



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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MULTINATIONAL

Project to Support the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training
Programme in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC)

PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

December 2010

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Currency Equivalents

UA 1	=	CFAF 769,995
UA 1	=	EUR 1.17385
EUR 1	=	CFAF 655.957
UA 1	=	USD 1.52578

Fiscal Year

1 January - 31 December

Weights and Measures

1 metric tonne	=	2204 pounds
1 kilogramme (kg)	=	2.200 pounds
1 metre (m)	=	3.28 feet
1 millimetre (mm)	=	0.03937 inch
1 kilometre (km)	=	0.62 mile
1 hectare (ha)	=	2.471 acres

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	:	Amazon Basin
ACA	:	Canadian Support Agency (Agence Canadienne d'Accompagnement)
ADB	:	African Development Bank
ADIE	:	Inter-governmental Agency for the Development of Environmental Information
AFD	:	French Development Agency
AMFN	:	African Model Forest Network
ANAFE	:	African Network for Agro-forestry Education
ATO	:	African Timber Organisation (COMIFAC Organ)
AVU	:	African Virtual University
AWF	:	Africa Water Facility
AWP	:	Annual Work Plan
CAEMC	:	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CAFTN	:	Central Africa Forest and Trade Network
CARPE/USAID	:	Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment/US Agency for International Development
CB	:	Congo Basin
CBFF	:	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CBFP	:	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CERFO	:	Centre for Forestry Education and Research – Sainte-Foy Inc.
CICOS	:	International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin
CIDA	:	Canadian International Development Agency
CIFOR	:	Centre for International Forestry Research
COMIFAC	:	Central Africa Forests Commission
DFID	:	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DRC	:	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCAS	:	Economic Community of Central African States
ENEF	:	National Institute of Water and Forestry
ERAIFT	:	Regional Post-graduate training School in Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Territories
EUEAPF	:	University of Agronomy, Fisheries and Forestry – Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FASA	:	Faculty of Agronomy and Agronomic Sciences - Dschang
FASA-CRESA	:	Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences-Regional Centre for Specialised Education in Agriculture (forests-timber)
FESP	:	Forest Environment Sector Programme
FFGG	:	Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, University of Laval
FMSP	:	Forest Management and Sustainable Practice
FOGRN	:	Natural Resource Management Support Programme
FSA-	:	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences – University of Kinshasa/
UNIKIN/INILU/UNIKIS	:	University of Lubumbashi, University of Kisangani

FwB	:	Forests Without Borders
GTZ	:	German Technical Cooperation
HQP	:	Highly Qualified Personnel
ICRAF(WAC)	:	International Centre for Research in Agro-forestry
IITA	:	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
InWEnt	:	Capacity Building International
IPFE	:	International Partnership for Forestry Education
ISA	:	Higher Institute of Agronomy (Gitega, Burundi)
ISDR	:	Rural Development Institute (M'baïki, CAR)
ISEA	:	Institute of Agronomy Studies
ISEFEP	:	Higher Institute for Water, Forests, Environment and Fisheries (Institut Supérieur des Eaux, Forêts, Environnement et Pêche - Formerly ENEF)
ITTO	:	International Tropical Timber Organisation
ITTTA	:	International Technical Tropical Timber Association
IUCN	:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LAVAL	:	University of Laval
LMD	:	Bachelor, Masters, PhD
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goals
MECNT	:	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism
NITC	:	New Information and Communication Technologies
NTFP	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
NUR	:	National University of Rwanda
OFAC	:	Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa
PCCOMIFAC	:	COMIFAC (Central Africa Forestry Commission) Convergence Plan
PEFOGRN-BC	:	Expanded Natural Resource Training Programme in the Congo Basin
PIP	:	Programme Implementation Plan
PMT	:	Project Management Team
PSC	:	Project Steering Committee
RDI	:	Rural Development Institute (Brazzaville)
REDD	:	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REFADD	:	African Women's Network for Sustainable Development
REIMP	:	Regional Environmental Information Management Programme
REPALEAC	:	Central Africa Indigenous Peoples Network
RIFFEAC	:	Forestry and Environment Training Network of Central Africa
SFM	:	Sustainable Forest Management
SNRM	:	Sustainable Natural Resource Management
UKV	:	University of Kasa Vubu
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	:	World Wildlife Fund

PROJECT BRIEF

Client Information

BENEFICIARY : Forestry and Environment Training Network of Central Africa (RIFFEAC)

EXECUTING AGENCY : RIFFEAC

Financing Plan

Source	Amount (EUR)	Instrument
CBFF	7,624,985	Grant
Other Donors: CIDA	1,575,000	Grant
LAVAL	565,000	Grant
CERFO	375,000	Grant
InWent	1,125,000	Grant
RIFFEAC	375,000	Grant
TOTAL COST	EUR 11,639,985	

ADB Key Financial Information

Grant Amount	EUR 7,624,985
Commitment fee	N/A
Service charge	N/A
Tenor	N/A
Grace period	N/A
IRR NPV	N/A
ERR	N/A

Time Frame – Main Milestones (Expected)

Concept Note Approval	March 2010
Project Approval	April 2011
Effectiveness	April 2011
Last Disbursement	April 2013
Completion	April 2014
Last Repayment	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Project Overview

1.1 Following instructions from the CBFF Governing Council dated 5 December 2009, a CBFF mission visited all countries of the Congo Basin to identify Government projects that could be submitted to the CBFF for funding. Consequently, all Congo Basin countries and COMIFAC bodies prepared concept notes that were presented to CBFF for screening and approval. At its seventh ordinary session held in Tunis on 7 March 2010, the Governing Council approved the concept notes and instructed the Secretariat to help the countries and COMIFAC bodies draft detailed proposals and evaluate them immediately. Early April 2010, following submission of the detailed proposals, the Secretariat fielded project appraisal missions to the countries, resulting in the preparation of this report. At its ninth session held on 15 and 16 November 2010 in Libreville, Gabon, the CBFF Governing Council approved funding for this project to the tune of EUR 7,624,985.

1.2 The overall objective of the Project to Support the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training Programme in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC) is to enhance training and research activities in order to reduce deforestation and degradation of natural resources in the Congo Basin. Its specific objectives are to: support RIFFEAC's coordination activities, back technical training, and assist with university education and research. Upon completion, the project is expected to achieve the following outcomes: (i) the training institutions will be strengthened technically, financially and in terms of equipment; (ii) modules for technical, university and post-graduate training will be prepared and taught at the target institutions; (iii) infrastructure for the training institutions will be improved and rehabilitated; (iv) the demonstration forests will be developed and well managed; and (v) students will conduct research at the target universities. The total project cost is EUR 11,639,985. The project will be funded jointly by CBFF with EUR 7,624,985 (65.5%), CIDA with EUR 1,575,000 (13.5%), InWent with EUR 1,125,000 (9.7%), University of Laval with EUR 565,000 (4.9%), CERFO with EUR 375,000 (3.2%) and RIFFEAC with EUR 375,000 (3.2%). The project will span three (3)-years or thirty-six (36) months. RIFFEAC is the Donee. It will work closely with CERFO and University of Laval.

2. Project Beneficiaries and Impact

2.1 The project beneficiaries are: the RIFFEAC platform; about 1,700 students and 18 institutions from 10 COMIFAC member countries, namely: Burundi (1) ISA; Cameroon (2) FASA-Dschang; (3) CRESA-Dschang; (4) ENEF-Mbalmayo; (5) EF Garoua; Gabon (6) ENEF-Gabon; Congo (7) IDR University Mariem Ngouabi; (8) ENEF Mossendjo; Equatorial Guinea (9) EUEAPF; CAR (10) ISDR Mbaïki; DRC (11) FSA-UNIKIN; (12) FSA-UNILU; (13) ISEA-Tshela/UKV Boma; (14) U. Graben; (15) ISEA-Bengamisa; (16) ERAIFT; Rwanda; (17) U.N.R.; Chad (18) University of N'Djamena. These institutions will be provided with modern training facilities.

2.2 The project will have a two-fold impact: (i) higher income for the population from better jobs, thanks to the technical and university education provided; and (2) better designed national and regional sustainable forest management policies as a result of enhanced human resource capacity, which will ensure better forest resource management, key to development in Central Africa.

3. Needs Assessment and Programme Rationale

3.1 RIFFEAC's main task is human resource capacity building, an absolute necessity for the development of sustainable forest management policies in the Congo Basin. Furthermore, since 2006, RIFFEAC has been the technical partner of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) in implementing Strategic Thrust 7 of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan involving "capacity-building, stakeholder participation, information and training".

3.2 The report on the FAO study conducted in 2006 to assess training needs in Central Africa's forestry sector, highlighted the shortage of human resources both in terms of quantity and quality as a result primarily of the poor human, material and financial capacity of training institutions. The issue is of primary concern to member countries of the Congo Basin as expressed in their sector policy papers.

3.3 This project addresses the concerns of the nine COMIFAC member countries as stated in their sector policy papers and categorised under biodiversity, forestry and environmental sector programmes. The project covers 6 out of the 10 strategic thrusts of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, namely: (i) capacity building, information and training; (ii) research and development; (iii) resource knowledge; (iv) development of alternative income-generating activities and poverty reduction; (v) development of funding mechanisms; and (vi) regional cooperation and partnership. This project will also contribute significantly to promoting regional integration in Central Africa, which is a tool for poverty reduction. The project further covers two of the three CBFF thematic areas, i.e. (i) forest management and sustainable practice; and (2) ecological and socio-economic monitoring and baseline data. Lastly, the project will contribute to the objectives of the Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP) for Central Africa, particularly with regard to its "Institutional and Human Capacity Building" Pillar.

4. Bank's Value Added

4.1 The project will not only strengthen cooperation between the Bank and RIFFEAC, which is a COMIFAC sub-body, but more importantly, it will give the Bank greater visibility in the area of forestry and environmental training, with special reference to the fight against climate change.

4.2 By participating in building the capacity of forestry training institutions and in training experts in the Congo Basin sub-region, the second largest forest ecosystem in the world, the Bank will contribute qualitatively and quantitatively to upgrading local experts in sustainable natural resource management in the Congo Basin.

5. Knowledge Management

5.1 The project covers specific areas that focus on capacity building for forestry training institutions and for forestry, environmental and climate change experts in the sub-region. In that regard, local stakeholders will need support from the Bank, which has the requisite experience in themes addressed within the context of this project.

5.2 Moreover, local stakeholders involved in project implementation will benefit from the Bank's experience acquired over the years through many initiatives such as the African Water Facility, PACEBCo, ClimDev, the Africa Green Fund, etc.

PROJECT MATRIX (RESULTS-BASED)

Project to Support the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training Programme in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC)

HIERARCHY OF OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	REACH	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES	ASSUMPTIONS / RISKS
I. Goal	<u>Impact</u> (Long-term Outcomes)	<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Impact Indicators</u>	<u>Long-term Indicative Targets and Timeframe</u>	<u>Statement of Assumptions</u>
1.To help control deforestation, forest degradation and reduce poverty in the CB	1. Poverty, deforestation and forest degradation reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All stakeholders in the forestry sector and local residents of CB countries. ■ The international community as a contribution to a stable global climate. 	1. Rate of poverty reduction and average deforestation and degradation rate.	1. Poverty rate in rural areas reduced by 25% (from 75% to 50%) between 2009 and 2025; and rate of deforestation and degradation reduced from 0.19% to 0.10% by 2020.	<p>Assumption: RIFFEAC helps to reduce poverty and deforestation in the Congo Basin.</p> <p>Risk: RIFFEAC's policies not consistent with those of COMIFAC.</p> <p>Mitigation: Lobbying and sensitization by COMIFAC</p>
2. Project Objective	<u>Outcomes</u> (Medium-term Outcomes)	<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Outcome Indicators</u>	<u>Medium-term Indicative Targets and Timeframe</u>	<u>Statement of Assumptions</u>
2. Overall objective: To strengthen training and research activities as a way of reducing poverty, deforestation and forest degradation in COMIFAC member countries.	2.1. Some training institutions strengthened. 2.2 Deforestation and forest degradation reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ RIFFEAC and its member institutions and COMIFAC for the implementation of its Convergence Plan ■ Member States of the CB ■ Forestry sectors, local population of the forest zone and the international community. 	2.1. Number and quality of training institutions. 2.2. Rate of deforestation and degradation.	2.1 Number of training institutions increased from 3 in 2008 to 18 in 2014. 2.2. Rate of deforestation down from 2% to 0.5% between 2010 and 2025; and rate of degradation from 5% to 1.5% over the same period.	<p>Assumption: RIFFEAC develops training policies to help reduce poverty and deforestation in the Congo Basin.</p> <p>Risk: Local partners of RIFFEAC are not involved in the process.</p> <p>Mitigation 2: COMIFAC-led sensitisation and lobbying</p>
<u>Inputs and activities</u>	<u>Outputs (Short-term Outcomes)</u>	<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Short-term Indicative Targets and Timeframe</u>	<u>Statement of Assumptions</u>
<u>Component A:</u> Support RIFFEAC coordination activities					<p>Assumption: Project supports RIFFEAC Coordination and helps it to effectively carry out its duties.</p>
A .1 Inventory and harmonization of technical and university curricula	A.1 Curricula mapping completed and curricula harmonized in the 10 COMIFAC member countries.		A.1 Reports on inventory and number of curricula harmonised.	A.1: 2012 Diagnostic report; and annual reports: end 2012 and 2013	<p>Risk: Loss of motivation among coordination team members as a result of inappropriate treatment from supervisory authorities</p> <p>Mitigation: COMIFAC-led sensitisation and lobbying</p>

A.2 Publication of a scientific journal on the CB forests	A.2A Science editorial board (chief editor, associate science editors) set up and operational, and journal published.		A.2 Internationally recognized board membership; minutes of meetings; number of scientific articles published.	A.2 A scientific editorial board for the journal established in 2012 and first issue published by end of 2012 and quarterly thereafter;	
A.3 Support for further education	A.3 Further education programmes available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ RIFEAC and its member institutions. 	A.3 Number and list of further education courses offered.	A.3 Activities to commence in 2012 and first course by the end 2012; continuously thereafter. Data sheets for technology transfer published in 2012 and continuously thereafter.	
A.4 Support for the development of financing mechanisms for research and special projects	A.4 Sustainable financing mechanisms for research and special projects exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sub-regional and international scientific community ■ All stakeholders in the CB forest sector. 	A.4 List of special projects, list of research chairs and list of research projects funded.	A.4 Call for proposals, 2/year; fund management procedures to be developed in 2012; bank account to be opened in 2011; and first project funded in 2012.	
Inputs and Activities	Outcomes	Beneficiaries	Indicators	Short term Indicative Targets and Timeframe	Statement of Assumptions
Component B: Support for technical training					Assumption: Project provides the needed technical support and helps to improve infrastructure and develop training materials.
B.1 Rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities	B.1 Technical institutions build new facilities and upgrade their facilities.		B.1 Report on acceptance of facilities built and equipment received.	B.1 Work to be executed from end of 2011. Institutions equipped in 2012, completed in 2013.	Risk: The State downgrades demonstration forests, destruction of teaching forests (fire, poaching) and beneficiaries are not involved in the development of training materials.
B.2 Support for training	B.2 Effective technical training. New programmes and courses developed, and new graduates introduced into the job market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ RIFFEAC member institutions. ■ Learners and the 10-member COMIFAC countries to benefit from this new breed of forestry specialists. 	B.2 Course programming. New curricula and syllabuses, progress reports and number of students being trained and graduating.	B.2 Technical activities take off in 2011, 3 technical programmes and 30 courses available by end 2012. 1,700 students recruited and 1,500 graduate as engineers and technicians.	Mitigation: Lobbying of government authorities by COMIFAC and sensitisation of RIFFEAC for the involvement of the beneficiaries
B.3 Support for demonstration forests	B.3 Demonstration forests parcelled out and well managed. Technical institutions manage their experimental forests with local residents or the private sector.		B.3 Number and size of demonstration forests jointly managed with local residents or the private sector.	B.3 Number of managed demonstration forests multiplied by 8. Number of experimental forests jointly managed with local residents or the private sector increased to 8 in 2014.	
Inputs and activities	Outcomes	Beneficiaries	Indicators	Short-term Progress Expected and Timeframe	Statement of Assumptions

Component C: Support for university education and research					
C.1 Rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities	C.1 Universities renovate their infrastructure and upgrade their facilities.		C.1 Acceptance report on equipment and facilities built. Specifications.	C.1 Works are implemented from 2011 to 2013. Institutions equipped by end of 2011 and completed in 2013.	Assumption: Project provides the needed support and helps to improve university education and research. Risk 1: Government policies on university education and research suddenly modified and no longer in line with RIFFEAC work programmes. Mitigation: COMIFAC-led sensitisation
C.2 Support for training	C.2 Effective university education and new programmes and courses developed. Fresh graduates introduced into the job market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Graduates from COMIFAC member institutions. 	C.2 Course programming. Number of graduates and students being trained.	C.2 Training activities take off by end of 2011; 3 under-graduate programmes, 5 post-graduate programmes and 30 courses available. 500 forest design engineers trained, 60 graduates earn their M.Sc. and Ph.D.	
C.3 Support for research	C.3 Universities have the human and financial resources to conduct research. Demonstration forests available for educational and research purposes.	All regional forestry stakeholders, RIFFEAC population and member institutions.	C.3 List of research activities, number of publications and patents.	C.3 First publications and patent registration in 2012. Number of jointly managed experimental forests increased to 10 in 2014.	
C.4 Support for the management of demonstration and research forests	C.4 Effective research. Universities manage their experimental forests with local residents.		C.4 List of works carried out in demonstration and research forests. Number and size of jointly-managed experimental forests.		
Inputs and activities	Outputs (Short-term Outcomes)	Beneficiaries	Indicators	Short-term Indicative Targets and Timeframe	Statement of Assumptions
Component D: Programme management					
D.1 Programme Management Unit	D.1 PMU resourced and operational. Start-up workshop organized.		D.1 Appointment of PMU members. Acceptance report on equipment, accounting software and procedures manual.	D.1 Quarterly and annual reports from 2011 until programme completion. External audit reports requested by ADB.	Assumption: Management bodies ensure project implementation. Risk: Sudden transfer of a RIFFEAC coordination team member. Mitigation: Sensitisation of relevant authorities by CBFF and COMIFAC.
D.2 Setting up of the Steering Committee	D.2 Steering Committee set up and operational		D.2 Number of annual reports	D.2 Annual reports from 2012, mid-term appraisal report in 2012 and final appraisal report by mid-2014.	

Project Implementation Schedule

Project to Support the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training Programme in the Congo Basin												
Project Implementation Schedule												
	M0 +3	M0 +6	M0 +9	M0 +12	M0 + 15	M0 +18	M0 +21	M0 +24	M0 +27	M0 + 30	M0 + 33	M0 + 36
Component 100: Support to RIFFAC Coordination Activities												
110 Inventory and harmonisation of the University and Technical Curricula												
1101 Consultancy Service (international and national for Inventory)		—										
1102 Study validation workshop			—									
1103 Procurement of a vehicle and office equipment	—											
120 Publication of a CB Scientific Forestry Journal												
1201 Consultant for the design of a model for the journal		—										
1202 Production of the review in 1000 copies per issue				—		—		—		—		
130 Support to Continuous Training												
1301 Purchase of equipment			—									
1302 Production of teaching aid on paper or electronic medium						—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1303 Support to Continuous Training						—	—	—	—	—	—	—
140 Support to the Development of Financing Mechanisms for Research and Special Projects												
1401 Research strategy and financing mechanism (consultancy service)		—										
1402 Financing of special projects								—		—		—
Component 200: Support to Technical Training												
210 Upgrade of Infrastructure and Equipment												
2101 Preparation of special specification sheets (consultancy service)		—										
2102 Procurement of Laboratory and Field Equipment			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2103 Works implementation			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
220 Support to Training												
2201 Revision of programmes and lessons (consultancy service)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2202 Support to training of trainees abroad (scholarships)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2203 Support to the conduct of practical training courses and other field trips	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
230 Support to Demonstration Forests												
2301 Improved access to demonstration forests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
2302 Management of demonstration plots		—	—	—	—	—	—	—				

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF BANK GROUP MANAGEMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE EXPANDED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE CONGO BASIN

Management hereby submits this report and recommendation concerning a proposal to award an EUR 7.62 million CBFF grant to the Network of Central African Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC) to fund the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training Support Programme in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC).

STRATEGIC THRUST AND RATIONALE

1.1 Project Linkages with Country Strategy and Objectives

1.1.1 The Project to Support the Expanded Natural Resource Management Training Programme in the Congo Basin is based on the Forestry Codes of nine COMIFAC member countries, specifically areas involving capacity and knowledge building. It also aligns with the objectives of the Forest and Environmental Sector Programmes (FESP) of the countries concerned as well as the pillar on forestry and environmental training needs. It is also in line with the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (GPRSP) of the nine countries.

1.2 Rationale for CBFF Intervention

1.2.1 The project falls within the Bank's PRSP for COMIFAC countries involved and is consistent with the Bank's general policy on training and environmental protection. The forestry training support programme for Congo Basin countries will address the lack of adequate and properly trained human resources, which has a significant impact on the development of sustainable forest resource management policies in the Congo Basin.

1.2.2 The project draws on at least six of the ten COMIFAC Convergence Plan strategic thrusts, duly approved by the ten member countries, namely: (i) capacity building, stakeholder participation, information and training (Thrust 7); (ii) Research and Development through Masters and PhD research work (Thrust 8); (iii) Resource knowledge through training, long essays and theses (Thrust 2); (iv) development of alternative income-generating activities and poverty reduction (Thrust 6); (v) development of funding mechanisms (Thrust 9); and (vi) regional cooperation and partnerships through RIFFEAC (Thrust 10).

1.2.3 The project also draws on two main CBFF thematic areas: (i) forestry management and sustainable practice; and (ii) ecological and socio-economic monitoring and baseline data. It will make CBFF more visible and enhance its critical role in poverty reduction through the sustainable management of forest resources in Central Africa. The project will also promote regional integration, which is key to development in Central Africa. The project is in keeping with the objectives of the Regional Integration Strategy Paper for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), approved on 20 January 2011.

1.3 Aid Coordination

1.3.1 RIFFEAC coordinates all forestry training and research activities in Central Africa. Currently, it is coordinating the ITTO/IPFE project to upgrade forest management training in Central Africa; the EU regional support project to ENEF and ERAIFT; the MAE-France project to support forestry training in the Congo Basin; and the CIDA/LAVAL and InWent projects on information research and capacity building for forestry schools. RIFFEAC will coordinate this project also with the other projects, thus avoiding duplication. The current RIFFEAC-coordinated projects are listed in Table 1.3.

*Table 1.3
Coordination of Projects by RIFFEAC*

Partners	Project Type	Budget
France, MAE	Support for Training, Research and Information in the Congo Basin	EUR 120,000
InWent	Building Professional Capacity for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin	EUR 1 million
EU	Regional Support to ENEF and ERAIFT	EUR 200,000
CIDA (University of Laval)	Support for Information Research and Natural Resource Management Training in the Congo Basin	CAD 4,799.875
ITTO/IPFE	Support for the Upgrade of Forestry Management Training and Management of Forest Concessions in Central African Forestry Institutes	EUR 200,000

1.3.2 At the regional level, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), which coordinates forestry sector projects by development partners in Central Africa and was launched at the Earth Summit held in Johannesburg in September 2002, is successfully coordinating development aid in the forestry sector. Synergies were also identified between this programme and the Bank-funded PACEBCo programme, one component of which supports education at ERAIFT and the Garoua School of Wildlife, Cameroon.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Objectives

2.1.1 The overall objective of the project is to consolidate training and research activities as a way of reducing deforestation and natural resource degradation in the Congo Basin. The project's specific objectives are to: (i) support RIFFEAC's coordinating activities; (ii) back technical training in institutions, and (iii) help with university education and research.

2.2 Project Component

2.2.1 The project activities are grouped into four components, as shown below:

*Table 2.1
Project Components*

No.	Components	Estimated Base Cost (EUR) (excluding contingencies)	Component Description
1	Support to RIFFEAC coordination activities	1,632,384	Related activities: 1.1. Support to RIFFEAC coordination activities to foster sub-regional collaboration among the various institutions; 1.2. Develop tools to promote forestry and environmental research; 1.3. Promote further training to provide better understanding of the new thematic modules such as REDD, PSE, carbon stock monitoring.
2	Technical Training	3,397,440	Related activities: 2.1 Rehabilitation of laboratories and libraries; 2.2 Managing demonstration forests; 2.3 Preparation of up-to-date forestry and environmental training programmes for forestry technicians and professionals.
3	University education and research	4,929,105	Selected activity: 3.1. Material and technical support to tertiary and research institutions. This support will include special training modules, research scholarships, further training modules and equipment.
4	Project management	1,182,225	Selected activities: 4.1 Set up a project implementation unit (PIU) 4.2 Procurement by the PIU of goods, works and services for the project 4.3 Creation of local committees in various zones 4.4 Set up a technical project monitoring committee and a steering committee 4.5 Monitor project implementation

2.3 Technical Solutions Adopted and Alternative Explored

*Table 2.3
Comparison between Solutions Explored and those Adopted*

Components	Solution Adopted	Solution Explored	Reasons for Rejection
1. Support to RIFFEAC coordination activities	Implementation by RIFFEAC Secretariat	Sub-contracting to organisations and consultants	RIFFEAC has the capacity. Too expensive
2. Support to technical training	Implementation by project technical partners: LAVAL and CERFO	Implementation by hired consultants and organisations	Too expensive and weak local capacity
3. Support to university education and research	Implementation by project technical partners: LAVAL and CERFO	Implementation by hired firms of consultants	Too expensive and weak local capacity
4. Project management	Project managed through RIFFEAC coordination	Management by a hired private company.	Additional cost and weak local capacity

2.4 Type of project

2.4.1 This is a support project based on human and institutional capacity building for Central African nationals and forestry training institutions. RIFFEAC will develop training modules and come up with support activities for the training institutions selected by the 2006 FAO study on training needs and confirmed by the national forestry training strategies and programmes.

2.5 Project Cost

2.5.1 Total project cost stands at EUR 11,639,985, comprising EUR 6,472,883 in foreign exchange and EUR 5,167,102 in local currency. All expenditures are expressed in Euro because it is the currency in which CBFF grants must be expressed. All the components were subject to a 7% tax for physical and financial contingencies (estimated mean price increase in Central Africa based on the August 2010 inflation rate). The cost summary by component and expenditure category is shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 below:

*Table 3.1
Summary of Estimated Project Cost by Component (in EUR)*

COMPONENTS	Local Currency	Foreign Exchange	Total	% Foreign Exchange
Support for RIFFEAC coordination activities	700,384	932,000	1,632,384	57.1
Support for technical training	1,500,440	1,897,000	3,397,440	55.8
Support for university education and research	1,900,105	3,029,000	4,929,105	61.5
Project management	752,671	429,554	1,225	36.3
Estimated base costs	4,853,600	6,287,554	11,141,154	56.4
Contingencies (7%)	313,502	185,329	498,831	37.2
Total estimated cost	5,167,102	6,472,883	11,639,985	55.6

*Table 3.2
Summary of Estimated CBFF Funding by Expenditure Category*

Expenditure Category	CBFF	CIDA	LAVAL	CERFO	InWEnt	RIFFEAC	TOTAL COST
Works	1,412,573						1,412,573
Goods	1,431,258	200,000					1, 631, 258
Services	3,186,645	500,000	565,000	375,000	125,000	375,000	5, 126, 645
Miscellaneous	717,497	500,000					1, 217, 497
Operations	378,181	375,000			1,000,000		1,753,181
Estimated base cost	7,126,154	1,575,000	565,000	375,000	1,125,000	375,000	11,141,154
Contingencies (7%)	498,831						498,831
Total cost	7,624,985	1,575,000	565,000	375,000	1,125,000	375,000	11,639,985

2.5.2 Funding for the **EUR 11,639,992** project will be provided as follows: CBFF - EUR 7,624,992 (66%), CIDA - EUR 1,575,000 (14%), University of Laval - EUR 565,000 (5%), CERFO - EUR 375,000 (3%), InWEnt - EUR 1,125,000 (10%) and RIFFEAC - EUR 375,000 (3%). The cost breakdown by source of financing is given in Table 3.3 below:

Table 3.3
Source of Financing (EUR)

Source of Financing	Local Currency	Foreign Exchange	Total	% Total
CBFF	4,792,109	2, 832,883	7,624,992	66
CIDA	0	1,575,000	1,575,000	14
LAVAL	0	565,000	565,000	5
CERFO	0	375,000	375,000	3
InWEnt	0	1,125,000	1,125,000	10
RIFFEAC	375,000	0	375,000	3
Total Project Cost Estimate	5,167,109	6,472,883	11,639,992	100

2.5.3 The expenditure schedule by component and by source of financing is shown in Table 3.4 below:

Table 3.4
Expenditure Schedule by Component (EUR)

Component/Financing	2 011	2 012	2 013	Total
CBFF FINANCING				
Support to RIFFEAC coordination activities	397,501	193,528	216,355	807,384
Inventory and harmonisation of university and technical programmes	121,585	10,637	10,637	142,859
Publication of scientific forestry journal	44,359	65,127	32,564	142,050
Support to further education	231,557	22,434	22,434	276,425
Support to the development of a research financing mechanism	0	95,330	150,720	246,050
Support to technical training	814,873	1,330,061	802,506	2,947,440
Rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities	268,724	753,785	346,741	1,369,250
Support to training	425,637	425,637	425,637	1,276,911
Support to demonstration forests	120,512	150,640	30,128	301,280
Support to university education and research	968,007	1,248,182	722,916	2,939,105
Rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment	169,287	374,115	74,823	618,225
Support to training	572,760	572,760	572,760	1,718,280
Support to research		150,667	75,333	226,000
Support to demonstration forests and research	225,960	150,640		376,600
Project management	191,534	120,346	120,346	432,226
Programme implementation unit	189,275	118,087	118,087	425,449
Programme technical committee	1,506	1,506	1,506	4,518
Programme steering committee	753	753	753	2,259
CBFF estimated base cost	2,371,915	2,892,117	1,862,122	7,126,154
Contingencies (7%)	166,034	202,448	130,349	498,831
Total Cost Estimate of CBFF financing	2,537,949	3,094,565	1,992,471	7,624,985

CIDA FINANCING				
Support to RIFFEAC coordinating activities	50,000	12,500	12,500	75,000
Inventory and harmonisation of university and technical school programmes	50,000	12,500	12,500	75,000
Support to technical training	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
Support to training	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
Support to university education and research	610,000	410,000	405,000	1,425,000
Rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment	200,000	0	0	200,000
Support to training	250,000	250,000	250,000	750,000
Support to research	160,000	160,000	155,000	475,000
Total Cost Estimate of CIDA financing	685,000	447,500	442,500	1,575,000
LAVAL FINANCING				
Support to university education and research	200,000	200,000	165,000	565,000
Support to training	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Support to research	100,000	100,000	65,000	265,000
Total estimated cost of LAVAL financing	200,000	200,000	165,000	565,000
CERFO FINANCING				
Support to technical training	200,000	100,000	75,000	375,000
Support to training	200,000	100,000	75,000	375,000
Total estimated cost of CERFO financing	200,000	100,000	75,000	375,000
InWEnt FINANCING				
Support to RIFFEAC coordinating activities	230,000	260,000	260,000	750,000
Publication of a scientific forestry journal	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
Support to further education	200,000	30,000	30,000	260,000
Support to the development of research financing mechanism	0	200,000	200,000	400,000
Project management	175,000	100,000	100,000	375,000
Management team	175,000	100,000	100,000	375,000
InWEnt Base Cost Estimate	405,000	360,000	360,000	1,125,000
RIFFEAC FINANCING				
Support to RIFFEAC coordinating activities				
Project management	175,000	100,000	100,000	375,000
Management team	175,000	100,000	100,000	375,000
Estimated base cost of RIFFEAC financing	175,000	100,000	100,000	375,000
TOTAL FINANCING COST	4,202,949	4,302,065	3,134,971	11,639,985

2.6 Project Impact Area and Beneficiaries

2.6.1 This is a regional project covering nine Congo Basin countries comprising around 66 million people, with 22 million of them living in 200 million ha of forest. The direct beneficiaries include RIFFEAC and 18 national and regional institutions selected from the nine Congo Basin countries. The technical and material capacity of the institutions will improve, 520 experts will receive high level university education and 1,200 experts and technicians will receive middle-level secondary and pre-university education.

2.6.2 This programme to build the quantity and quality of technical and human resource capacity, will address the needs expressed by the countries and confirmed in the FAO study on training needs in Central Africa (2006). 22 million people, i.e. 1/3 of the total Congo Basin population living in the forests, will benefit from the project outcomes.

2.6.3 The project will have a two-pronged impact: (i) increased income for the population from better jobs, thanks to the technical and university education provided; and (2) better designed national and regional sustainable forest management policies as a result of enhanced human resource capacity, which will ensure better forest resource management - key to development in Central Africa.

2.7 Participatory Approach to Project Identification, Design and Implementation

2.7.1 Following the call for proposals launched in December 2009, RIFFEAC, in collaboration with CERFO, the University of Laval and other key COMIFAC players drew up the concept note which was approved at the Seventh CBFF Governing Council meeting held in Tunis on 7 March 2010. The detailed proposal was prepared by Bank and CBFF experts, 18 training institutions selected from the nine Congo Basin countries and the project's lead partners (RIFFEAC, CERFO and University of Laval). Apart from the 18 selected training institutions and the project's key partners, the implementation phase will also involve the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat and students from the training institutions.

2.8 Bank Group Experience and Lessons Reflected in Project Design

2.8.1 The Bank is currently involved in financing the Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo) with UA 35.28 million. The Programme's objective is to contribute to the sustainable and concerted management of the forest resources and protected areas representing Central Africa's biological diversity and ecosystems. The participatory approach is used extensively in this project. Two components of the project deal with building the capacity of two of the 18 forestry training schools.

2.8.2 A review of the Bank's portfolio in Congo Basin countries reveals that project performance is generally unsatisfactory. This is due to various factors: (i) low disbursement rates; (ii) delays in fulfilling the conditions for first disbursement; (iii) delay in mobilising the country's counterpart contribution; (iv) delay in submitting audit and quarterly activity reports; (v) unfamiliarity with Bank rules and procedures; and (iv) low involvement of the beneficiaries in project design and implementation.

2.8.3 Based on past experience and given the lessons drawn by the key actors, RIFFEAC, LAVAL and CERFO, the following factors were taken into consideration in designing the programme: (i) use of COMIFAC partner organisations; (ii) use of a special structure well versed in project management, in this case, RIFFEAC, instead of individual governments, as this would necessitate multiple national grants, contributions from counterparts and conditions to meet at the national level; and (iii) the commitment of RIFFEAC and its partners to help finance the project.

2.9 Key Performance Indicators

2.9.1 The key performance indicators presented in the results-based logical framework are defined at three levels: (i) programme outcome; (ii) programme objective; and (iii) components. In terms of programme outcome, the indicators concern the rate of degradation of the Congo Basin ecosystem. With regard to programme objective, the indicators include: (i) the number and quality of training institutions; and (ii) the number and quality of trained personnel. Performance indicators at the component level relate to: (i) RIFFEAC's capacity to fulfil its mandate by implementing at least 70% of its work programme as scheduled; (ii) the number and quality of secondary technical schools and the number of highly qualified experts trained in such schools; (iii) the number and quality of universities and the number of males/females (M/F) trained to university level; and (iv) the implementation of programme management, monitoring and coordination tools.

PROJECT FEASIBILITY

3.1 Economic and Financial Performance

3.1.1 Technical Feasibility: In terms of technical implementation, the project is expected to run smoothly. Implementation will be coordinated by RIFFEAC, with technical assistance from partners such as CERFO and the University of Laval both of which have a solid working experience of Central Africa, qualified staff and good training and research tools. Project implementation will span a thirty-six month period.

3.1.2 Economic and Financial Benefits: Given the nature of the project, it is difficult to quantify the financial and economic benefits. The project will generate some intangible benefits, but these will be difficult to measure. However, the employment opportunities for project beneficiaries will be a measurable economic indicator. Besides, the known project outputs do not necessarily make benefit analysis possible. These benefits include for the most part: the increasing number of experts trained at all levels, the establishment of more training centres, greater effectiveness in RIFFEAC's coordination of sustainable forestry resource management in the Congo Basin, and further training to enhance the knowledge of the region's key stakeholders in sustainable forestry management in the Congo basin.

3.2 Environmental and Social Impact

Environmental Impact

3.2.1 This project has been classified under the Bank's Environmental Category 3. This categorisation is based on the fact that the programme will not have any negative effects on the environment. The selected programme activities mainly include training and capacity building for forestry training institutions. The demonstration schools will not be affected since practical work focuses on sustainable forest management techniques.

Climate Change

3.2.2 The expected qualitative and quantitative improvement in human resources through the project will enable the nine Congo basin countries to better develop sustainable forest resource management policies in Central Africa. Once developed, the national and regional policies will help to reduce the pace of deforestation and increase the forest cover needed to stabilise the climate.

Social Impact

3.2.3 The project will give employable skills to nationals of the nine Congo Basin countries, who will in turn train other compatriots in sustainable forest resource management. The employment opportunities thus created will contribute indirectly to an increase in the income of the population in the nine Congo Basin target countries.

Gender

3.2.4 Women capable of attending school in each of the nine countries of the Congo basin will also receive training in the eighteen (18) training centres identified by the project, and will then be able to work and increase their income.

Involuntary Population Displacement

3.2.5 The project will not cause any involuntary population displacement because its activities focus on capacity building for training centres. The students will be trained at the existing training centres.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Arrangements

Institutional Arrangements

4.1.1 The programme will be implemented by RIFFEAC, in partnership with CERFO and the University of Laval. This institutional arrangement was arrived at by the three institutions within the framework of an agreement signed on 29 May 2009. RIFFEAC is COMIFAC's technical agent for the implementation of Strategic Thrust 7 of its Convergence Plan. RIFFEAC is a non-profit regional association established by ministerial decree No. 082/A/MINAT/28 May 2008, with head office in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Most of RIFFEAC's permanent staff are forestry and environmental experts and teachers. Its cardinal role is coordination and monitoring of training activities, and environmental and forestry research in Central Africa. All the forestry training centres in Central Africa are members of RIFFEAC and operate in that capacity. COMIFAC is RIFFEAC's supervisory body.

4.1.2 CERFO was established in 1984 as a non-profit organisation. Its letters patent and statutory regulations provide for a nine-member Board of Directors representing various areas of the forestry sector, including industry, teaching and research. This organisation is a leader in the transfer of forestry technology in Quebec (Canada). It is a key player in all areas of forestry. CERFO has been in Africa since 1998. Its international activities include programmes implemented with support from CIDA. Examples include the drawing up of training programmes for teachers of secondary/technical schools in Cameroon (1988-1989); the training of two Brazilian forestry engineers (1991-1992); the training programme for

Chinese interns (1991-1993); the introduction of the model forest programme in Mexico (1993-1994); sawing technology in Brazil (1994-1995); inventory of precious wood in Costa Rica (2000-2001); support for training in natural resource management in the Congo Basin (CERFO sub-contracted LAVAL for the technical aspect from 2008-2013), etc.

4.1.3 The University of Laval is a corporate body established by virtue of an Act of the Quebec National Assembly on 8 December 1970. The Act was promulgated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on 1 September 1971 and amended by the National Assembly on 16 May 1991. The University of Laval has a long history of international cooperation with close to 2,315 foreign students. The institution gives research and development grants worldwide (CAD 332,074,000 in 2008). It is one of the leading universities in Canada and has signed over 550 conventions. The FFGG, apart from being the only one of its kind in Quebec, is also one of the oldest faculties and ranks among the 16 leading faculties of the University. Its involvement in international forestry training in the Congo Basin dates back to 1968 when Professor Andre Lafond, a former dean, began his work in forestry education in Africa with sponsorship from the FAO.

4.1.4 A Programme Management Team (PMT), made up mostly of RIFFEAC staff, and with a proven track record in project management, will be responsible for the daily administration of the programme. The PMT's activities will involve overseeing the routine implementation of the programme. This will require the preparation of work and budget plans, monitoring of field activities, providing administrative, accounting and financial management and producing progress reports. Team members will be appointed by the RIFFEAC Chair following non-objection from the CBFF. The PMT will be assisted by the Programme Technical Monitoring Committee (PTMC) made up of the Directors of national partner training institutions, a list of which is given as Appendix 4. The PTMC will act as the technical advisory body.

4.1.5 A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will also be set up within RIFFEAC. It will be made up of the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC (Chair) and members of the RIFFEAC Board of Directors, and will serve as the programme's advisory and facilitation body.

Arrangements for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services

4.1.6 The method for procuring goods and services covered with CBFF resources will be governed by Bank Group Rules of Procedure for the Procurement of Goods and Works (2008 edition) and Rules of Procedure for the Use of Consultants (2008 edition), as modified by CBFF operational procedures. RIFFEAC will prepare a procurement plan for the first 18 months of project implementation which it will submit to the CBFF Secretariat for approval prior to grant negotiations. This procurement plan will be updated on an annual basis

4.1.7 The procurements of goods whose value is less or equal to UA 20.000 UC (about 24.000 €), as well as contract services of an amount equal or less than UA 20.000 UC (about 24.000 €) will be approved by RIFFEAC and post-reviewed by the CBFF Secretariat. For that purpose, the Implementing Agency capacities will be strengthened through training in procurement and contract management. The first five (05) procurements will be prior-reviewed by the CBFF Secretariat before the setting-up of the post-review process. The procurement arrangements for goods, works and services are summarized in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1
Procurement Arrangements (in EUR)

CATEGORIES	CBFF Budget				
	Shortlist	Shopping	LCB	Others	TOTAL
WORKS					1 412 573
INSTALLATIONS		200,000	1,000,000		1 200 000
CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION		212 573			212573
GOODS					1 431 258
VEHICULES			56 054		56054
ÉQUIPEMENTS		775,203	600,000		1 375 203
SERVICES					3 186 646
TRAINING ¹				2105257	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ²				954967	
STUDIES	126422				
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES					
MISCELLANEOUS					717 497
PERSONNEL					378 181
PIU fees and allowances ³				104 934	
Operating costs ⁴				98 357	
Travel and missions ⁵				174 890	
Contingencies (7%)					498 831
Total					7 624 985

4.1.8 Works: Development will be procured in several lots following the national competitive bidding mode for a total budget not exceeding 1.200 200 euro, with a maximum amount of 200 000 euro per lot. The procurement of constructions and rehabilitations (212 573 Euro) will be carried out under the shopping procurement method (with a maximum amount of 50 000 euro per contract).

4.1.9 Goods: The procurement of a vehicle for the monitoring of the project's activities (56.054 euro) will be made through shopping procedures. Office equipment (600 000 €), computer equipment and training (775 203 €) will be procured through national competitive bidding, a maximum amount of 200 000 Euro per contract).

4.1.10. Services: Consultancy for training and technical assistance will be organized with the project partners using direct contracting for a budget not to exceed 3.060.224 euro. Services pertaining to the technical assistance (CERFO and LAVAL) will be procured under direct contracting as a result of the successful classic partnership which exists between RIFFEAC and CERFO, project co-donors.

¹ Expenses such as scholarships, research budgets, etc: no suppliers.

² Contrats gré à gré entre RIFFEAC, CERFO et LAVAL, partenaires du projet depuis le début.

³ Indemnités, *per diems*, frais de voyages, etc.; pas de fournisseurs.

⁴ Petites dépenses telles que fournitures diverses, petits achats, etc.

⁵ Même chose que note 3.

4.1.11 The letters of agreement of those contracts will be subject to a prior review by the CBFF, before their signing. Consultants for studies will be recruited on a shortlist basis for a budget amounting 126.422 euro. The recruitment process will be in line with the Bank's rules and procedures for the use of consultants. For contracts amounting less than UA 200.000 or its equivalent in Euro awarded to consulting firms and of UA 50.000 or its equivalent in Euro awarded to individual consultants, the Implementing Agency can limit the publication of the call for interest to national and regional newspapers. However, any eligible consultant, whether he is regional or not, who wishes to provide the sought services can express his willingness to be shortlisted. For contracts whose value is more than UA 200.000 or its equivalent in Euro for consulting firms and UA 50.000 or its equivalent in Euro for individual consultants, the call for interest must be published in UNDB on-line and in the Bank's website.

4.1.12 The "Others" category refers either to contracts for which the provider is known and is a result of the cooperation agreement signed on 29 May 2009 between the three project partners, or from direct negotiation.

4.1.13 The "Miscellaneous" category refers to contractual services other than those relating to staff, such as support for training, support for the development of forestry research financing mechanisms, support for further training, etc.

4.1.14 Review procedure: The following documents are subject to the Bank's review and approval before their publication: General Procurement notice, Call for tender notice, Call for interest notice, Bidding documents or Request for proposals, Bid evaluation reports including recommendations for contract awards (goods) or Consultant technical proposal evaluation reports, draft contracts for good and services provided that they are modified and different from the original form attached to the tender documents, Consultant financial proposal evaluation reports including contract award recommendations alongside with minutes of the negotiations and the signed draft contract.

4.1.15 Post review.

The procurements of goods and services whose value is less or equal to UA 20.000 or its equivalent in Euro and works of an amount not exceeding UA 50.000 or its equivalent in Euro will be approved by the Implementation Agency and post-reviewed by the Bank, after a review in priori satisfactory of the five (05) first contracts by the Bank.. The tender documents, including price quotations, bid evaluation and contract award reports will be kept by the Implementing Agency for periodical reviews by CBFF supervision missions

Disbursement Arrangements

4.1.16 As stated in the Protocol Agreement signed on 29 May 2009 between the three project partners, RIFFEAC is the Donee. CBFF grants will be disbursed in line with Bank Rules of Procedure and CBFF's operating procedures. The following two disbursement methods will be used: (i) direct payment for contract amounts above EUR 24,000 for works, goods and services; (ii) special account or revolving fund for the procurement of works, goods and services for amounts not exceeding EUR 24,000 and to cover operating costs, allowances for project staff as well as miscellaneous administrative costs.

4.1.17 The beneficiary will open a special project account in a commercial bank acceptable to the ADB, into which grant resources will be paid. Disbursements will be made in compliance with the provisions of the Bank's Disbursement Manual, and paid as an advance

based on an annual work and budget plan approved beforehand by the CBFF Secretariat. Each disbursement or advance request will be submitted to the CBFF Secretariat for approval and cover a period not exceeding six months of activities. The special account will be replenished at RIFFEAC's request, accompanied by supporting invoices covering at least 50% of the previously advance received.

Financial and Audit Reports

4.1.18 Accounts and budget will be monitored using standard accounting software. The CBFF Secretariat will be charged with conducting an annual audit of project financial statements. In that regard, it will hire an external auditor based on terms of reference consistent with the Bank's model. The auditor will be required to conduct ex-post evaluation, verifying the justifying documents and auditing the CBFF-funded project.

4.2. Monitoring/Evaluation

4.2.1 RIFFEAC will be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation, using project reference documents. RIFFEAC, in collaboration with its programme partners, will produce half-yearly and annual progress reports, which will indicate the level of project implementation, procurements made, expenditure execution, difficulties encountered during project implementation and corrective measures taken or planned in order to improve project management. Together with its partners, RIFFEAC will prepare an annual work and budget plan for submission to the CBFF Secretariat. COMIFAC, RIFFEAC's supervisory body, will also carry out its own monitoring activities as part of this project and prepare an annual monitoring report, a copy of which will be sent to CBFF.

4.2.2 In addition, the CBFF Secretariat will periodically supervise the project alongside the Bank, particularly with the assistance of the Yaoundé Office, to check project outcomes on the ground, give advice and make recommendations on enhanced project management effectiveness. The CBFF Head of Operations based in Yaoundé will closely monitor the project.

4.2.3 At the end of the project, RIFFEAC will prepare and submit a project completion report to the CBFF Secretariat. The latter will organise a final evaluation mission to assess actual project output and performance, and compile the lessons learnt into a list of best practices for future operations.

4.3 Governance

4.3.1 The Bank's rules, especially those regarding procurement, will apply to all project management matters. RIFFEAC has considerable project management experience as it has satisfactorily implemented training programmes since 2003, including: the ITTO/IPFE support programme for refresher courses in forestry management and forest concession management in forestry schools in Central Africa (2003-2005); the EU Regional Support Programme at ENEF and ERAIFT, 2004-2008; the MAE-France Training Support Programme, Research and Information in the Congo Basin (FORINFO), 2004-2009; the CIDA FOGRN Programme (Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, 2008-2013); and the InWent Programme on Construction and Institutional Capacity Building for the Sustainable Management of Congo Basin Forests (2010-2013).

4.3.2 However, the active involvement of the Bank's experts at the Yaoundé and Libreville Regional Offices as well as at Headquarters to review dossiers and contracts will contribute to much fewer slippages in dossier and contract control. To hedge risks associated with financial management, the CBFF will carry out regular supervision missions and train PIU staff on Bank regulations and procedures.

4.4 Sustainability

4.4.1 Project sustainability will depend primarily on its consistency with the national training policies and strategies drawn up by the various Governments. Other factors that will determine project sustainability include: (i) an integrated participatory approach that will facilitate the complete ownership of the programme by the various stakeholders in each country to the extent that the stakeholders identified will themselves carry out project activities on the ground; and (ii) the project's financing method and how such funds are managed. Indeed, project financing is guaranteed by the key partners who have wide experience in the project's subject area. The training of stakeholders will itself be a sustainability factor.

4.4.2 The creation of a budget line at COMIFAC to support RIFFEAC as a technical organ for implementing some of the strategic components of COMIFAC's Convergence Plan constitutes a sustainability factor. The training schools strengthened under this programme will have the requisite facilities to sustain the training activities carried out in each country.

4.5 Risk Management

4.5.1 The project matrix shows the major risks and the recommended mitigative measures. Table 4.5 below shows the major risks and the mitigative measures.

*Table 4.5
Risks and Mitigative Measures*

Risks	Mitigative Measures
RIFFEAC's intervention policies are not harmonised with those of COMIFAC.	Lobbying and sensitisation by COMIFAC
Local partners of RIFFEAC are not involved in the process.	Sensitisation, lobbying of COMIFAC
Lack of motivation of members of the coordination team due to inappropriate treatment by the supervisory body.	Sensitisation, lobbying of COMIFAC
The State downgrades demonstration forests. Destruction of demonstration forests (fire, plundering); beneficiaries are not involved in the development of teaching aids.	Lobbying of government authorities by COMIFAC and sensitisation of RIFFEAC by CBFF to get beneficiaries involved.
Government policies on tertiary education and research are modified without warning and are no more in harmony with RIFFEAC's working programmes.	Sensitisation by COMIFAC.
Unexpected transfer of a member of RIFFEAC coordination	Sensitisation of competent authorities by CBFF and COMIFAC.
Government policies on tertiary education and research are modified without warning and are no more in harmony with RIFFEAC's working programmes.	Sensibilisation par la COMIFAC

4.6 Knowledge Building

4.6.1. The Bank has developed many projects aimed mainly at the improvement and dissemination of the knowledge and the sustainable management of natural resources. Therefore, the project will offer the opportunity to the Bank to have local actors involved in the implementation of the project capitalized those experiences.

4.6.2. The project as per, aims at capacity building at local, national and regional levels. This capacity strengthening will mainly lead to an improvement of knowledge in forestry, environment and climate. The Bank's experience on those topics, combined to the availability of a sound know-how with the project's partners, will certainly lead to the achievement of the project's objectives and consequently, to an improved definition/design and implementation of forest sustainable management policies.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 Legal instrument

5.1.1 The legal framework for this project is a grant protocol agreement between RIFFEAC, a COMIFAC technical organ and the beneficiary, and the Bank. This protocol agreement sets out the terms and conditions of the grant.

5.2 Conditions Associated with Bank's Intervention

5.2.1 The Bank's intervention will be subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

A. *Conditions Precedent to Entry into Force of the Grant*

5.2.2 The effectiveness of the grant protocol agreement is subject to its signature by the RIFFEAC and the Bank.

B. *Conditions Precedent to First Disbursement*

5.2.3 The first disbursement of grant resources will be subject to fulfilment by the RIFFEAC of the following conditions:

- (i) Provide evidence that a special account has been opened in a bank acceptable to the ADB into which the resources for the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) will be deposited (cf. 4.14);
- (ii) Provide the ADB with evidence of the appointment of a Project Director, an Accountant, whose qualifications and professional experience the Bank should deem acceptable beforehand (cf. 4.1.4).

C. Other Conditions:

- (i) Provide evidence of the co-financiers' financial commitment
- (ii) Create a RIFFEAC budget line within the framework of COMIFAC before 2012.

5.3 Compliance with Bank Policies

5.3.1 This project is consistent with applicable Bank policies, especially: (i) the Bank's Country Strategy Paper for the nine COMIFAC countries involved; (ii) the Bank's 2008-2012 Medium-Term Strategy; and (iii) the Bank's Policy on the Environment.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that a CBFF grant not exceeding EUR 7,624,985 be awarded to RIFFEAC, to implement the project as designed and described in this report, subject to the conditions defined in the Grant Protocol Agreement.

Detailed Project Cost (EUR net of taxes)

		Personnel (EUR)	Goods (EUR)	Services (EUR)	Works (EUR)	Operating costs (EUR)	Total (EUR)
<u>2202 : Support for training of displaced learners (scholarships)</u>						379,680	379,680
	<u>Operating costs</u>						
	Scholarships for sch fees, subsistence, air tickets, etc. (14 students X EUR 9,040/yr X 3yrs)					379,680	
						<u>379,680</u>	
<u>2203 : Support for practical training and other field trips</u>						451,800	451,800
	<u>Operating costs</u>						
	Annual budget by institution (EUR 18,825/yr/inst. X 8 inst. X 3 yrs)					451,800	
						<u>451,800</u>	
230 : Support for Demonstration Forests							
<u>2301 : Improved access to demonstration forests</u>						60,240	60,240
	<u>Operating costs</u>						
	Budget by institution (EUR 7,530/inst. X 8 inst.)					60,240	
						<u>60,240</u>	
<u>2302 : Management of demonstration plots</u>			60,240		180,800		241,040
	<u>Works</u>						
	Improved access (roads, bridges, other infrastructure, etc. (EUR 22 600/inst. X 8 inst.)				180,800		
					<u>180,800</u>		
	<u>Goods</u>						
	Purchase of various tools for demonstration forests (EUR 7 530/inst. X 8 inst.)		60,240				
			<u>60,240</u>				
Component 200 contingencies		0	46,385	34,180	63,336	62,420	206,321
	7 % of sub-total expenditure for each expense item						
	Sub-total		<u>206,321</u>				
Sub-total of component 200			3,153,761				

Detailed Project Cost (EUR net of taxes)

	Personnel (EUR)	Goods (EUR)	Services (EUR)	Works (EUR)	Operating Costs (EUR)	Total (EUR)
<u>3202: Support for the implementation of training activities</u>					903,600	903,600
					<u>Operating costs</u>	
Scholarships for 20 PhD students (20students X EUR 30,120/st.)					602,400	
Scholarships for 20 Master's students (20 students X EUR 7 530/yr X 2yrs)					301,200	
					<u>903,600</u>	
<u>3203 : Support for learners' mobility for training at 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycle institutions (scholarships)</u>					339,000	339,000
					<u>Operating costs</u>	
Annual budgets by institution (EUR 11,300/yr/inst. X 10 inst. X 3 yrs)					339,000	
					<u>339,000</u>	
330 : Support for research					226,000	226,000
					<u>Operating costs</u>	
Research budget for PhD students. (EUR 11,300/st. X 20 PhD students)					226,000	
					<u>226,000</u>	
340 : Support for the Management of Demonstration and Research Forests						
<u>3401 : Improved access to demonstration forests</u>					75,300	75,300
					<u>Operating costs</u>	
Budgets by Institution (EUR 7 530/inst. X 10 inst.)					75,300	
					<u>75,300</u>	
<u>3402 : Management of demonstration plots in collaboration with local communities</u>		75,300		226,000		301,300
					<u>Works</u>	
Improved access (roads, bridges, other infrastructure, etc. (EUR 22 600/inst. X 10 inst.)					226,000	
					<u>226,000</u>	
					<u>Goods</u>	
Purchase of various tools for demonstration forests (EUR 7 530/inst. X 10 inst.)					75,300	
					<u>75,300</u>	
Component 300, Contingencies Component 300	0	31,626	34,398	31,640	108,073	205,737
7 % of sub-total for every expense item						
						Sub-total <u>205,737</u>
Component 300 sub-total						3,144 842

List of Beneficiary Training Institutions

- A. BURUNDI: (1) ISA
- B. CAMEROON: (2) University of Dschang (FASA, CRESA); (3) University of Yaoundé 1; (4) ENEF – Mbalmayo; (5) Garoua School of Rural Development, Water and Forests
- C. CAR: (6) ISDR, Mbaki
- D. Equatorial Guinea: (7) EUEAPF
- E. DR Congo: (8) University of Kinshasa (FSA); (9) University of Lubumbashi (FSA); (10) University of Kivu-GOMA (ISEAT Shela); (11) University of Graben; (12) ISEA-Bengamisa; (13) ERAIFT
- F. Gabon: (14) ENEF
- G. Congo: (15) Mariem Ngouabi University IDR); (16) ENEF of Mossendjo
- H. Rwanda: (17) University of Rwanda
- I. Chad: (18) University of N'Djamena