

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT,
WATER AND FORESTS

Summary

OF THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS TO
BE FINANCED WITH ALLOCATIONS TO GUINEA
UNDER THE SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSPARENT
ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR THE FIFTH
REPLENISHMENT OF THE GEF

May 2012



1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Fifth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2010, Guinea was allocated the sum of US\$5,930,000 under the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). This allocation is to be directed toward biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation projects in the amounts of US\$2,430,000, US\$2,000,000, and US\$1,500,000, respectively.

The GEF has also allocated the sum of US\$30,000 for the preparation of a national portfolio of priority project ideas, to be developed using a participatory, transparent, and inclusive process.

With technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Guinea conducted the national portfolio formulation exercise in accordance with these guidelines.

2. THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO FORMULATION EXERCISE IN GUINEA

2.1. Establishment of the committee and dissemination of information

This effort was undertaken with support from the national GEF committee, which was established in 2010 by Decree No. 2463/MEEFDD/CAB/SGG/10 of June 24, 2010 issued by the Minister of Environment. This committee is composed of 22 members: the GEF Operational Focal Point (coordinator), the focal points for the conventions on biodiversity, climate change, and to combat desertification, and representatives from technical departments concerned with the environment, including the Ministries of Agriculture, Energy, Livestock Production, Planning, and International Cooperation, as well as from civil society (NGOs, etc.).

Following a consultation meeting with this national GEF committee, a national workshop was convened on February 20, 2012. This workshop, which sought to promote the wider dissemination [of information] to all national actors, was attended by 44 participants, and received wide coverage from the print media, national television, and public and private radio stations.

Chaired by the Secretary General for the Environment, and attended on this occasion by advisors in the areas of the environment, water, and forests, the Inspector General for the Environment, and several national and general directors, this workshop provided participants with the opportunity to hear presentations on GEF procedures and on the three conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD) made by the national focal points. The workshop culminated with the decision to launch Guinea's national portfolio formulation exercise.

In collaboration with the convention focal points, the GEF's OFP, the national GEF Committee coordinator, drafted the TOR, which were published for the purposes of recruiting national consultants to prepare the document. Four consultants were hired: one for each focal area and one with responsibility for technical coordination of activities.

Owing to delays in launching the process, the work done by the consultants was validated at two workshops attended by all national actors: one to validate the project concept notes for the focal areas and the other to validate the proposed summary report.

2.2. The national workshop to launch the process

The national launch workshop was organized to provide national actors with information on the national portfolio to be formulated and was attended by some 40 participants representing the public (ministerial departments, teaching and research institutions), mixed (Guinean electricity company), and private (mining companies) sectors, as well as civil society (NGOs) (see the attached list of institutions). These participants were selected on the basis of criteria such as their desire to protect the environment, the impact of their activities on the environment, or the impact of poor environmental management on their lifestyles and livelihoods.

This workshop also provided a forum for raising awareness among actors on the GEF's missions and objectives, as well as on the focal areas that it finances, in particular the Rio generation conventions. Presentations on each GEF focal area were informative and prompted extremely constructive discussions. This workshop culminated with strong recommendations, including maintaining the three areas covered under GEF-5 (highlighting further the diversity of country priorities and financing needs), the allocation of US\$1 million to the Small Grants Programme, which is to be deducted from the STAR allocation. This amount was distributed as follows: US\$400,000 for biodiversity, US\$300,000 for climate change, and US\$300,000 for land degradation projects. These amounts are to be deducted from allocations earmarked for each focal area.

Funding for the project ideas included in the portfolio will be allocated as follows: climate change mitigation – US\$1,700,000; biodiversity – US\$2,030,000; and land degradation – US\$1,200,000.

Workshop participants expressed the need to expedite the portfolio formulation process, incorporating clearly defined national priorities into the plans, programs, and strategies already adopted in Guinea and communicated to the various conventions.

2.3. Workshop for training, information gathering, and project idea selection

This workshop was a follow-up to the launch workshop and sought to build the capacity of actors to prepare project concept notes in accordance with GEF guidelines. It focused in particular on the entities that had already submitted proposals (e.g., the National Directorate for the Environment, the National Directorate responsible for Sanitation and Living Conditions, the National Directorate for Energy, the University of Conakry (UC), the Conakry-Rogbanè Center for Scientific Research (CERESCOR), the National Biodiversity Office, the National Directorate for Water and Forests (DNEF), the National Directorate for Agriculture, the National Directorate for Livestock Production, and the Guinean Institute for Agricultural Research).

One of the achievements of this workshop was the strong recommendation to build on plans and strategies that have already been adopted, including the First National Communication (mitigation), the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, and conservation and biodiversity strategies and action plans. It was also unanimously agreed that Guinea, which was unable to make use of its allocation under GEF-4 for a variety of reasons, could continue with the priority project ideas that had already been submitted.

2.4. Receipt and assessment of project ideas

As stated in the previous section, the priorities selected pertained to biodiversity and climate change projects that were developed under GEF-4 but never funded. A third project idea—improving land management in the Upper Guinea-Forest Guinea transition zone, which is also subject to tremendous pressure from mining activities—was selected as well.

Despite the prioritization recommended by the launch workshop, the project developer entities made presentations to an appropriate technical audience on the logical frameworks for the projects submitted and, in some instances, the projects' identification forms.

A preliminary assessment was conducted by the consultants who were assisted by the focal points for the conventions on sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate change, and to combat desertification.

The results were submitted for comments by the representatives of all the aforementioned entities.

2.4 National validation workshop

The national workshop to validate Guinea's portfolio was held at the *Congres du Palais du Peuple* on April 19, 2012 and sought to achieve the following:

- Sharing of the results of the consultations (to inform national actors of the projects submitted by project developers and allow them to assess the relevance of the selections and the transparency procedure for the different phases);
- Validation of the projects to be submitted under the STAR for GEF-5;
- Validation of the other relevant project ideas submitted by Guinea in its portfolio; and
- Provision of the guidelines for subsequent phases (reporting at the ministerial level and the proposed transmittal letter to the GEF for Guinea's national portfolio).

This workshop was facilitated by the GEF's OFP and attended by the other convention focal points. It was chaired by the Minister of Environment and culminated with the recommendation from participants to validate the national environmental project portfolio.

3. PROJECT IDEAS APPROVED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

The amount allocated to Guinea was distributed in the three focal areas selected for the fifth replenishment of GEF resources. The projects listed below were selected.

3.1 Climate change

The proposed project focuses on the promotion of renewable energies as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the deleterious effects of the use of fossil fuels and energy wood on the environment. The introduction of renewable energy technologies (RETs) is expected to reduce GHG emissions caused by the use of oil, energy wood, and charcoal. The project is part of the national priorities relating to

the environment ([PNE, NAPA, and NC) and energy (national energy policy, PRONIASE, ERD, etc.).

This project, in the amount of US\$1,700,000, will be based at the Conakry-Rogbanè Center for Scientific Research (CERESCOR), and will be executed by the Ministry of Environment (CNE, DNE, UC, DNEF) and the Ministry of Energy (RE division, EDG). It covers the entire country and seeks to build national capacities and demonstrate the feasibility of RETs.

The rationale behind this project is that despite the fact that two inventories revealed that Guinea is a sink of greenhouse gases (based on 1994 and 2000 data), it is nonetheless severely energy deficient and faces intense anthropogenic pressures on the green cover accounting for over 80 percent of the energy balance. Guinea is also contending with a lack or paucity of knowledge of renewable energy deposits, as well as inadequate legal and institutional arrangements in place to address the current situation. The adoption of actions aimed at improving this situation is therefore a matter of priority.

This initiative is based on the following components:

- (a) Strengthening of the political, institutional, and legal framework with a view to promoting the development of renewable energies;
- (b) Development of technical and human capacities;
- (c) Technical and economic assessment of Guinea's renewable energy potential;
- (d) Execution of clean energy pilot demonstration activities in Guinea's eight administrative regions; and
- (e) Dissemination of information to ensure the sustainability and replication of pilot activities.

The project's partners are the MEE (Environment, Forests, and Energy), the Ministry with responsibility for CERESCOR, the Guinean Electricity Company (EDG), and the National Meteorological Directorate.

3.2 Biodiversity

The title of the project selected is **"Improving environmental governance in the extractive industries."**

Guinea, which has the potential to develop a world-class mining industry with two-thirds of the globe's bauxite reserves and tens of billions of metric tons of iron ore, is threatened by the negative effects of these activities.

Mining operations disturb the soil, destroy vegetation and habitats, denude landscapes, and destroy the best agricultural land (bottomlands).

Guinea is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and a plethora of other closely related (regional and subregional) conventions, including, among others:

- i) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
- ii) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

- iii) The Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas;
- iv) The Convention to Combat Desertification;
- v) The Convention on Climate Change;
- vi) The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;
- vii) The Convention relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in Their Natural State;
- viii) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat; and
- ix) The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

This project, in the amount of US\$2,030,000, will be based at the biodiversity and protected areas department and executed by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Mining.

It covers the entire country and aims to build human capacity.

The project's overall objective is the integration of biodiversity conservation into the governance of Guinea's mining sector.

The progress measuring indicators are as follows:

- (a) Biodiversity conservation is incorporated into tax, legal, licensing, and regulatory reforms in the mining sector.
- (b) Public-private dialogue and the partnerships for biodiversity conservation in the context of investments in the mining sector are strengthened.
- (c) Biodiversity conservation priorities are identified and mainstreamed into land use plans for land in the vicinity of the mining areas.

The project's development objective is to support Guinea's efforts to attract sustainable environmental and social activities that will enhance the local and national economic benefits derived from mining, such as poverty reduction and improved food security at the community level.

The key indicators for measuring progress will be developed during the project document preparation phase.

This project is based on the following six components:

- ✓ Strengthening of political, legal, tax, and regulatory systems;
- ✓ Establishment of environmental regulatory capacity frameworks;
- ✓ Institutional capacity building and governance reform;
- ✓ Collection and dissemination of regional geological data;
- ✓ Development of economic links and diversification of activities in the mining regions; and

- ✓ Project management and coordination.

3.3 Land degradation

The title of the project selected is “**Implementation of actions to combat desertification in the Upper Guinea-Forest Guinea transition zone.**”

Guinea’s natural resources and environment are being adversely affected by mining of its vast mineral resources. This is why the Guinean Government intends to intervene in Forest Guinea in the Kérouané–Macenta–Beyla triangle, where the Rio Tinto and Vale-BSGR/Guinée mining companies are currently operating.

The presence of these companies presages a predictable increase in population in the forest-savannah transition zone. The pressure on natural resources will be greater as these populations will depend primarily on the use and development of natural resources (soil, forests, fauna, and water) to meet their needs for forest, fishing, and agricultural products.

Extensive livestock farming, primarily of cattle, is also practiced in this area. In addition to the local N’Dama breed, zebu cows have been introduced into the area from neighboring countries. Studies also revealed the existence of a transhumance route for large wild animals to bordering countries (Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, etc.).

The Government must therefore act in a prompt and timely manner to address the issue of degradation of natural resources, including land resources.

Overall objective: Help combat desertification by improving governance of sustainable land management and food security in Forest Guinea.

Specific objectives:

- Improve land governance;
- Reduce the rate of deforestation in Forest Guinea; and
- Build the operational capacity of local actors.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Improved land governance

Output 1: Actors are informed of the national codes for land management, natural resources, and the environment;

Output 2: The land rights of rural populations, including women, are known and mainstreamed into the relevant national codes; and

Output 3: An intersectoral and multiparty partnership framework for sustainable land management is put in place.

Outcome 2: Lower deforestation rate in Forest Guinea

Output 1: Degraded land is recovered through the use of agro-sylvo-pastoral techniques;

Output 2: Reserved forests and biodiversity are restored; and

Output 3: Community forests are managed.

Outcome 3: Strengthening of the operational capacity of technical staff and local actors

Output 1: The operational capacity of staff responsible for the environment, livestock production, agriculture, and of small local producers is strengthened;

Output 2: Soil fertility improvement techniques are disseminated;

Output 3: Techniques to improve and develop agricultural, fishery, and animal products are promoted.

Budget:

The budget allocated for implementation of this project amounted to US\$1,200,000.

Conakry, May 25, 2012.