA payment				4 000 000
	Reporting without verification	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022	(3 250 000)**		
2023	Interim Advance Pymnt (40%)				6 800 000
	Verification n°2	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023	8 500 000	42 500 000	
2024	2 nd ERPA payment				35 700 000
	Verification n°3	January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	7 000 000	35 000 000	
2025	3rd ERPA payment				35 000 000
		TOTAL	16 500 000	82 500 000	82 500 000

* After ERPA effectiveness conditions have been fulfilled.

** Estimated interim reporting period volume.

61. **The management of ERPA payments from the Carbon Fund and their redistribution among the beneficiaries will be channeled through the Foundation for Parks and Reserve of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI)** whose Board of Directors approved in December 2018 the role of the FRPCI to manage revenue from the sale of program ERs. The FPRCI is a private nonprofit Conservation Trust Fund created on November 20, 2003, under Law No. 2002-102 dated February 11, 2002, relating to the creation, management, and financing of National Parks and natural reserves. Its mission is to ensure long-term financing of the country's National Parks, nature reserves, and buffer zones through funds raising invested in an endowment capital which generates annual revenues to finance the core recurrent costs to sustain management of protected areas. The FRPCI comprises the following entities: (a) Board of Directors, (b) Executive Management, (c) Investment Committee, (d) Audit Committee, (e) internationally recruited asset manager; and (f) international auditor.

62. **A Financial Management (FM) capacity assessment of the FPRCI was conducted by the World Bank (WB)** Sr. Financial Management Specialist responsible for Côte d'Ivoire, in line with the minimum requirements under WB Policy and Directive – for Investment Projects; which describes the overall World Bank FM policies and procedures. The objective of the assessment was to determine whether the FPRCI has acceptable FM arrangements to ensure: (i) that funds are used only for the intended purposes in an efficient and economical way, (ii) the preparation of accurate and timely periodic financial reports; (iii) safeguarding of the assets; and (iv) can be subject to auditing diligences as required by the Bank.

63. **The FPRCI will have the overall fiduciary responsibility following the FM capacity assessment** which revealed that the entity has adequate FM arrangements: the assessment concluded that the FPRCI has experienced and qualified FM staff and acceptable FM tools (accounting software and FM procedure manual) in place to manage the ER resources. The FM team is familiar with funds management and capable of managing income from the sale of Emission Reduction – Program (ERPA Payments). The management of the funds, the distribution of profits, and their monitoring will be implemented according to the current procedures of the FPRCI and in line with a Subsidiary agreement to be signed with the Ministry of Finance before ERPA signature.

64. **The Subsidiary agreement will specify the financial flow arrangement and the use of funds**, including transfer of funds from the FCPF Carbon Fund to the FPRCI. The following the terms and conditions will be included in the Subsidiary agreement:

- (a) Financial agreements, including control clauses and obligations of the parties, will be co-signed between the beneficiaries, the FPRCI, and the REDD+ Commission;
- (b) Annual work plans and related budgets (AWPB) of the beneficiaries will be submitted by the beneficiaries to the SEP-REDD+ for quality enhancement and submission to the REDD+ Technical Committee for validation and to the REDD+ Commission for approval and transmittal to the FPRCI;
- (c) The SEP-REDD+ will ensure technical monitoring of the program and of the implementation of the beneficiaries' AWPB through field monitoring and review of beneficiaries' quarterly reports based on a set of key performance indicators;
- (d) The reviewed quarterly reports of all beneficiaries and the efficiency assessment of the SEP-REDD+ will be compiled and submitted to the REDD+ Technical Committee for validation and to the REDD+ Commission for approval;
- (e) The transfer of resources to beneficiaries by FRCI will be triggered based on documented performance by the SEP-REDD in line with defined performance indicators and in accordance with the conclusions of the external evaluations carried out by the Experts of the Carbon Fund;
- (f) The FPRCI Executive Directorate will ensure financial monitoring of the use of the resources through audits, certification of the expenses, and review of quarterly beneficiaries' financial reports. The FPRCI Executive Directorate will conduct an annual audit mission on the use of resources and the resulting report will be presented to its Board of Directors.

65. **The SEP-REDD+ and the FPRCI Executive Directorate will conduct an annual assessment** of the technical and financial implementation of the annual work plans on the basis of the quarterly reports received from all beneficiaries. This assessment will be followed by the production of a combined annual report, which will be validated by the REDD+ Technical Committee, approved by the REDD+ Commission and transmitted to the Board of Directors of the FPRCI responsible for informing the MEF on the implementation of the program. Figure 3 and 4 depict respectively the contractual arrangement and financial flows.

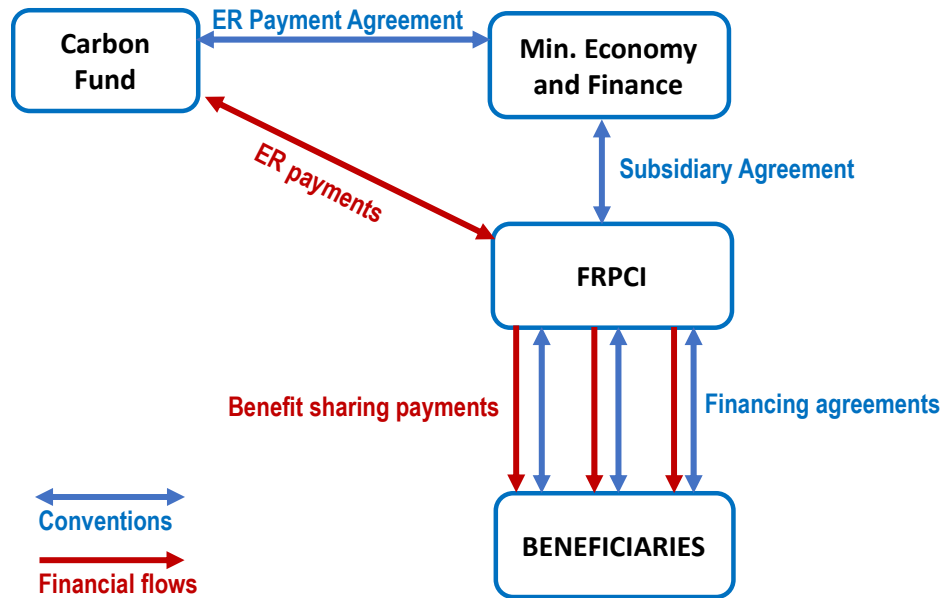


Figure 3. Contractual Arrangement and Financial Flows under the ERP

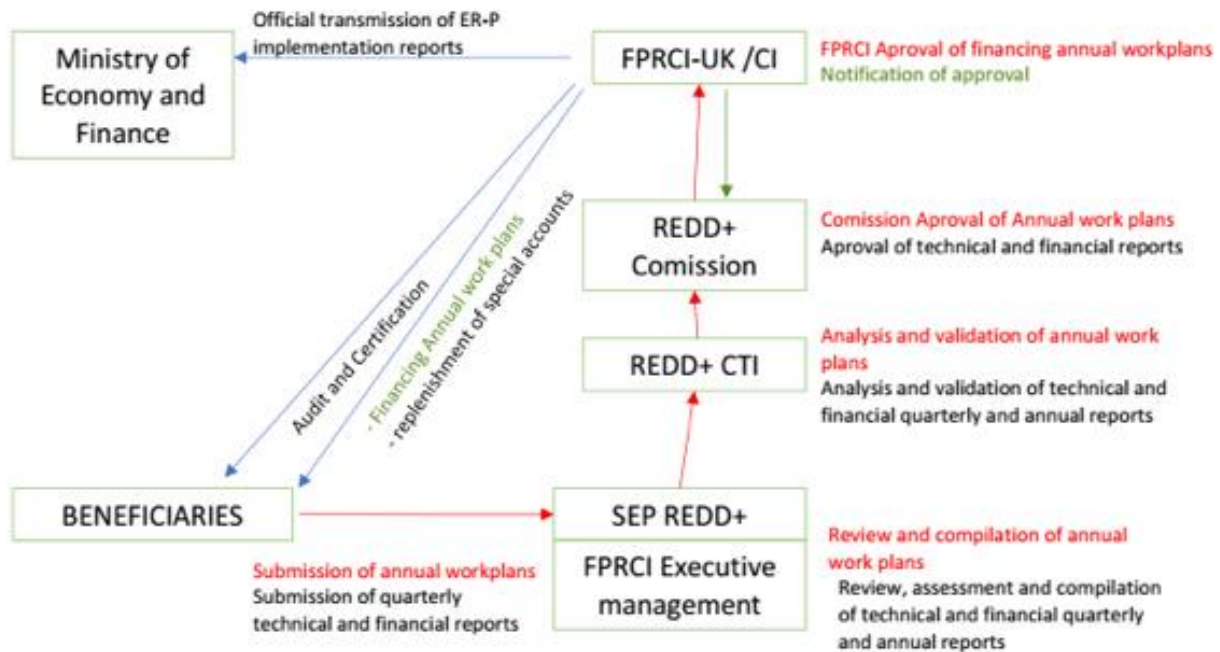


Figure 4. Reporting Arrangement

ER designated accounts managed by FPRCI

66. Funds will be paid entirely into two designated accounts as follows:

- Reserve account (FPRCI-UK): 5%;
- 95% FPRCI distribution account in a commercial bank in Abidjan.

67. These accounts will not be subject to any compensation with another account opened by FPRCI with the same FPRCI-UK asset manager and will be used exclusively to finance Program activities. These accounts will function as sinking funds.

Mechanism for transferring funds to final beneficiaries

68. **The mechanism for transferring funds to beneficiaries is based on the principle of minimizing the risk of loss or diversion by intermediary actors in the payment flow:**

- The payments granted by the Carbon Fund are directly transferred to the FPRCI-CI distribution account, after deduction of the reserve (5%) which will be managed by the FPRCI-UK: The reserve will be: (i) deducted from the first and second ERPA payments to all beneficiaries except for FPRCI and AFOR responsible for fund management and transfer; and, (ii) redistributed at the time of the 3rd ERPA payment following the same modalities as the net ER payments, contingent upon satisfactory performance. In the event of non-performance by certain beneficiaries, their reserve share will be allocated to MRV, M&E and safeguards activities
- The FPRCI-CI deducts its management costs (1%) and distributes the remaining 94% to direct and indirect beneficiaries. The management fees cover: (i) the salary of additional staff to be recruited and dedicated to the program, i.e., a financial management specialist responsible for funds transactions; and a forestry specialist with M&E background for support to annual work plans development, and their monitoring & evaluation; (ii) annual audits and other reporting requirements; and (iii) operating costs related to field missions for data collection and reporting to SEP-REDD
- Indirect beneficiaries receive their payments on their bank accounts;
- Direct beneficiaries receive their payments via bank accounts for formally constituted entities (OIPR, SODEFOR, Cooperatives, etc.) or through mobile transfer companies for individuals. The list of these individuals will be established by the SEP-REDD +, validated by the national REDD + committee and made available to the FPRCI which signs, from the start of the program, an agreement with mobile transfer company. Figure 5 presents the financial flows.

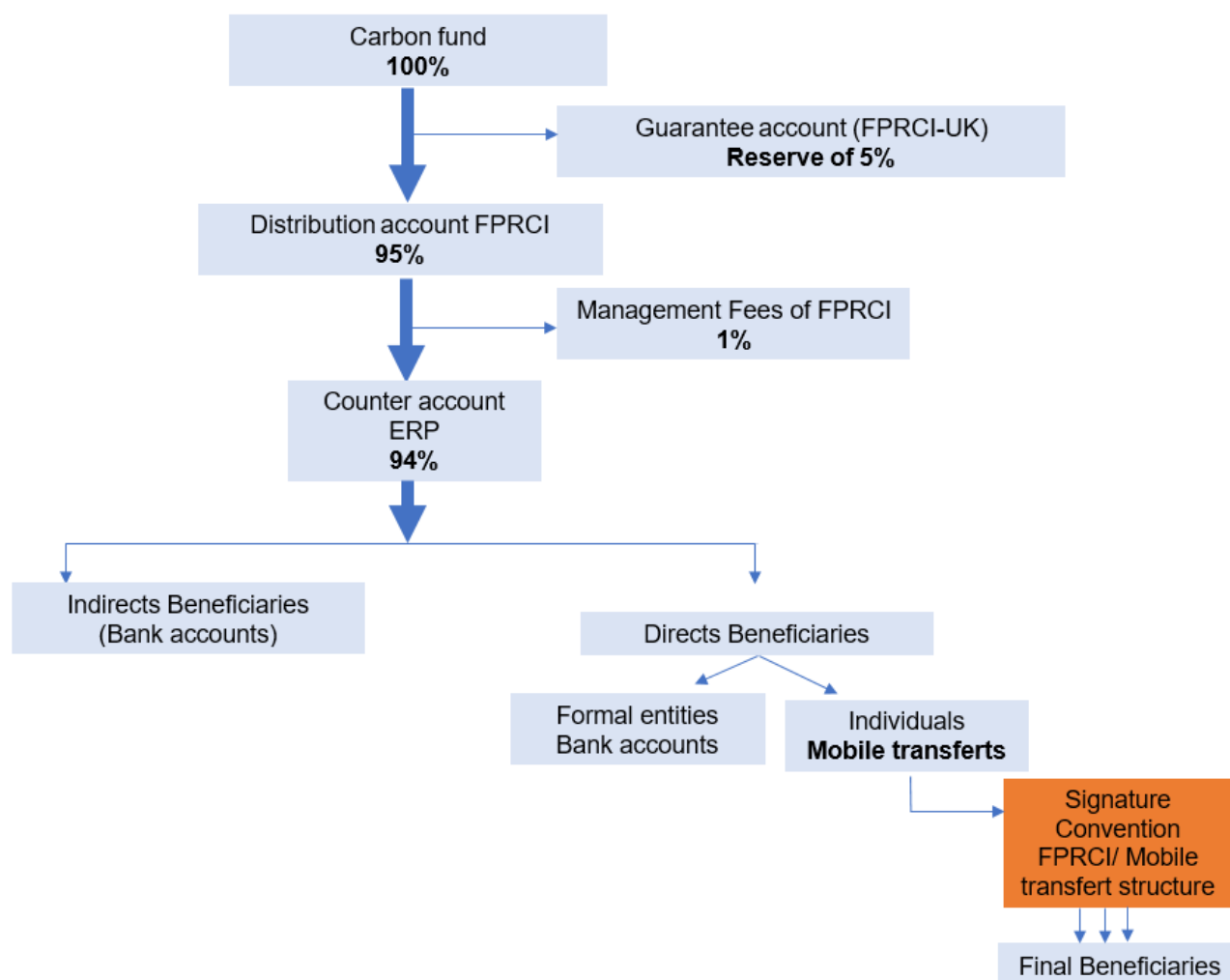


Figure 5. Financial flows

H. Safeguards

69. **ER payments are subject to verified ERs that are compliant with the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework.** Under the FCPF-Readiness, the Government prepared in a participatory manner with key stakeholders, a series of environmental and social safeguards instruments as part of the country's REDD+ Infrastructure and to support implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. These include: (i) a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA); (ii) an Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework; (iii) an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP); (iv) Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF); (v) a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF). These instruments were cleared by the World Bank and disclosed in-country and on the World Bank website respectively on March 17 and March 24, 2020. With the New World Bank Social Safeguards Standards (ESF) applicable to the ER Program, the Government prepared the same instruments specific to the ER program area, (except for the SESA which applies to the ERP), to mitigate potential environmental and social safeguards impacts associated with the ER activities.

70. The ER activities to be implemented in the Program area encompass: (i) agricultural intensification and agroforestry towards “zero deforestation” agriculture; (ii) sustainable management of forests and conservation of Classified Forests (CF) and National Parks; (iii) afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands and forests. Although these activities are expected to have positive social and environmental impacts, some of them could potentially have adverse impacts that should be mitigated as follows:

- Intensification and agroforestry towards “zero-deforestation” agriculture: this ER activity could necessitate the use of pesticides with negative impacts on the environment. To mitigate these risks, direct beneficiaries (farmers associations of TNP, cocoa producing farmers in CFs, cocoa cooperatives in the Rural Domain) involved with this activity will be required to apply good pest management approach in line with the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), in addition to adopting as much as possible alternatives to chemical pesticides (i.e. homologated biopesticides).
- Sustainable management of forests and conservation of Classified Forests (CF) and National Parks (NP): this activity will be commanded by CF and NP management plans that could lead to restriction of access of forest-dependent communities to natural resources including non-timber forest products on which they depend for their livelihoods. Therefore management plans will be prepared in a participatory manner with forest riparian communities to ensure their continued access to forest resources. In the event of involuntary resettlement, a Resettlement Action Plan will be prepared, funded by the Government and implemented before activities commencement.
- Afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands and forests in the Rural Domain, these activities could take place in areas containing sites deemed physical or cultural resources by local communities (holy/secret sites such as sacred groves, sacred forests etc.). Therefore, these activities will be guided by Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF).

71. **Safeguards implementation:** Responsibility and oversight of the ERP overall compliance with national and World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards will rest with the environmental and social specialists of SEF-REDD. They will work in close collaboration with the National Environmental Protection Agency (*ANDE: Agence Nationale de l'Environnement*) responsible for ensuring compliance of the ERP activities with the national legislation. ANDE will conduct periodic monitoring of project's compliance with proposed mitigation measures using the National Safeguards Information System prepared under the FCPF-Readiness. ANDE will also receive guidance and technical support from the World Bank environmental and social safeguard specialists based in the Abidjan country office.

I. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

72. **A GRM was prepared under the FCPF Readiness and validated at the national level in August 2016** to address potential complaints that might arise from the use of natural resources including from the sharing of benefits resulting from ERPA payments. Potential grievances (presumed damage, facts or grounds for grievances) may lead to complaints being filed by beneficiaries include disagreements: (i) with the findings of the performance evaluation of the

activities/actions of beneficiaries; (ii) from calculation errors in the estimates of financial benefits; (iii) from non-payment of the full amount of financial benefits payable and/or failure to pay within the established time period.

73. The GRM operating mode includes seven stages: (i) reception and recording of the complaint; (ii) acknowledgment and assessment; (iii) proposing a response and developing a draft response; (iv) communicating the proposed response to the plaintiff and reaching an agreement; (v) implementing the response to the complaint; (vi) reconsideration of the response, in the event of failure; and (vii) closure or referral of the complaint to another body.

74. There are four levels of conflict resolution bodies who receive and address the complaints in line with the seven stages above: (i) traditional authorities; (ii) State decentralized administration (*sous-préfecture* or *préfecture*); (iii) National REDD+ Commission; and (iv) Court (last resort). The details of the mechanism are presented in annex 4.

J. Stakeholders' Consultations

During BSP preparation

75. **This benefit sharing plan was prepared in a participatory manner involving all categories of stakeholders**, representing: (i) local communities and traditional authorities; (ii) the private sector; (iii) civil society organizations; and (iv) public administration. It provides information to beneficiaries on the arrangements for sharing monetary benefits as well as provisions relating to non-monetary benefits. It is based on the principles of effectiveness, efficiency and equity. About 900 people were consulted and their inputs incorporated in the BSP.

76. Stakeholders' consultations on the BSP were conducted between 2018 and 2019, and early 2020 (before the COVID19 pandemic) during which all direct and indirect beneficiaries fully adhered to the proposed BSP and there was a consensus that benefits assigned to the different categories of beneficiaries were commensurate with their contribution to ER activities and subsequent monetary and non-monetary benefits.

77. **Private Sector (Cocoa Industry)** expressed their full commitment to the program and continued support to their respective cocoa farmers cooperatives through: (i) provision of inputs and; (ii) capacity building for adoption of agroforestry schemes and agricultural intensification methods in line with their commitment to the Cocoa & Forest Initiative.

78. **Traditional authorities** also committed to support farmers in the rural domain to undertake afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry activities on the lands for which customary rights belong to the traditional chiefdoms. The chiefdoms were also pleased with the share of benefits allocated to them.

79. **Forest-dependent communities including National Parks Associations, Cocoa producers in CF, Cocoa producers in the Rural Domain**, were also pleased that the program recognized them as key stakeholders implementing field activities and has provided them with an important share of the benefits. However, some of them without bank accounts, requested that mobile transfer be used so they can directly receive the cash on their cell phones. This request was incorporated in the flow of funds arrangements.

80. **SODEFOR and OIPR** also expressed satisfaction on being identified as direct beneficiaries considering their national missions for managing protected areas in the country. They are also satisfied with their share of benefits. SODEFOR committed to involve CF dependent communities in the development and implementation of CF management plans and to continue to coach them in the implementation of agroforestry in CF in line with the Government Strategy for Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation and Extension. SODEFOR will also provide forest seedlings for introduction in cocoa farms in CFs and coach the farmers with their introduction in their farms and maintenance for effective ER. OIPR and Conservation NGOs committed to support the National Parks Dependent communities in conservation activities to ensure that ER activities are fully delivered and that they get their share of benefits as expected. Annex 3 presents details of the consultation process.

81. **After the BSP approval by the Carbon Fund participants, SEP-REDD will organize a national dissemination workshop** of the final version prior to ERPA signature or before end 2020, should the restrictions related to the COVID19 pandemic be lifted. Otherwise, the final BSP will be published on SEP-REDD website which is accessible to all beneficiaries until COVID19 confinement is lifted.

During BSP implementation

82. **The implementation of the BSP will be accompanied by continued and regular consultations** especially with forest-dependent communities, in order to take into account their perceptions and opinions throughout the Program life. In addition to these consultations, stakeholders information and awareness-raising will be ensured through the Union of Rural Radios of Côte d'Ivoire (URPCI), to which all local radios are affiliated with. The ERP area radios will regularly broadcast spots, press releases, interviews, sketches and information on the status of ERP implementation and sharing of benefits. Awareness raising campaigns on forest protection will also be broadcasted on national television.

83. As the COVID19 pandemic prevented the normal implementation of the 2020 awareness-raising plan, apart from a few sessions carried out in January, these awareness-raising activities will resume as soon as the confinement measures are entirely lifted. This will include communication on the final version of the BSP as well as continued awareness raising on the ERP on national and local Ivorian radio and television. A strong sensitization tool currently in preparation, namely a 52-episode TV series, "My forestry family", will be broadcasted on national, regional and international television, as well as on certain social media networks, such as Abidjan.net.

K. Monitoring Implementation of the BSP

84. **At the national level, the SEP-REDD+ will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the ERP**, under the supervision of the REDD+ National Committee and Inter-ministerial Technical Committee. It will be the main agency responsible for: (i) ER credits generated by the program; (ii) national verification of carbon and non-carbon monitoring reports; (iii) safeguards monitoring; (iv) complaints and conflict resolution decision monitoring and implementation, as well as forwarding appeals to REDD+ National Committee for resolution as a

final court of appeals; and (v) monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the ERP and related BSP. In its role, the SEP-REDD+ will be supported by the different departments from Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD), Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Ministry of Finance (MEF), SODEFOR, OIPR, private operators (Cacao Industry) and NGOs.

85. **At the regional level, the organization of the ER area includes a set of statewide and local entities** and parties for implementing REDD+ projects and activities. To ensure the regional supervision of the ERP and related BSP, SEP-REDD+ will organize two yearly meetings in the ERP area regions between the different parties involved in its implementation, (as representatives of the five REDD+ regional committees), managers and NGOs involved in implementing REDD+ projects, representatives from the private sector, and local SODEFOR and OIPR representatives. Annex 2 details the implementation and monitoring arrangements.

L. Risk Management in Relation to Program Non-Performance

86. **The ERP may, for a variety of reasons, fail to produce the expected results.** Such reasons may include force majeure, unforeseen events, or program under-performance. The risks associated with poor performance or non-implementation may complicate the benefit sharing process.

87. In order to manage this situation, the benefit sharing plan proposes: (i) pro rata distribution of benefits associated with the emission reductions generated; (ii) non-payment to any actor whose actions serve to nullify the efforts of other stakeholders; (iii) transparency in the management of payments to communities and regular reporting to all stakeholders on the risks associated with program implementation.

88. The benefit sharing plan also provides for the setting up of a reserve of 5% of all payments to address instances of poor performance or non-implementation of the ER program.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Direct Beneficiaries

Table 13. Classified Forests dependent farmers, Direct Beneficiaries for monetary benefits

N°	CF	Area (ha)	Degradation rate	Surface area degraded (ha)	Estimate of agricultural area (ha)	Total farmers by CF, direct ER beneficiaries
1	CAVALY	67,698	13%	8,808	5,285	2,216
2	DASSIOKO SUD	7,207	41%	2,946	1,767	505
3	KROZALIE	8,997	63%	5,702	3,421	1,140
4	DASSIOKO NORD	3,555	67%	2,370	1,422	474
5	DAVO	11,990	68%	8,146	4,887	1,629
6	BOLO EST	9,762	78%	7,635	4,581	1,527
7	PORT_GAUTHIER	3,968	78%	3,106	1,864	621
8	BOLO OUEST	5,742	83%	4,753	2,852	951
9	NIEGRE	97,177	86%	83,134	49,880	16,627
10	OKROMODOU	107,158	87%	93,110	55,866	18,622
11	NIOUNIOUROU_BLOC	7,670	93%	7,122	4,273	1,424
12	SCIO	89,946	96%	85,925	51,555	17,185
13	GOIN-DEBE	131,343	95%	124,622	74,773	24,924
14	MONOGAGA	39,026	95%	37,092	22,255	7,418
15	MONT KOURABAHI	2,839	94%	2,672	1,603	534
16	HAUTE DODO	212,943	95%	202,888	121,733	40,578
17	RAPIDES_GRAH	226,280	95%	214,072	128,443	42,814
18	DUEKOUÉ	52,304	95%	49,530	29,718	9,906
19	SEMIEN	2,784	98%	2,739	1,644	548
20	TYONLE	4,473	98%	4,390	2,634	878
21	KOUIN	8,548	77%	6,602	3,961	1,320
22	MONT TIA	24,602	97%	23,960	14,376	4,792
23	FRANSOBLI	14,193	99%	14,118	8,471	2,824
24	CAVALY MONT SANTE	14,602	99%	14,511	8,706	2,902
	TOTAL	933 461		853 929	561 078	200 145

Table 14. Farmers Associations riparian to targeted National Parks

N°	Secteur	Village	Associations	Date of creation	Responsible persons names	Responsible persons contacts
1	TAÏ	ZIRIGLO	KEREBANAN	05/04/2010	ZALLE MARIAM	09 92 82 72
2		ZIRIGLO	BINKADI	12/06/2010	SAWADOGO MARIAM	58 57 04 11
3		PAULE OULA	AVCD DE PAULE OULA	01/05/2018	BELE DONATIEN	08 04 79 34
4		TAÏ	KAMBONOU	10/02/2013	SIHO CECILE	48 41 68 89
5		TAÏ	BINKADI	08/07/2012	DOUMBIA SANATA	57 35 72 30
6		KEIBLY	AFADEK	10/02/2010	KONE TENINGA	40 14 48 00
7		KEIBLY	AUFF	05/06/2012	KAMBOU THEUMIENNA	02 14 72 81
8		ZAGNE	ONG NOFNA	avr-15	TERE Fidèle	58 32 24 34
9		ZAGNE	DIAGNA	17/02/2013	GANAME FATI	59 59 46 03
10		ZAGNE	AKOUI	17/11/2012	ZETO MARIE	49 69 46 03
11		ZAGNE	LOKOEUR	18/09/2009	FIEU COLETTE	48 36 51 63
12		ZAGNE	AVCD DE ZAGNE	2009	GUENAYE Godier Martin	09 28 16 99
13		BEHEBO (V15)	AVCD DE V15	2017	SIABA KPAN LUCIEN	40 53 90 20
14	ADK/V6	Buyo -cité	ONG "Dignité"		ABY DEHALE CHANTAL	07 80 19 43
15		KODAYA(V5)	Binkadi		Kpande monne therese	49 43 41 53
16		TCHETALY (V1)	Assiessien		Koulaï Martine	57 14 59 91
17		TCHETALY (ADK)	Groupement "éhouka-éhonian"		BONI ADJOUA JUSTINE	49 16 64 83
18		TCHETALY (V1)	SIGUI TE MOGO SON	sept-15	FANATOUGOURI Alimanta	78 10 51 09
19		TCHETALY (V1)	CONSERVATION TAÏ		KOUARAÏ Vrerou Gaston	08 57 43 87
20		SAGBOYA	N'GNONIAN		Thérèse (Présidente)	49 31 25 87
21		BUYO	ASSOCIATION DES MAREYEURS ET DES VENDEUSES DE POISSON "IBO AYO"	21-nov-15	GNOTTO D. MARIE- LOUISE	48 46 43 04
22		DERRA-KABAKROUSSO	ASSOCIATION DES PECHEURS DE DERRA-KABAKROUSSO (HÊRÊ)	2015	MAIGA Agaliou Amadou	48 15 25 79
23		PK 15	ASSOCIATION DES PECHEURS DE PK 15 (DANAYA-ESPOIR)	2015	DEMBELE Adama	49 23 34 97
24		Zoba - Kobassa	ASSOCIATION DES PECHEURS DE Zoba - Kobassa (SABOUGNOUMAN)	2015	TRAORE ALI	08 46 97 23
25		PK 28	ASSOCIATION DES PECHEURS DE PK 28	2015	DIOMANDE AMARA	09 17 56 01
26		5 kilo	ASSOCIATION DES PECHEURS	2015	MAIGA Mouktar Ali	59 05 53 04
27		DAPEOUA	Association de la Tribu Pessakua Ikeudouo Pour la Préservation de l'Environnement (ATPIPE)	18-mars-18	GNAZEBO Samuel	09 20 55 87
28		Wonséaly	Fruitier forestier (APSA)	2018	DIGBEU Frebo Philippe	49 09 81 82
29		GNAGBOYA	Fruitier forestier (SACOH)	2018	KRA Yao François	48 18 10 24
30	SOUBRE	DAHILI	ONG FIDEPS	30-janv-07	Mme Ouattara née Michèle Camille Save	58 40 53 61
31		DAHILI	AVCD DE DAHILI	2009	Konan Kouamé Jean-Marie	45 60 73 58
32		KRA N'GUESSANKRO	Anouhanzé	2012	KOUADIO Kouamé René	47 74 92 05
33		KOFFIKRO	GFK		N'DRI Germain	74 52 98 51
34		JOHIN	Association pour le Développement de John		SORE MOMOUNI	59 08 71 02
35		SIDIBEDOUGOU	Association Sinignan Singui		TRAORE Ousmane	51 02 58 50 58 15 70 24

N°	Secteur	Village	Associations	Date of creation	Responsible persons names	Responsible persons contacts
36		SOUBRE	ONG AURORE	2016	LELA Modeste	05 48 62 79 09 25 11 65
37		YACOLIDABOUO	ONG YVEO	17 avril 2013	RAYMOND Siballly	58 86 38 26
38	DJAPADJI	DOBA	ABEBEKELE		Madame Odile	47 71 99 8 09 23 96 07
39		KOUASSIKRO	TOUTIA		YAO Amenan	07 38 09 74
40		DOBA	ONG SIFHOKA	2017	LANTA Thimoté	08 28 28 03
41		DOBA	CODEDO	2015	KABLA Nemlin	07 77 44 13
42		DJAPADJI	Association des femmes Solidaires des Producteurs de laSociété Coopérative SOCAT (Femmes Solidaires Famille 1 de TAADJI)	janv-16	KANGBE Yogolelou Philomée	48 90 48 50 44 09 71 54
43		DJAPADJI	AMANH (association de femmes)		Oueria pléni Félicité	06 88 76 26 57 51 90 70
44		DJAPDJI	AVCD DE DJAPDJI		PKEUKLE Ibo Joachim	49 45 45 91
45		DJAPADJI	AFED		BITTIE Aminata (Vice Présidente)	
46	DJOUROUTOU	YOUKOU	AVCD DE YOUKOU	2010	HIE Gnessoa Arsène	48 10 35 58 54 88 05 79
47		YOUKOU	BATOUHOKLI	2014	HIE POLE Elise	47 65 45 73
48		PARA	SCOOPS Wendsogdo	janv-18	SEBEGO BOUKARY	09 19 48 49 72 57 63 88
49		DJOUROUTOU	AVCD DE DJOUROUTOU		GNENAOH Sah Michel	79 83 75 92
50		DJOUROUTOU	Groupement AWELONON	2013	HINO NINA	88 91 35 56 08 18 99 15
Women Cooperatives					25	

Table 15. NGOs ER direct beneficiaries riparian of Mont Péko

	NGOs names	Responsible persons	Contacts
1	SOS Mt Peko	Lompo Maximilien	79 75 25 05 / 55 98 08 97
2	CODEPARC	GOULIA TAH Obin	08 03 00 22
3	Picou	Kamagaté Lamine	07 53 15 15

Rural Domain Direct Beneficiaries (cocoa cooperatives and reforestation and afforestation cooperatives).



Cocoa cooperatives
.doc

Annex 2: Implementation and Monitoring arrangement of the ERP and related BSP

National Supervision

1. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire will be the signatory of the ERPA. It is the direct contact of the Carbon Fund Administrator and is legally responsible for the program's success. The Ministry of Finance will sign the ERPA with the Carbon Fund.
2. The MINEDD is responsible for the REDD+ process, the focal point in relation to the UNFCCC, and has oversight of the OIPR. It is responsible for ecology and the protection and conservation of nature, wildlife, and sustainable development.
3. The MINEF is responsible for renewing, developing, and managing the national forest heritage. It is the focal point for the Voluntary Partnership Agreement-Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade and the ministry with oversight of SODEFOR.
4. To coordinate all of the sectors involved in REDD+, a National REDD+ Commission has been created. This is a cross-sector analysis, advisory, and guidance structure for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. It is made up of a CN-REDD+ in charge of steering the REDD+ mechanism, an Inter-Ministerial Technical REDD+ Committee, depending of Prime Minister office, in charge of cross-sector coordination between ministries concerned with REDD+, and a REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD+), which is tasked with the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.
5. In this regard, the SEP-REDD+ will have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the ERP under the supervision of the National REDD+ Committee, with the support of the REDD+ Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee. Its capacities have been reinforced to enable it to carry out this mission, with a new structure organized around seven functional units: (a) administration and finance unit; (b) contract award unit; (c) internal audit and management control unit; (d) strategy and partnerships unit; (e) monitoring, measurement, notification, and verification unit, (f) planning, monitoring and evaluation, and safeguards unit; and (g) communication unit.
6. The SEP-REDD+ will constitute the principal agency responsible for the coordination of activities generating ERs under the program framework, and it will be responsible for the national verification of the carbon monitoring and safeguards reports, for the monitoring of complaints and appeals, relying in particular on the services of the MINEDD, MEF, SODEFOR, and OIPR, independent observer (OI-REN and Wild Chimpanzee Foundation [WCF]) as well as organizations such as GIZ. In particular, it will be responsible for the following tasks:
 - Ensuring consistency of the current and planned initiatives/projects in the ER-P area and their alignment with the objectives of the ER-P.
 - Checking the ER monitoring reports and the monitoring of safeguards and joint benefits, the complaints, and appeals transmitted by the project's/initiative's management units and the project owners, to certify that the credits generated by the project/programs meet national standards.
 - Ensuring the correct application of the Environmental and Social Management Framework and specific frameworks, as well as proper handling of complaints.
 - Managing information about projects and programs through the National REDD+ Registry/ Spatial land monitoring geoportal (*Géoportail Surveillance Spatiale des Terres de la Côte d'Ivoire*), in particular information related to the generation and certification of ERs.

- Informing the National REDD+ Committee, the UNFCCC, the FCPF, and the international and local partners, in particular the private sector and local communities, on the satisfactory progress of the ER-P.

Regional Supervision

7. At the regional level, the country is organized into a set of state and local structures and project delivery actors.

8. **Decentralized bodies.** The prefectures and regional councils constitute the deconcentrated and decentralized structures. As government delegates, the regional prefecture represents each of the ministries as well as the national interests and oversees the application of laws and regulations. Within the context of delivery of the program, it monitors compliance with the policies relating to the implementation of REDD+ activities and it plays an essential role in supervising the complaints and appeals mechanism open to recipients. The regional councils are tasked with steering regional development within this context; they play an essential role in local territorial planning and the implementation of REDD+ activities. At the municipal level, they interact with city councils that are also key players in local development.

9. **Regional REDD+ committees.** As provided for by Decree 2012-1049 of October 24, 2012, the regional committees are tasked with implementing the decisions taken by the CN-REDD+ and the SEP-REDD+ at the regional level. They have the same composition as the SEP-REDD+ but at the regional level. They are made up of technical structures falling within the remit of the key ministries: MINADER, MINEF, the Ministry of Industry and Mines, and MINEDD together with research centers. The primary role of these structures on a day-to-day basis is the technical application of the plan defined by their respective entities. The objective of the regional committees is to ensure the implementation and harmonization of the REDD+ activities at the regional level.

10. **Project delivery stakeholders.** The principal stakeholders concerned with program delivery are the national institutions; the private sector (agribusinesses, mining operators, and the wood industry); agricultural cooperatives; NGOs; and local communities. Their role is to develop and implement activities designed to reduce GHG emissions. In the program area, several projects coexist with specific institutional arrangements.

11. To oversee the ER-P at the regional level, the SEP-REDD+ will organize biannual meetings in the ER-P area, between the various delivery actors, in particular the prefects and presidents of the regional councils (in their capacity as representatives of the five regional REDD+ committees concerned), the managers and NGOs involved in REDD+ project delivery, private sector representatives, local representatives of SODEFOR, and the OIPR.

12. The purpose of these meetings will be to

- Coordinate all the initiatives and projects for delivery of the program;
- Provide the policy and strategic directions for the program;
- Coordinate the implementation of work plans and the program budgets;
- Review the activities carried out and draw a connection with the results relating to the reduction of emissions and sequestration;
- Monitor the safeguards, co-benefits, and the operation of the complaints and appeals management mechanism; and
- Inform all actors and local communities on the progress of the activities undertaken and the performance of the program.

13. The ER-P monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out by the SEP-REDD+' MRV unit in collaboration with the monitoring and evaluation managers of the various projects and programs implemented in the ER-P area.

14. At the beginning of the year—based on ongoing projects, programs, and initiatives—a global planning meeting will be organized to consolidate action plans and ensure better monitoring of their implementation. Data collection and quality control missions will be carried out by the SEP-REDD+ for each of the projects, programs, and initiatives in progress. Quarterly review meetings will be organized to present the different status of ongoing projects, programs and initiatives.

15. The SEP-REDD+ will provide in the ER-P area the following:

- Coordination of the National Forest Monitoring System and the MRV system by the SEP-REDD+ MRV unit
- Establishment and support of the functioning of the GRM
- Support for the implementation and supervision of the environmental and social management provisions and measures of the program
- The functioning of the SIS
- Management of the national register of REDD+ projects and initiatives
- Support for external monitoring and evaluation of the program by the independent observatory of civil society (OI-REN)

Annex 3: Stakeholders Consultations

Aims and objectives of stakeholder consultations

1. The benefit sharing plan outlines the mechanism, process and criteria to be applied when sharing all benefits derived from REDD+ activities, especially benefit sharing associated with the sale of carbon credits. The aim of the consultations was to:
 - Elicit the views, concerns and alternative solutions of stakeholders in relation to the ERP benefit sharing mechanism;
 - Share information with stakeholders on the lessons learned at the global level on the REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism;
 - Examine the lessons learned from the implementation of existing projects in Côte d'Ivoire that could be applied at the national level to the REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism.

Stakeholders consultation process

2. The Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) at the national level and in relation to the ERP was informed by the inputs provided by stakeholders at consultations held in 2018 and 2019 in Abidjan and throughout the country. The process used for the design of the benefit sharing plan included two main phases of consultation.

ERP design

- In order to finalize the ERP document and propose a draft benefit sharing plan, eight stakeholder consultations were held in Abidjan and throughout the country.

BSP design

- **Organization of discussions with key stakeholders:** Thirty-eight semi-structured consultations were held with the key stakeholders, notably the private sector, government agencies, the CSO, the technical and financial partners, and community leaders. The aim of these talks was to gain an overall idea of stakeholders' perceptions regarding the proposed benefit sharing arrangements, as well as the challenges and opportunities inherent in the implementation of the REDD+ benefit sharing arrangements in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Stakeholder consultation workshops:** A total of two national and five regional consultation workshops were organized across five ecological regions of Côte d'Ivoire. The participants discussed the general aspects of benefit sharing, such as categories of beneficiaries, but also engaged in more in-depth conversations concerning proportions to be allotted and the distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits.
- **Focus groups:** Six discussion groups were organized at two of the six REDD+ pilot sites, as well as at non-REDD sites. The aim of these talks was to hear the views, interests and concerns of local communities regarding existing forests, changes in land use, subsistence means available to local communities, as well as the opportunities and challenges involved in protecting the forests and implementing forest conservation programs. The lessons learned have been documented for the purpose of sharing the benefits of ongoing programs and projects in the region.

Issues raised and discussed during stakeholder consultations

3. A number of issues were raised during the stakeholder consultations, with the discussions centered around the following questions :

- **Who should be a beneficiary?** In response to this question, stakeholders outlined the reasons why a given party should, or should not, be included as a REDD+ beneficiary in the benefit sharing plan.
- **Which group of stakeholders should receive the benefits arising from emission reductions?** Stakeholders in Abidjan and at the regional level consider that the benefits accruing from REDD+ activities should be granted to those stakeholders who:
 - take action to reduce emissions;
 - bear the costs;
 - undertake measures to facilitate the effective rollout of the program;
 - conserve the forests;
 - are poor and marginalized.

Summary of stakeholder's consultations and awareness raising

4. The overall summary of stakeholders' consultations is presented below:
 - **Private Sector (Cocoa Industry)** expressed their full commitment to the program and continued support to their respective cocoa farmers cooperatives through: (i) provision of inputs and; (ii) capacity building for adoption of agroforestry schemes and agricultural intensification methods in line with their commitment to the Cocoa & Forest Initiative.
 - **Traditional authorities** also committed to support farmers in the rural domain to undertake afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry activities on the lands for which customary rights belong to the traditional chiefdoms. The chiefdoms were also pleased with the share of benefits allocated to them.
 - **Forest-dependent communities** including **National Parks Associations, Cocoa producers in CF, Cocoa producers in the Rural Domain**, were also pleased that the program recognized them as key stakeholders implementing field activities and has provided them with an important share of the benefits. However, some of them without bank accounts, requested that mobile transfer be used so they can directly receive the cash on their cell phones. This request was incorporated in the flow of funds arrangements.
 - **SODEFOR and OIPR** also expressed satisfaction on being identified as direct beneficiaries considering their national missions for managing protected areas in the country. They are also satisfied with their share of benefits. SODEFOR committed to involve CF dependent communities in the development and implementation of CF management plans and to continue to coach them in the implementation of agroforestry in CF in line with the Government Strategy for Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation and Extension. SODEFOR will also provide forest seedlings for introduction in cocoa farms in CFs and coach the farmers with their introduction in their farms and maintenance for effective ER. OIPR and Conservation NGOs committed to support the National Parks Dependent communities in conservation activities to ensure that ER activities are fully delivered and that they get their share of benefits as expected. Annex 3 presents details of the consultation process.
5. The table 16 below presents the 2018-2020 consultations and number of stakeholders who took part in them.

Table 16. Stakeholder's consultations 2018-2020

Activities	Dates	Men	Women	Total
Workshop for the presentation of the ERPD document to representatives of NGOs, local administrations, private professionals of the ERP zone, central administrations and the OI-REN	07/12/2018	23	12	35
Meeting to analyse and validate the ERP document in Abidjan.	11/09/2018	25	10	35
Scoping meeting on the Benefit Sharing Plan in Abidjan	09/25/2018	10	5	15
Identification workshop of the different beneficiaries of benefit sharing in Abidjan	09/28/2018	20	12	32
Workshops to present the ERPD and analyse benefit-sharing options at Guiglo	10/18-19/2018	25	12	37
Workshops to present the ERPD and analyse benefit-sharing options in Soubré	10/18-19/2018	14	7	21
Exchange session with civil society on the ERPD document in Abidjan	10/23/2018	8	4	12
Exchange session with SODEFOR and OIPR on the ERPD document in Abidjan	10/23/2018	7	0	7
Exchange session with FLEGT on the ERPD document in Abidjan	10/24/2018	6	0	6
Total 2018		138	62 31%	200
Workshops to consult with local elected officials, traditional authorities, local communities, cooperatives, local government, and civil society on the DPRR and analysis of benefit-sharing options in Duékoué	01/04/2019	31	10	41
Workshops to consult with local elected officials, traditional authorities, local communities, cooperatives, local government, and civil society on the DPRT and analysis of benefit-sharing options in San Pedro	01/04/2019	33	11	44
Stakeholder consultation workshops in Abidjan on the ERPD and analysis of benefit-sharing options in Abidjan	01/04/2019	24	10	34
Working Session with Technical and Financial Partners and the Private Sector on the Emission Reduction Programme in Abidjan	02/22/2019	20	8	28
Working Session with Technical and Financial Partners and the Private Sector on the Emission Reduction Programme in Abidjan	04/23/2019	15	5	20
Exchange visits with actors from the private sector, the administration and civil society on the activities of the Emissions Reduction Programme	March-April 2019	107	30	137
National consultation workshop in Abidjan	08/21/2029	20	8	28
Regional consultation workshop in Soubré	08/23/2029	43	6	49
Regional consultation workshop in Yamoussoukro	08/27/2029	29	8	37
Regional consultation workshop in Korhogo	10/17/2019	20	14	34
Regional consultation workshop in Man	10/30/2019	24	5	29
Regional consultation workshop in Adzopé	10/28/2019	22	6	28
Focus group in the village of Pascalkro, Meagui	08/24/2019	14	16	30
Focus group in the village of Sarakadji, near Tai National Park	08/25/2019	14	0	14
Focus group in the village of Bomizambo, Kondeyaokro	08/26/2019	18	13	31
FGD à Natiokobadara, Korhogo	10/18/2019	0	28	28
Focus group at Yakasse-Me S/P Adzopé	10/29/2019	11	12	23
Focus group in the village of Bigouin, Man	10/31/2019	14	12	26
Total 2019		459	202 30%	661
Donors and international organizations (WB, CE, GIZ ; FAO) in Abidjan	January 2020	4	0	4
Government Services (AFOR, ANADER, SODEFOR, SEP-REDD+) in Abidjan	January 2020	4	1	5
Multipartners (OI-REN ; FEREADD) in Abidjan	January 2020	8	4	12
Research organization (ICRAF) in Abidjan	January 2020	1	0	1
NGO (Impactum) in Abidjan	January 2020	1	0	1
Private sector and trust funds (Pôle Sud, Purpe ; Mondelez ; FPRCI) in Abidjan	January 2020	6	0	6
Chief of the village of Pascalkro, Meagui, Soubre	January 2020	1	0	1
Village chiefs and secretary of Sarakadji village, Tai National Park, Soubre	January 2020	2	0	2
Village chiefs and board of directors of Bomizambo village, Yamoussoukro	January 2020	6	0	6
Total 2020		33	5 13%	38
Grand Total		630	269 30%	899

Follow up consultations and awareness raising

6. After the BSP approval by the Carbon Fund participants, SEP-REDD will organize a national dissemination workshop of the final version prior to ERPA signature or before end 2020, should the restrictions related to the COVID19 pandemic be lifted. Otherwise, the final BSP will be published on SEP-REDD website which is accessible to all beneficiaries until COVID19 confinement is lifted.
7. Consultations will continue especially with forest-dependent communities, in order to take into account their perceptions and opinions throughout the Program life. In addition to these consultations, stakeholders information and awareness-raising will be ensured through the Union of Rural Radios of Côte d'Ivoire (URPCI), to which all local radios are affiliated with. The ERP area radios will regularly broadcast spots, press releases, interviews, sketches and information on the status of ERP implementation and sharing of benefits. Awareness raising campaigns on forest protection will also be broadcasted on national television.
8. As the COVID19 pandemic prevented the normal implementation of the 2020 awareness-raising plan, apart from a few sessions carried out in January, these awareness-raising activities will resume as soon as the confinement measures are entirely lifted. This will include communication on the final version of the BSP as well as continued awareness raising on the ERP on national and local Ivorian radio and television. A strong sensitization tool currently in preparation, namely a 52-episode TV series, "My forestry family", will be broadcasted on national, regional and international television, as well as on certain social media networks, such as Abidjan.net.

Annex 4: Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

1. A GRM was prepared under the FCPF Readiness and validated at the national level in August 2016 to address potential complaints that might arise from the natural resources use including from the sharing of benefits resulting from ERs payments.

Potential grievances arising from benefit sharing

2. In the sharing of benefits, potential grievances (presumed damage, facts or grounds for grievances) may lead to complaints being filed by beneficiary stakeholders. Potential grievances and complaints linked to benefit sharing, together with the parties potentially involved, are shown in table 17 below.

Table 17. Potential Grievances Arising from Benefit Sharing

Potential grievances	Potential complaints	Parties potentially involved
Disagreement with the findings of the performance evaluation of the activities/actions of beneficiaries	Complaint regarding the under-estimation of work done, resulting in the under-estimation of financial benefits	Beneficiaries and SEP REDD+
Calculation errors in the estimates of financial benefits	Demand that calculation of financial estimates be reviewed	Beneficiaries and SEP REDD+/financial services (involved in disbursement of payments)
Non-payment of the full amount of financial benefits payable and/or failure to pay within the established time period	Complaint about non-payment of the full amount of benefits payable or failure to pay within the established time period	Beneficiaries and financial services (involved in the disbursement of payments)

Complaint prevention

3. A series of measures have been planned to prevent or reduce the occurrence of complaints (table 18).

Table 18. Preventive Measures for Grievance Management

Potential grievances	Planned preventive measures
Disagreement with the findings of the performance evaluation of the activities/actions of beneficiaries	Holding of briefing sessions to inform beneficiaries about the process and criteria followed in performance evaluations; Ensuring the effective and transparent involvement of beneficiaries in the performance evaluation of their actions/activities.
Calculation errors in the estimates of financial benefits	Procedure for the systematic verification of data by SEP REDD+ and the financial services (responsible for the disbursement of payments).
Non-payment of the full amount of financial benefits payable and/or failure to pay within the established time period	Agreements (containing provisions for enforcement) with the financial services responsible for disbursing payments, stipulating guidelines for the disbursement of payments to beneficiaries (including observance of payment deadlines); Regular audits to ensure observance by the financial services of the provisions of the agreement, as well as their systematic application of the recommendations of said audits.

Procedure for dealing with complaints

Complaints regarding “demands that the calculation of financial estimates be reviewed”

4. For these types of complaints, beneficiaries will file their grievance by means of direct notification (by mail, email, telephone, face-to-face meeting) of SEP REDD+, the relevant financial services and the REDD+ Grievance Redress Committee in their area (see the description of the REDD+ Grievance Redress Committee below).

5. The details of the calculation method will then be reviewed by SEP REDD+ and the financial services concerned, and adjustments will be made to the calculations of the financial benefits payable to the beneficiary within ten (10) working days following filing of the complaint by the beneficiary. The beneficiary and REDD+ Grievance Redress Committee (located in the area where the beneficiary carries out ERPD-related actions/activities) will receive due notification that the errors have been corrected and that the adjusted financial benefit will be paid to the beneficiary within a maximum of two (2) months following the complaint by the beneficiary.

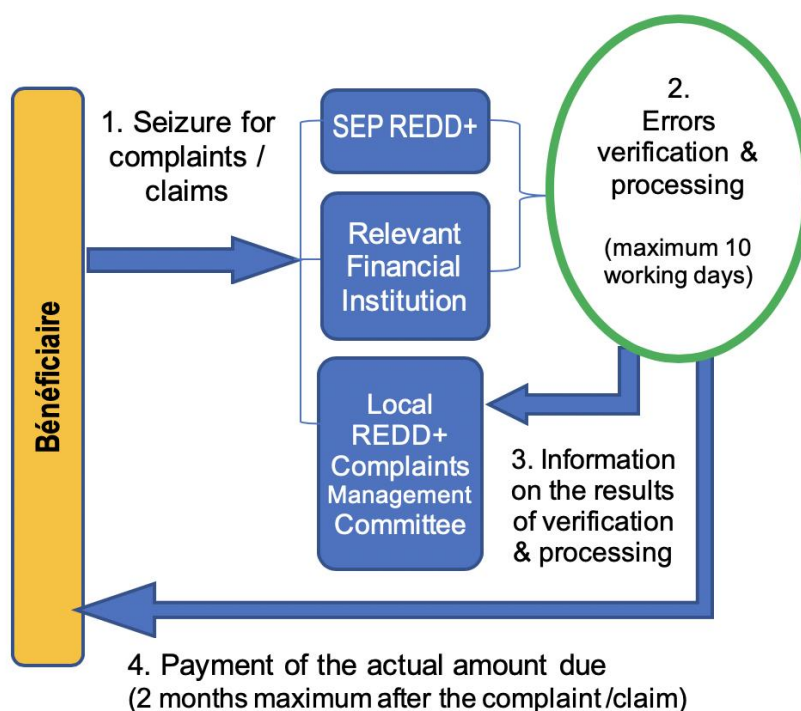


Figure 6. Procedure for dealing with complaints arising

Other types of complaints

6. For other types of complaints, namely (i) disagreement with the results of the performance evaluation of the actions/activities of beneficiaries and (ii) failure to receive full payments due and/or within the required time period, the beneficiary will notify the REDD+ Grievance Redress Committee located in the area where said beneficiary carries out actions/activities under the program.

7. REDD+ Grievance Redress Committees are committees that fall under the REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). Their main aim is to arrive at amicable agreements regarding complaints arising from REDD+ programs, projects, activities and actions. The organizational structure of the committees is shown below:



Figure 7. Organizational Layout of REDD+ Grievance Redress Committees

8. In order to guarantee the full objectivity, transparency and effectiveness of the grievance redress mechanism, membership of the grievance redress committees is made up of a variety of relevant stakeholders (table 19).

Table 19. Members of REDD+ Grievance Redress Committees

Village Committees	Traditional Committees	Sub-Prefectural Committees	Departmental Committees	Regional Committees
Village Chief Land Chief 2 Prominent citizens Representative of the Rural Land Management Village Committee 1 Women's Representative 1 Youth representative 1 Representative of migrant communities 1 Representative of non-native communities	District Chief (Tribal Chief or King) Chair Member (social groups) appointed by the Sub-Prefect on the advice of the President With the exception of the Chair, 2/3 of Membership renewed every 2 years	Sub-Prefect (Chair) The Mayor or his representative Representatives of Ministries responsible for the Environment, Agriculture, Water and Forests, Mining 1 representative of large community groups Head of district, tribe, or king (2) Representatives of youth and women's organizations 1 official from the Sub- Prefecture	Departmental Prefect (Chair) Mayor or his representative (capital) Departmental Directors of the Ministries responsible for the Environment, Agriculture, Water and Forests, Mining, Animal and Fisheries Resources 1 Representative of the Assembly of the National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs (CNRCT) (2) Representatives of the Departmental Monitoring and Peace Committee and the Land Management Committee 1 official from the prefecture 1 Representative from the NGOs	Prefect of the Region (Chair) President of the Regional Council or his representative Regional Directors of the Ministries responsible for the Environment, Agriculture, Water and Forests, Mining, Animal and Fisheries Resources 1 Representative of the CNRCT Directorate (2) Representatives of the Regional Rural Land Management Committee and the Regional Monitoring and Sensitization Committee 1 official from the prefecture 1 NGO Representative

9. To date, 19 Committees (including 13 village committees) have been already installed in the ERP area.

10. When a matter has been referred to a committee by a beneficiary, the following procedure for settling the complaint will apply:

- Receipt and registration of complaint;
- Acknowledgement of receipt/assessment of admissibility, and assignment of responsibility for handling the case (maximum of 3 days);
- Preparation of a draft response (maximum of 15 days);
- ☐ Dismissal of the complaint (with reasons);

- ☐ Need for further assessment (obtain information from SEP REDD+, financial entities, etc.);
 - ☐ Proposal for direct resolution (mediation, conciliation among the parties, reworking or possible review of the performance evaluation of the activities/actions of the beneficiaries, systematic redress of the damage caused by the financial entities, etc.);
- (d) Information on and pursuit of agreement with the complainant/main parties involved in the draft response;
 - (e) Implementation and monitoring of the settlement agreement;
 - (f) In case of failure, reexamination of the agreement and new settlement;
 - (g) Closure of case or referral of the complaint to the higher committee (or to another body).

Annex 5: References

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