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General Information

Applicant: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Jurisdiction: Cross River State, Nigeria
Project title: Implementation of REDD+ in Cross River State
Proposed start date: 15th September, 2018
Proposed duration (must not exceed 18 months): 15th September, 2018 to 31 December, 2020
Total request in USD (must not exceed \$400,000): \$399,710

Applicant contact details

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Proposal Outline

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1. Rationale and Approach

1.1. Summary (1/2 page)

Cross River State (CRS) is an integral part of Nigeria's efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). The State holds over 50% of Nigeria's remaining pristine forests covering over 640,000ha but this is being lost at an average of 15,000 ha per annum. This loss is primarily due to agricultural expansion (subsistence and commercial), timber extraction (mostly unregulated) and fuelwood extraction (firewood and charcoal), infrastructure, oil/solid mineral exploration and quarrying. This loss causes significant emissions as well as reducing capacity of CRS to address to climate change (CC). As a result of the State's strategic importance for achieving Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and green growth strategy, CRS was selected as pilot State for REDD+ within a nested approach considered by Nigeria for REDD+ implementation. A two-track process was defined to achieve REDD+ readiness in Nigeria, based on: (i) the development of institutional and technical capacities at Federal level, and (ii) carrying out intense institutional, strategy-building and demonstration activities in Cross River State.

In line with the above-mentioned, CRS initiated efforts towards REDD+ readiness with the support of key partners such as United Nations Joint Programme on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD). A crucial part of CRS's readiness process, was the development of the CRS REDD+ strategy. The strategy aims to provide a vision of how to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through identified policies and measures (PAMs). It is also to serve as a model for other states – a platform for learning and structural planning for REDD+ preparedness and implementation in other parts of Nigeria. Drawing from the CRS REDD+ strategy, a national REDD+ framework strategy was also developed to provide guidance to states intending to engage in REDD+ by outlining the steps and considerations they will need to make.

The CRS REDD+ strategy lays a solid foundation for the State to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation. In light of this, the Jurisdiction's request for additional financial support through the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCFTF) is in order to: a) support the development of an investment programme to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to kick start the implementation of the CRS Strategy; b) enable the development of a REDD+ Investment Plan that seeks to make the CRS REDD+ strategy operational and enable key sectors to align their policies and investments to REDD+; and c) enhance the engagement of stakeholders, particularly private sector actors working on commodity value chains linked to REDD+.

It is hoped that the financial support will help to: a) strengthen the capacity within key government agencies to address REDD+ through the requisite enabling conditions; 2) enhance coordination between local, state and national governments; 3) trigger incentives, including those of a fiscal nature to engender behavioural change to reduce deforestation; and 4) promote public-private-partnerships to support REDD+ implementation.

1.2. Self-Assessment (2 – 4 pages)

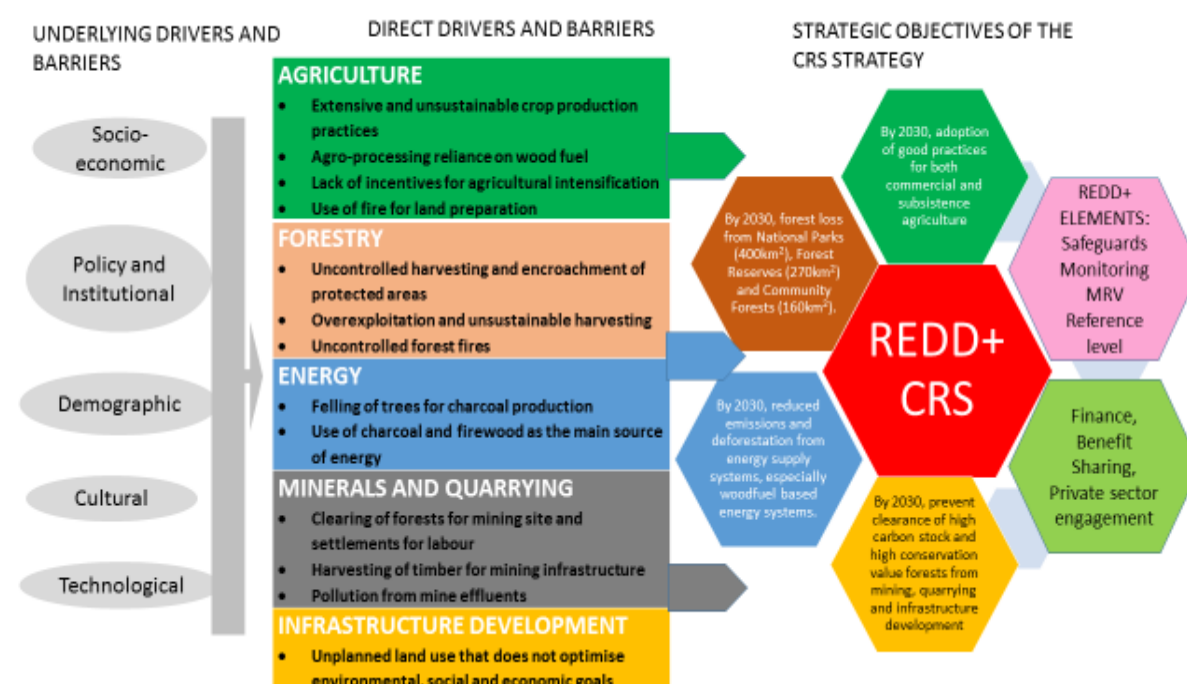
Cross River State (CRS) finalised a REDD+ strategy in 2016. The strategy responds to the Warsaw framework elements and seeks to address direct and underlying drivers of deforestation through proposed policies and measures. The CRS Strategy was informed by policy reviews, analytical studies and assessments¹ developed through an iterative participatory process involving all key stakeholders:

¹ An issues Benefit Sharing;

Government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, local communities, research and academic institutions, and media houses.

The CRS REDD+ Strategy were based on a process of analyzing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the barriers to sustainable management of forests to understand what would be the appropriate framework for REDD+ strategic options. The design of the strategy entailed an integrated approach to addressing these drivers and barriers, and the key policies and measures to be undertaken in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, mining and land use planning more broadly. The strategy also includes cross-thematic issues such as gender, incentives, financing, benefit sharing, knowledge management, civil society and private sector engagement. See Figure 1 for a synopsis of the elements of the Strategy.

Figure 1. Elements of the CRS Strategy



Cross River State has taken bold steps towards fulfilling the four components of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+:

- i. a sub-National REDD+ Strategy for CRS, and a National REDD+ Framework Strategy for Nigeria were officially launched at COP23 in Bonn;
- ii. CRS has made progress towards developing a Forest Monitoring System to enable an evolutionary process towards a full, nationwide Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Action Plan with institutional

- a) Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Forest Management;
- b) Assessment of Policy, Legal and Regulatory (PLR) Enabling Environment;
- c) Private Sector Engagement and Roles; and
- d) Knowledge Management and Products.

arrangements at the National and CRS levels was defined and developed with a roadmap to facilitate enabling legislations and laws for NFMS implementation to ensure the sustainability and transparency.;

- iii. developed a Country Approach to Safeguards and is in the process of designing a Safeguard Information System (SIS); and
- iv. the CRS submitted a Forest Emission Reference Level (FREL) in January 2018 that is consistent with MRV, and according to UNFCCC guidelines.

These achievements were premised on institutional and technical capacity building for REDD+ in CRS, where a cadre of trained experts and interested stakeholders on key REDD+ issues have emerged from the readiness phase.

In addition, the REDD+ readiness process laid the foundation for a Centre of Excellence and learning for REDD+. The Centre of Excellence is designed to provide a knowledge platform and research hub to enable other States in Nigeria to learn from evidence-based experiences and innovations. As an intrinsic part of these efforts, a knowledge management (KM) strategy was developed to deliver high-quality services and to enable Nigeria to find innovative ways to address the drivers of deforestation. Through the KM strategy, information and knowledge related to REDD+ will be disseminated to promote good practices, scale up innovations and influence policies, thus positioning REDD+ at the state level. The KM strategy provides a concrete outline for how the REDD+ Centre of Excellence can be further materialized and developed.

CRS has also been implementing the Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) programme with twenty-one projects ongoing. The CBR+ programme provided a platform for community engagement and facilitated active participation in the national REDD+ processes, particularly in the development the REDD+ strategy for CRS. Together, the projects cover a range of issues, including i) Sustainable Forest Management/Biodiversity conservation; ii) Capacity Development to engage in climate change mitigation processes, including REDD+; iii) Sustainable Livelihoods to combat poverty; and iv) energy.

Overall, the REDD+ readiness process helped to strengthen stakeholder participation and inclusion in forest and land governance in CRS. Through various work streams and a robust stakeholder forum, the REDD+ process in the State established connections between government and other stakeholders including civil society, private sector and communities, for collective development, decision-making and implementation of REDD+ activities.

Notwithstanding the above, there are critical gaps to be filled and opportunities to be leveraged. First, a review of the policy, legal and regulatory framework in the CRS REDD+ Strategy has shown that there are gaps and weaknesses including policy disconnect in the various sectoral policies that will ultimately inform REDD+ implementation. Through the Strategy development process, CRS identified policy distortions and conflicting institutional mandates which will need to be harmonized to put the Jurisdiction on the right path to harnessing its full potential to develop and sustain a low emissions economy. Thus, support to the State for stronger policy articulation, effective institutional arrangement, and closing the gaps between policy and implementation especially regarding agriculture, forestry, energy, and land use would be key. Continuous policy dialogue through the proposed investment plan to foster policy harmonization and alignment of investments in sectors related to REDD+ is essential. Also, there are several draft sectoral policies that have been developed that are relevant for REDD+. However, these are still in draft form. These policies would need to fully integrate REDD+ and be finalized if they are to respond in a comprehensive manner to REDD+ implementation. It is hoped that, the proposed investment plan will eventually include the activities that will support the finalization of these policies and render them operational.

Second, while the REDD+ strategy proposes policies and measures to address deforestation and forest degradation, they are yet to be made operational through key on-the-ground investments across sectors in CRS. The proposed investment plan is expected to fill this gap through strategic planning with various sectors to ensure that the requisite investments are defined and costed in the investment plan. This will help create an opportunity for strategic partnerships including with private sector investment, particularly those focusing on commodity value chains linked to REDD+.

Third, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CRS is in the process of developing a proposal to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The proposed project will address these challenges by supporting the development of incentive structures to promote sustainable forest resources and agricultural production systems as well as strengthening the capacity of government and communities to effectively manage and protect forest areas. While UNDP has already provided catalytic resources for the development of this proposal, the full design process will require resources above and beyond what UNDP is able to provide. With the additional resources to complement UNDP's support, the Jurisdiction will be able to develop and submit a full proposal to GCF as part of its efforts to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation.

Furthermore, support to the Jurisdiction provides opportunities to build on the CBR+ process by drawing from it to inform the Investment plan development as well as the development of the GCF proposal. Lesson lessons learned from the CBR+ initiatives will be captured and disseminated to provide promotion of best practices and replication of successful approaches.

In line with the above-mentioned, this proposal is conceptualised around achievements that need to be consolidated and gaps that need to be addressed. This would enable CRS transition into phase 2 of REDD+ through the implementation of the State's REDD+ strategy. The elements therein are intended to complement ongoing initiatives including the State's commitment to both the Under 2^o Coalition and the Governors Climate and Forests Taskforce. These commitments and future progress in CRS are particularly relevant as the State holds more than 50% of Nigeria's remaining primary forest² and has the potential to provide a model for green development in Nigeria.

The self-assessment should consider the following areas:

Existing Jurisdictional Strategies

- Is there an existing jurisdictional REDD+ strategy? Yes No If yes, please provide name, year of approval, and link to the strategy online.
 - Cross River State Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). It was approved in 2017 and officially launched at the COP23 in Bonn.
- What is the geographic coverage of the strategy?
 - The geographic coverage of the strategy includes all agro-ecological zones (AEZs) of CRS – Rainforest, Montane forest, Savannah and Mangrove/swamp. The overall approach is to apply one or more of the REDD+ scope elements, that is: decreasing emissions from deforestation, decreasing emissions from forest degradation; preserving and accumulating carbon stocks (including forest conservation; sustainable management of forests; and restoration of degraded forest areas) in relevant areas of the AEZ in the context of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Which drivers of deforestation (direct and underlying) are addressed? Which agents of

² FAO (2015) Global Forest Resource Assessment

deforestation/change are associated?

The strategy addresses the following direct drivers:

- Agricultural expansion (subsistence and commercial);
- Fuelwood consumption (firewood and charcoal);
- Unsustainable timber harvesting;
- Infrastructure development (industry, power lines, roads, dams and settlements);
- Oil/solid mineral exploration and quarrying.

The strategy also addresses the following underlying drivers:

- Demographic causes;
- Economic causes;
- Technological causes;
- Policy and institutional causes; and
- Cultural causes.

The agents of deforestation and degradation include the

- Logging and timber industry, Subsistence and Commercial farmers, fuelwood collectors, government, national and international investors and agroindustry.
- How does the strategy fit with the broader policy framework, including sectoral policies? Are there any inconsistencies?
 - The CRS REDD+ Strategy is aligned to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Nigeria, the National REDD+ Framework Strategy, and the State's draft 30-Year Growth and Development Strategy.
 - Specifically, both at the national and jurisdictional levels, the Strategy fits with policies across various sectors including land use, forests, mining, petroleum, environment, agriculture, and energy.
 - There are no inconsistencies between the strategy and the broader policy framework. The strategy however identifies inconsistencies or weaknesses in institutional arrangements and/or roles, contributing to poor planning and coordination and weak implementation of sectoral policies.
- Is there a link between the jurisdictional strategy and national REDD+ strategy or processes? Yes No What about global processes? Yes No If yes, please describe.
 - There is a clear link between the jurisdictional strategy and the national framework REDD+ strategy/processes. The CRS REDD+ strategy respects both national and jurisdictional policies, laws, and regulations relevant for REDD+ implementation, while the National REDD+ framework strategy was largely informed by the CRS REDD+ Strategy. The CRS REDD+ strategy equally identifies a two-way communication between the jurisdiction and the Federal Government for all components of the National Forest Monitoring Systems. Also for the MRV system, the Activity data from the jurisdiction will allow field validation that feeds into the national level, while the state-level Forest Inventory will provide data to the national REDD+ database. In addition, the GHG inventory component of the MRV system and the determination of forest carbon stock change in CRS allows the verification of the national GHG inventory, which as it develops, will eventually provide the assessment for the state level. Moreover, the jurisdiction's work on safeguard will provide data to develop a federal REDD+ safeguards information system.
 - Regarding global processes, the jurisdictional strategy fulfils the requirements of

the Warsaw framework.

- Is there a system for monitoring progress of the existing jurisdictional strategy (forest and non-forest data)? **Yes** No Please describe and provide links where relevant.
 - The system for monitoring progress is defined within the overall framework of MRV system.
- Does the strategy link to national forest monitoring systems, safeguards information systems, or other relevant national/global monitoring processes? **Yes** No If yes, please describe.
 - The Strategy is linked to the roadmap established for both the CRS and National forest monitoring system. The system, when fully developed, will enable the assessment of the results from REDD+ activities, as required for phase II, using two pillars that provide data on: (i) forest cover changes and activity data, and (ii) the safeguards; and as well for phase III reporting.
 - The Strategy is linked to the country's approach to safeguards. As part of this, an analysis of the risks and benefits of a set of proposed policies and measures (PAMs) were considered as part of the REDD+ Strategy development by the National Safeguards Working Group. In addition, existing national and state policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) were assessed in relation to the proposed PAMs, and the outcomes used to facilitate consultations on the status of PLRs and safeguard compliance of PLRs implementation that fed into the REDD+ Strategy. Also developed were principles and criteria that interpret the Cancun safeguards in accordance with CRS's specific circumstances as well as the application of the principles and criteria to the CRS REDD+ Strategy. It is hoped that, REDD+ implementation will consider PLRs reforms (improvements/opportunities) at both State and National level. A draft Safeguards Information System (SIS) framework document, setting out steps to develop the SIS, was also prepared.

Other Relevant Low-Emissions Development Processes

- Are there any supply chain commitments and/or initiatives currently active in the jurisdiction? **Yes** No
- If yes, how does your existing jurisdictional strategy relate to existing sustainable supply chain initiatives, if at all?
 - The strategy identifies drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, particularly those from the agriculture sector. It seeks to promote engagement with the private sector and building of strategic partnerships. However, more can be done to link to existing supply chain initiatives including the Tropical Forest Alliance, and other Cocoa Initiatives.
- Are there any commitments and/or initiatives with Indigenous Peoples and/or Local Communities (IP/LC)? **Yes** No
- If yes, how does your existing jurisdictional strategy relate to existing IP/LC initiatives, if at all?
 - The CRS Forestry Law respects the tenure rights of local communities and the role they play in forest governance. The law establishes measures that commit the State to supporting local communities in sustainable management of forest and ensuring that communities have access to benefits accruing from sustainable forest management.

- Through the CBR+ programme, 21 community-based projects in CRS are underway with a good number being implemented by women’s organizations. The design of the various CBR+ projects provided a platform for community engagement and empowerment for active participation in the national REDD+ processes, particularly, in developing the REDD+ strategy for CRS, and for improving local community livelihoods and forest governance.
- Are there any other important projects or activities relevant to REDD+/LED occurring in the jurisdiction? **Yes** No If yes, please list the organisation(s) or partner(s) and briefly describe the initiative(s).
- a) UNDP’s Small Grants Programme under Global Environment Facility (GEF/SGP) has been supporting other community based initiatives (apart from CBR+) in CRS from their regular funding window. They partner with the civil society in the delivery of their programmes, and emphasize the need to link programme activities with government’s development priorities and institutions. Their routine knowledge sharing events enable learning among implementing institutions.
- b) UNDP’s GEF Sustainable Fuelwood Management Project is implemented in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment and with CRS as one of target States. The purpose of this project is to improve fuelwood supply chain in CRS through multiple partnerships with communities as the supply side, the private sector to develop more efficient fuelwood technology, and the demand side to adopt more efficient energy consumption patterns. The project was designed with REDD+ in mind to reduce emissions through more efficient energy supply and consumption in CRS.
- c) Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a collaborative funding initiative of the l’Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International (CI), the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Their shared interest and objective is the conservation of biodiversity hotspots – Earth’s most biologically rich yet threatened areas. Their current programme focuses on 11 countries in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, including Nigeria with CRS identified as a priority site.

Financing and Investment

- Is the jurisdictional strategy supported by a clear and detailed investment/implementation plan? Yes **No**
- If yes, what is the reach of the investment plan (for example, geographic reach, sectoral reach)? Please describe.
- Have you identified the various existing financial streams that may be relevant to the implementation of the REDD+ strategy/plan and ways to engage them (at the very least public financial flows, domestic and international, and potentially private streams)? Yes, a study on financing, incentives and benefit sharing opportunities was conducted as part of the strategy development process. However, resources need to be mobilized based on the opportunities identified. Most recently, the Green Climate Fund has been identified as a source for which a proposal is currently being developed.
- How much of the budget is being financed, and by whom? Investment planning is intended to outline the elements of the REDD+ Strategy measures to be financed.
- Are there opportunities to align existing financing to the jurisdictional REDD+ objectives? **Yes** No If yes, please describe. Yes, opportunities to align existing financing to the

jurisdictional REDD+ objectives will be explored further through the proposed investment planning process. In the meantime, the proposed GCF project, under development, directly responds to the jurisdiction's REDD+ objectives. Other existing projects such as the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund could provide opportunities that will need to be further explored. The Government of Nigeria through the Forest Institute of Nigeria has been discussing and recently concluded community consultations in CRS to nominate hotspots in the State as Man and Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites, including a transboundary partnership with Cameroun. These will provide more options to align the jurisdictional REDD+ objectives.

Learning from existing strategies or plans (if applicable)

- What have been the main results of the jurisdictional strategy(ies) and/or plan(s), and have they led to the expected outcomes and/or outputs?
 - The CRS REDD+ strategy has provided an opportunity to identify key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and recommends policies and measures to address them. This identifies opportunities for the government to adopt and integrate REDD+ principles and activities in State planning, policy and budgetary processes. It has strengthened stakeholder engagement platforms, including community engagement in REDD+ processes.
- What is (still) needed in order to achieve the desired impact?
 - Section 1.2 on self-assessment provides additional information on what more is needed to achieve the desired impact, which mainly is financial support to CRS to operationalize/implement the REDD+ strategy.
- Have there been any unexpected outcomes or outputs? As a positive outcome, more States in Nigeria are embarking on REDD+ readiness processes. Two States are conducting studies to inform their sub-national strategy, additional funding from FCPF will enable further expansion to three new States; plan for national forest inventory has advanced similar to the CRS experience to support the development of a national FREL.
- What are the most important lessons learned (good or bad) from implementation of existing strategy(ies) and/or plan(s)?
 - While the jurisdiction is just getting set to begin implementing the CRS REDD+ strategy, significant lessons have been learned in the strategy development process that remain relevant during implementation: i) Ensure extensive stakeholder consultations to establish solid REDD+ structures; ii) The building and strengthening of stakeholder platforms are essential for successful REDD+ implementation e.g. stakeholder forum and networks of communities of practice. Iii) Community participation should be triggered early and sustained through the entire process.
- Describe the most important challenges in developing or implementing the strategy(ies) or plan(s)? Please consider the following:
 - Which aspects of the strategy(ies) and/or plans have not been implemented and why? The CRS Strategy is yet to be made fully operational although the overall principles of REDD+ continue to guide the work undertaken by the Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry, the Forestry Commission and other Ministries, Departments and agencies of the State.
 - What are the ongoing barriers? The key barriers to implementation can be categorized into three groups: a) inadequate resources from the State Government and Federal Government to address the scope of actions required to implement REDD+; b) policy disconnect, which leads to lack of coordination amongst key Government sector to implement REDD+; c) weak institutional capacities to fully address REDD+.

Partner Capacity

- Does the partner organization have a strong presence in the jurisdiction? Yes No
UNDP Office has had a longstanding relationship with the Government of Nigeria. As a long-term and trusted government partner, UNDP is recognized by national and local

stakeholders for playing a relevant role in the country's development progress and in delivering on partner priorities. Through its Country Office, UNDP has been playing a leading role in supporting the mainstreaming of climate change and environmental considerations into development planning and policy processes in Nigeria.

In particular, UNDP has been working with the jurisdiction since 2009 and has provided support to CRS in the form of technical advisory support and facilitating CRS to broker strategic partnerships and mobilize resources for its development priorities. Through its REDD+ team, UNDP has also worked with the jurisdiction on REDD+ readiness, as a partner of the UN-REDD Programme supporting the State's REDD+ Strategy and as the lead agency for the UN-REDD programme in Nigeria. Within the UN-REDD Programme, UNDP also supported indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities through the CBR+ initiative, and has been instrumental in contributing to the development of the State's approach to safeguards as part of strategy development. UNDP has supported the State to develop a transitional plan towards REDD+ implementation, including through the development of a Green Climate Change concept note which UNDP has allocated its own core resources to support the development of the proposal. In addition, UNDP through its Global Environmental Finance team, has developed a project on Sustainable Fuelwood Management in Nigeria with CRS and currently under implementation.

- Is this a regional proposal? Yes No If yes, please describe why a regional approach is necessary.
- Does the partner have the capacity to effectively manage a project of this scale? Yes No The UNDP Country office has the capacity to implement the project. As mentioned earlier, the UNDP Country Office in Nigeria has been playing a leading role in supporting the mainstreaming of climate change and environmental considerations into development planning and policy processes in Nigeria. UNDP's intervention seeks to strengthen the country's capacities to address the various environmental challenges at national, state and local government levels by sharing with government partners' experiences from other parts of the world and as much as possible to provide innovative policy advice and building of lasting partnerships. The intervention in battling the environmental challenges are being implemented under two main channels - Environmental Governance and Climate Change.

UNDP's main goal is to assist the country through partnerships to attain a certain minimum criteria of environmental sustainability. This strategy to be deployed consists of environmental governance at both the state and federal levels, especially on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and actions that are more likely to protect natural resources as well as livelihoods and assist the appropriate bodies in implementing a minimum threshold of national action on climate change which includes development of policies, institutions and creating a financial backdrop for implementing climate change activities.

In addition to the capacity of the Country Office, the project will be technically supported by the UNDP REDD+ team. The REDD+ team is responsible for a growing portfolio. The work is primarily concentrated in the UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership with FAO and UNEP. UNDP is also a Delivery Partner for the Forest Carbon Partnership

Facility (FCPF), hosts the secretariat for the Central African Forests Initiative (CAFI) and is also an implementing partner for CAFI. In addition, the team is responsible for other REDD+ initiatives and ensuring overall quality assurance. UNDP's REDD+ Team is spread globally, with management based in Geneva. Regional teams are located in UNDP's Regional Centres in Bangkok (Asia-Pacific) and Panama (Latin America and the Caribbean), while the regional team for Africa is in Nairobi in order to be co-located with UNEP's REDD+ Team. The regional teams support UNDP's country offices and partners in their region. Support to UNDP country offices is coordinated closely with the Regional Bureaux through the regional centres. The team especially works closely with the Green Commodities Program (GCP) on drivers of deforestation related to agricultural commodity supply chains, the UNDP Global Environmental Finance team to provide guidance on GEF-funded projects related to REDD+, and with the Low Emissions, Climate Resilient Development (LECRD) team to ensure UNDP's efforts on REDD+ contribute to broader transformational change. The team can support the REDD+ initiatives of the country office and provide quality assurance on a full cost-recovery basis.

- Is the partner working with other jurisdictions on separate proposals? Yes No
- If yes, does the partner have the capacity to work with multiple jurisdictions? Yes No
Please describe.

1.3. Strategic Opportunities (1 page)

The CRS REDD+ Strategy clearly articulates key strategic objectives and interventions that need to be implemented in order to achieve the triple functions of REDD+, i.e. mitigation, adaptation to climate change impacts, and achievement of national development goals. Along this path, the Strategy identifies urgent issues that CRS needs to address in relation to REDD+ governance, implementation and monitoring. These include the need to:

1. Ensure that the policy and legislative environment as well as proposed institutional arrangements are conducive, and in particular, ensuring increased commitment and capacity to implement REDD+ and monitor safeguards compliance;
2. Establish a multiple stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration, clearly defined roles and responsibilities to implement REDD+ actions;
3. Increase and sustain finance and investments for CRS to be able to implement identified policies and measures in the REDD+ Strategy. One of the main objectives of this proposal is for CRS to embark on a robust resource mobilization effort to facilitate implementation of the State's REDD+ Strategy with key support to improved capacity building, resource governance, technology transfer, communications and knowledge management.

In line with the above-mentioned, the Theory of Change is based on the fact that the implementation of the proposed actions identified in the strategy will trigger the needed behavioural change to reduce deforestation; promote reforms to support REDD+ implementation; strengthen the capacity within key government agencies to address REDD+ through the requisite enabling conditions; enhance coordination amongst key stakeholders and partners, and promote strategic partnerships for the achievement of REDD+ objectives.

Notably, for example, it will focus on the principal drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

(D&D) in CRS, namely conversion of forest-land to agriculture and unregulated logging. This will be achieved through targeted interventions that will address the underlying drivers of D&D and barriers to more sustainable management of forest resources that include: i) a high demand for land for development, cash crops, and increased community incomes equitably for women and men (underlying drivers); ii) weak systems for land use planning and coordination across government agencies and safeguards for environment; iii) ineffective forestry legislation; iv) limited forestry law enforcement capacity; v) low levels of productivity in agriculture; vi) limited national standards for agricultural production, and vii) limited opportunities for livelihoods linked to standing forests and sustainable management of forests (barriers).

In addition, it will establish coordination mechanisms in the form of a committee, which will help to improve coordinated planning between government agencies and local, state and national stakeholder groups, including those from more marginalized groups, such as women and female youth. The coordination committee will also work towards the establishment of a Land Use Impact Analysis Framework that is supported and understood by all stakeholder groups, and can be used as a tool to help guide land-use decision-making by government through a process that is informed, evidence-based and transparent. It will also support revisions to forest policy and regulation in CRS. Through establishing a multi-stakeholder forum to discuss these revisions, the project will support development of policy that allows for the development of sustainable forest industries in CRS that benefit communities, improve government revenue and increase incentives for maintaining and managing standing forest. These activities will create a stronger and more coordinated environment for development planning in CRS, something that will be critical to long term improvements in the way forest resources are managed.

Additionally, it will strengthen the capacity of government agencies to manage forest areas, increase revenue generation, and increase coordination and collaboration within and between government and community groups in these management approaches. Technical and operational forest management capacity building of State and Federal officers will be supported to strengthen working relationships with local communities through co-management activities such as forest reserve demarcation, joint patrolling and forest restoration activities. It will also provide support to identification and development of livelihoods equitably for women and men linked to effective reserve management, such as eco-tourism and NTFP collection, - the combination of which will help women and men in communities to realise economic benefits from reserves, hence reducing the incentives to cut timber or develop agricultural areas within reserves. These efforts will lead to stronger capacities of government officials to manage reserve areas and enforce regulations. By coordinating action across the three activity areas and ensuring closer coordination and lesson learning between State, Federal and community groups, the project will help to establish more sustainable forest management approaches across CRS, which will allow women and men in communities to benefit economically from forest areas. Strengthening coordination between government and communities may create an environment of mutual support and trust that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of forest management.

Furthermore, by working on a combination of investment planning and resource mobilization, CRS will be supported to trigger critical finance that is well targeted and which will ensure sustained and scaled up finance and investments over the long term. The support will enable CRS tap into financial mechanisms and instruments such as the Green Bond and the Nigeria Incentive Based Risk Sharing system for Agriculture Lending (NIRSAL). Also, through the support to stakeholder coordination and policy reform processes, key Ministries, Departments and Agencies - whose work are closely linked to REDD+ - would be able to align to ongoing and planned investments to REDD+.

The support will also strengthen CRS's capacity to measure, monitor and report on REDD+ successes and allow both the national and the state government of to make more informed decisions about

forest management whilst increasing their capacity to access Result-Based Payment (RBP) that will be important in the medium-term sustainability of REDD+ financing.

1.4. Objectives and Expected Results

1.5. (table)

Impact: By 2020 Cross River State will have developed a REDD+ Investment Plan able to fully implement strategies and activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.						
Outcome 1: Increased investments and finance for REDD+ implementation in Cross River State						
Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target (if relevant)	Data Collection Method & Risks	Key Assumptions
1.1 Number of sectors aligning their investments to the National REDD+ strategy and/or allocating resources for REDD+ implementation	Investments by key Ministries, Departments and Agencies not fully aligned to REDD+	Consultative meetings held with key sectors on the design of the investment plan	Screening of existing investments and scoping potential investments in the key sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, land-use) to make them REDD+ compliant	Investment priorities identified in Investment Plan integrated in government budgets and annual work plans	Through interviews, surveys, targeted meetings, literature reviews, policy documents, annual reports. Risk might include change of political holders leading the process. To mitigate this the project will actively involve professional civil servants to encourage institutionalising the process.	Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies understand REDD+ and their contributions to implementing the Strategy
1.2 New and innovative sources of financing mobilized to support REDD+ strategy implementation	GCF concept note drafted but proposal not yet in place	Multi-stakeholder consultative meetings, including with those from more	GCF proposal completed and endorsed by stakeholders, including those from more	GCF proposal submitted	Mapping of potential sources of funding for REDD+ implementation; stakeholder consultations;	Multiple sources of REDD+ financing exist and willing to support CRS REDD+ implementation;

	Potential resources for REDD+ identified but no resource mobilization strategy in place	marginalized groups, e.g. women, youth, etc., on GCF held Analytical work to inform GCF proposal development initiated	marginalized groups, e.g. women, youth, etc.		concept notes and proposals development; partnerships with development partners like civil society and Private Sector.	Government and stakeholders in CRS able and willing to work together to seek for funding.
Output 1.1: GCF proposal developed to kick-start operationalization of National REDD+ Strategy						
Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target (if relevant)	Data Collection Method & Risks	Key Assumptions
1.1.1 One gender-responsive and socially inclusive GCF proposal developed and submitted	GCF concept note developed, which incorporates a gender and social inclusion approach	Multi-stakeholder consultative meetings on GCF held At least 40% of stakeholders consulted on GCF proposal are women Analytical work to inform GCF proposal development initiated	GCF proposal completed and endorsed by both state and non-state stakeholders, including those from marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.)	GCF proposal submitted	Through desk reviews; sex disaggregated field surveys; stakeholder consultations Barriers could exist that prevents active participation for marginalized groups, such as women and youth. Consultations will be designed and implemented to encourage attendance and meaningful participation of these groups	GCF willing to support REDD+ in CRS. Government and partners in CRS able to submit concept note and proposal in time to attract GCF support.

Output 1.2: Cross River State Investment plan developed						
Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target (if relevant)	Data Collection Method & Risks	Key Assumptions
1.2.1 Gender-responsive and socially inclusive REDD+ Investment Plan in place	Priority investments into REDD+ not yet identified & costed	Roadmap for investment plan developed	Assessing, scoping and prioritizing specific investments Costing of investments analyzed Consultation meetings with Stakeholders	REDD+ Investment Plan developed to support Implementation of the CRS REDD+ Strategy and contribute to National REDD+ process.	Through desk review; surveys; targeted consultations;	REDD+ Strategy clearly identifies strategic objectives and actions to support developing investment plan.
1.2.2 Public-Private-partnerships (PPPs) and initiatives identified for REDD+ implementation	Private sector yet to be fully engaged in the REDD+ implementation.	Consultations with private sector held and engagement strategy defined	Innovative systems identified to incentivize the private sector in the context of REDD+ and PPPs identified	Innovative public-private-partnerships developed to support REDD+ investment plan	Private sector mapping; Consultation and dialogue sessions;	Private sector able to understand REDD+ and willing to support implementation. Incentives identified to encourage private sector participation.
1.2.3 Number of stakeholders involved in consultations on the REDD+ Investment Plan, disaggregated by sex and	Gaps in stakeholder engagement and gender inequalities identified	Defined engagement strategy incorporates a social inclusion and gender	40% of participants of consultation meetings are either women		Sex disaggregated surveys; consultation and dialogue sessions Barriers could exist that prevents active	

age and stakeholder group		responsive approach	and/or female youth		participation for marginalized groups, such as women and youth. Consultations will be designed and implemented to encourage attendance and meaningful participation of these groups	
Outcome 2: Programmes of Government and other stakeholders support effective and efficient implementation of REDD+ strategy						
Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target (if relevant)	Data Collection Method & Risks	Key Assumptions
2.1 Number of capacity building initiatives that support REDD+ implementation (linked with outcome 1)	Gaps in Stakeholder engagement and gender inequalities identified	Stakeholders categorized and their roles/responsibilities in REDD+ Strategy implementation clearly defined.	Both state and non-state stakeholders, including those from marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.), buy in of the REDD+ investment plan/overall REDD+ implementation	REDD+ activities mainstreamed into relevant sector operations	CRS Stakeholder analysis and management planning; targeted consultations; sex disaggregated surveys.	REDD+ coordination is effective and enables multi sectoral technical contributions to implementing the strategy
Output 2:1 Capacity built for effective and efficient implementation of REDD+ strategy with full participation of relevant stakeholders						

<p>2.1.1 Number of stakeholders involved in capacity building initiatives, stakeholder meetings, and technical working group meetings disaggregated by sex and age and stakeholder group (linked with outcome 1)</p>	<p>Gaps in Stakeholder engagement and gender inequalities identified</p>	<p>Stakeholders categorized and their roles/responsibilities in REDD+ Strategy implementation clearly defined.</p> <p>40% of participants of meetings are either women and/or female youth</p> <p>Representatives of marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.) attend those meetings involving non-state stakeholders</p>	<p>40% of participants of meetings are either women and/or female youth</p> <p>Representatives of marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.) attend those meetings involving non-state stakeholders</p>	<p>REDD+ activities mainstreamed into relevant sector operations</p>	<p>Barriers could exist that prevents active participation for marginalized groups, such as women and youth. Consultations will be designed and implemented to encourage attendance and meaningful participation of these groups</p> <p>Sex disaggregated surveys</p>	<p>REDD+ coordination is effective and enables multi sectoral technical contributions to implementing the strategy</p>
<p>2.1.2 Number of meetings with key national Government stakeholders to ensure alignment with national policies and programmes</p>	<p>Key sectors are yet to align their policies to REDD+</p>	<p>Policy dialogue with key Ministries, Departments and Agencies and relevant stakeholders, including those representing</p>	<p>Proposal for policy harmonization in place</p>	<p>Roadmap towards policy reforms and harmonization developed and integrated into investment plan</p>	<p>National stakeholder analysis and management planning. Stakeholder consultations; sex disaggregated surveys.</p>	<p>Effective links exist between CRS and National REDD+ secretariats</p>

		more marginalized groups, e.g. Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development			Lack of knowledge on REDD+ could prevent Ministries and Departments, which represent more marginalized groups, from being able to provide constructive feedback. Thus, project will ensure all national Government stakeholders are provided with adequate knowledge in advance to encourage their active participation	
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1.6. Description of Activities (1 page)

The workplan should be a description of activities that outlines what will actually be done to produce the expected results and accomplish the project's objectives. There should be a clear and direct linkage between the proposed activities and the expected results or outcomes.

Activity descriptions should be as specific as possible, identifying what will be done, who will do it, when it will be done (beginning, duration, completion), and where it will take place. This should be linked to the Theory of Change.

In describing the activities, please identify the stakeholders involved in, or benefiting from, the activity.

The following activities are proposed for this project.

Activities under output 1.1 (GCF proposal developed to kick-start operationalization of National REDD+) **of outcome 1:** As part of the overall investment planning process under outcome one, which seeks to support **“Increased investments and finance for REDD+ implementation in Cross River State”**, the

government of CRS has identified the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a potential source of funding to operationalize the REDD+ Strategy. The GCF development process will also explore the mobilization of innovative financing mechanism such the Green Bond. This project support the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv) to leverage finance from a Green Bond issuance to support project activities in CRS targeting rehabilitation of forest reserves. This will be followed by further work to develop more comprehensive REDD+ focused programmes covering a range of activities including those targeting reductions in levels of deforestation and forest degradation as well as carbon stock enhancement for inclusion in future issuances. The bond will be utilised to address additional financing for CRS as well as the scale up of REDD+ activities within other states.

In addition, the project will support the Nigeria Incentive-based Risk-Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) to catalyse co-financing for sustainable cocoa and oil palm producers and processors in CRS, which will be part of the GCF proposal. This finance will be critical in allowing the expansion of sustainable production. Through this process, the proposed GCF project will work with NIRSAL to strengthen technical assistance provided to banks as well as their Holistic Bank Rating Mechanism and Bank Incentive Mechanism, to improve lending safeguards related to deforestation and to support the targeting of investment towards sustainable agricultural production practices.

This will be reflected in the investment plan and seen as a practical way of operationalizing the REDD+ Strategy. The GCF proposal will include technical assessments and feasibility studies as follows:

i. Development of a Proposal to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund

- 1.1 Analysis on the economic and financial elements of the proposal, including budget, financial feasibility, cost-efficiency and effectiveness as well as economic and financial justification for GCF's concessionality.
- 1.2 Preliminary economic and financial analysis to accompany concept note submission
- 1.3 Inception meeting for GCF design and associated field trips
- 1.4 Preparation of GCF proposal design document, including:
 - Analysis of the of the indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and analysis of the proposed Policies and Measures (PAMs) to address drivers, including their technical feasibility;
 - Develop project theory of change and programme description and potential to leverage change at all levels
 - Analysis of the market overview for cocoa, palm oil, pine-apple and other commodities targeted by the GCF project, including linkages with private sector
 - Environmental and social assessment, including a gender analysis and action plan and assessment of risk and mitigation measures
 - A monitoring system for implementation of the GCF proposal IP, linked to MRV, NFMS, SIS
- 1.5 Analysis of emission reduction potential of the GCF project as well as for potential projects to mobilize results based payment. The latter will lay the foundation for accessing GCFTF Window B for innovative financing

- 1.6 Preparation of other reports such as procurement plan, budget tool, and stakeholder engagement report;
- 1.7 Stakeholder meetings to discuss design document;
- 1.8 Stakeholder meetings to refine proposal including appraisal, validation meetings and high level meetings;
- 1.9 Holding Internal UNDP Peer review meetings to finalize proposal and submit to GCF; and

It is expected that this activity will build on the ongoing UNDP Country office support to CRS in the development of the Green Climate Change proposal by filling in the necessary gaps and consolidating the progress made so far.

Output 1.2: Cross River State Investment plan developed

ii. Develop an Investment Plan for Cross River State

Building on all the analytical work and stakeholder engagement processes for the development of the Green Climate Fund, CRS will be supported to develop an Investment Plan. The proposed Investment Plan is to help facilitate the implementation of policies and measures as well as mobilize the requisite financing and investments associated with the implementation of the CRS REDD+ Strategy, including potential financing from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Thus, the Investment Plan would help Cross River State to define, scope and prioritize key investments as well as the associated costs. The development of the Investment Plan would adopt an innovative and iterative approach by combining support to both enabling conditions and asset investments. Enabling investments would take the form of policy and institutional support to engender incentives for investments in particular landscapes. Asset investments, would focus on addressing deforestation along commodity value chains. A socially inclusive and gender-responsive approach will also be integrated in the Investment Plan, to help ensure that women, men and youth are equitably consulted with, involved in and benefit from the implementation of the REDD+ policies, measures and investments.

The Investment plan will also provide guidance and coordinate sectoral investments at the landscape level to REDD+ related activities in Cross River State, and include new as well as including existing initiatives. The REDD+ Investment Plan offers an opportunity to further REDD+ implementation with appropriate technical and policy support from partners, including the private sector. It is expected that, the development of the REDD+ Investment Plan will concurrently position the country to attract potential results-based finance. It will also provide a framework for coordinating investments in REDD+.

The CRS Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry will provide overall leadership in developing the Investment Plan, in close collaboration with other government ministries, departments and agencies, especially the State's Planning Commission and the civil society. As such, the Investment Planning process will involve robust stakeholder consultations that are socially inclusive and gender responsive, and iterative to ensure that decisions are properly articulated and in line with the Strategy, whilst addressing the needs of both women and men. Specific activities are outlined below:

- Recruit consultants to support the development of the Investment Plan (IP). (Note consultants working on GCF proposal will be extended to cover the IP development)
- Hold an Inception Workshop to Introduce IP development
- Develop the Theory of Change, with associated results chain, indicators and targets based on the TOC
- Identify and prioritize relevant investments in the forest and land use sectors, considering the characteristics of different actors, roles and activities, and using a landscape, social inclusion and gender approach
- Identify the financial needs, gaps, barriers and ways to leverage private, public, and other sources of finance related to each investment priority
- Costing of Investment Plan and development of financing strategy
- Identify best suited financial instruments, depending on type of investment, recipient, intermediary and mechanism
- Hold Stakeholder meetings including validation meetings on the IP
- Develop a monitoring system for implementation of the IP, linked to MRV, NFMS, SIS and the monitoring of drivers
- Finalize, edit and launch IP

iii. Building and strengthening of existing platforms for effective socially inclusive and gender responsive stakeholder engagement in REDD+ implementation

This activity is envisaged to support both the Investment planning process and the GCF proposal development, whilst concurrently strengthening existing REDD+ and REDD+ related platforms. It will include the following sub-activities:

- Stakeholder consultations key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other relevant stakeholders on the Investment Plan to ensure alignment between State policies and programmes and the REDD+ Strategy;
- Awareness workshops with key state and non-state stakeholders, including those from marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.), on the proposed GCF proposal (e.g. inception, appraisal, validation meetings as well as meetings in the ecological areas targeted by the GCF project);
- Private sector roundtables, especially for the commodity/market component of the GCF proposal, including linkages with other private sector initiatives.

Additionally, you may consider the following questions:

- How have you prioritized your actions?

The actions of this GCFTF proposal are premised on the CRS REDD+ strategy. They take into consideration gaps in the State's strategy that must be addressed to trigger REDD+ actions in CRS. The development of an Investment Plan is central to operationalising the CRS REDD+ Strategy; and with it, processes and

programmes that will mobilise socially inclusive and gender-responsive stakeholder participation towards REDD+ implementation in a coordinated and proactive manner to address drivers. The support to development of the GCF proposal will contribute to addressing barriers by proposing a framework to encourage green investments.

- How have you sequenced your actions?

The project actions are sequenced in the order described but some of the activities will take place in a complementary manner.

- What can you do with existing resources?

CRS has used existing resources mainly from the State's budget to enable stakeholder consultations in the context of developing this proposal. The State has also leveraged on other donor-funded projects implemented by civil society to carry out and expand consultations with local communities. With an Investment Plan that provides costing and clear tasks, responsibilities, planning and budgeting for REDD+, related actions will become clearer, more efficient, and more responsive to reducing CO₂ emissions in CRS.

- Have the costs of the actions been estimated?

Yes. Please see additional information in the budget sheet accompanying this proposal.

1.7. Implementation Plan and Timeframe: 12 – 18 Months (table)

Expected Outputs	Planned Activities	Responsible (government or partner)	Implementation Schedule					
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
1.1 GCF proposal developed to kick-start operationalization of National REDD+ Strategy	1.1 Feasibility studies and analysis work to support the design of the GCF proposal, including exploring use of new financing instruments such as the Green Bond	Federal Ministry of Environment, CRS Ministry of Climate and Forests, CRS Forestry Commission	x	x	x	x	x	x
	1.2 Inception meetings, technical committee meetings to review proposal, stakeholder forum, private sector meetings, presentation of proposal to State Executive Committee and State Assembly			x	x	x	x	x
	1.3 Field trips to communities, including to areas that are implementing CBR+ to support GCF proposal development			x	x	x	x	x
	1.4 Preparation of GCF proposal with accompanying annexes and holding of Internal UNDP Peer review meetings to finalize proposal and submit to GCF			x	x	x	x	x
	1.5 Recruitment of a CRS Technical Advisor to support CRS Ministry of Climate Change and Forest (CRS REDD+ Secretariat)			x	x	x	x	x
1.2 Cross River State Investment plan (IP) developed	1.2.1 Assessments, scoping and prioritization of REDD+ investments to meet the REDD+ strategy objectives;	Federal Ministry of Environment, CRS Ministry of Climate and Forests, CRS Ministry of Planning	x	x				
	1.2.2 Costing of IP and development of financing strategy with appropriate financial instruments;				x	x		
	1.2.3 Develop a monitoring system for implementation of the IP, linked to MRV; NFMS, SIS and the monitoring of drivers; and					x	x	x
			x	x	x	x	x	x

	1.2.4 Stakeholder and partnership meetings with Government, civil society and private sector around the development of the investment plan; 1.2.5 Technical advisory support by experts towards investment plan development.		x	x	x	x	x	x
2. Capacity built for effective and efficient implementation of REDD+ strategy with full participation of relevant stakeholders	2.1. Training and capacity building initiatives, with state and non-state stakeholders, including those from marginalized groups (women, youth, etc.), private sector roundtables 2.2 Develop coordination framework for Local Government participation 2.3 Hold strategic meetings to harmonise operational plan for inter-sectoral/ministerial collaboration to implement investment plan 2.4 Organize High level meeting Governors meeting with 8-10 Governors for CRS to share lessons and experiences from CRS and to draw in other Governors into the initiative 2.5 Capture, produce and disseminate five knowledge products on REDD+ implementation	Federal Ministry of Environment, CRS Ministry of Climate and Forests, CRS Forestry Commission	x	x	x	x	x	x
Evaluation								x

1.8. Cross-cutting Issues (2 pages)

The Cross River State REDD+ Strategy informed the National Framework Strategy and is expected to serve as a model for learning and structural planning for REDD+ readiness and implementation in other parts of Nigeria. The implementation approach for REDD+ activities in CRS is underpinned by the premise of the nationally endorsed Nationally Determined Contribution of Nigeria and CRS development goals articulated in the State's draft 30-Year Growth and Development Strategy. The proposed Investment plan will contribute to realizing the goals of the CRS REDD+ Strategy by enabling cross-sectoral investments to ensure that "Cross River State's forests and land areas become a net carbon sink due to the implementation of appropriate policies and measures for sustaining economic and ecosystem service functions of forests, and contributes to Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change mitigation and adaptation".

Partnerships

Partnerships will be at the centre of the proposed project. This level of partnerships provides excellent leverage to broaden stakeholder engagement between the State and the Federal level. Partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment will be promoted so that the planning and implementation fit with the national REDD+ process and increase the knowledge base for REDD+ expansion. CRS is benefitting from further analytical work with support from FCPF to establish processes and structures such as benefit sharing and grievance redress mechanisms to attract direct investments in REDD+ activities in the State. Existing cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce captures private sector perspectives and makes inroads towards strengthening the participation of large scale investors like Wilmar, Dangote and Lafarge. The ongoing support from UNDP in the renewable energy project in CRS provided insights in the development of this proposal, and further enhances the continuous multi-stakeholder engagement process in REDD+ (related) activities. Furthermore, UNDP's collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment and support to CRS to seek funding from the Green Climate Fund for REDD+ investment involves a broad-based and iterative stakeholder engagement process, the result of which has contributed to the design of this project. UNDP will build on its internal partnerships including with its Green Commodities programme (GCP) in the implementation of this proposal.

Multi-stakeholder Participation

The CRS Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry facilitated stakeholder consultations around the development of this proposal. The Ministry utilised stakeholder and REDD+ operational platforms in the readiness phase to develop the project idea. The CRS REDD+ Technical Committee is chaired by the Ministry with members drawn from government, communities, civil society, private sector and academia. Multi-sectoral consultations with government institutions followed, further strengthening the alignment of the actions proposed to position CRS for REDD+ investment and increasing the potential for REDD+ benefits while contributing to the State's growth and development agenda.

Building on the good example set in the development of the proposal, CRS ensures that various State Ministries, Departments and agencies, civil society organisations, and women, men and youth from forest-dependent communities as well as smallholders will be fully and equitably involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Gender Mainstreaming

Cultural, gender and social dynamics in Nigeria play a role in how forests are used and preserved. Cultural practices have encouraged community driven forest conservation practices. However, while women constitute major forest resource users, play key roles in forest management and agricultural

produce value chains as well as are the majority of the farming population in rural communities in Cross River State, they are also generally marginalized in access to land for farming, face inequalities around customary systems with tenure rights, have little involvement in management of financial resources and fewer opportunities to build their capacities to alter these trends. This situation makes it difficult for women to contribute effectively to food security, forest conservation efforts and sustainable natural resources management.

Given these dynamics, gender issues are central to this project. Recognizing the vital role that women, men and youth play in REDD+ efforts, the project will help to address these gender gaps and will ensure their perspectives will be taken into account. As illustrated in the Objectives and Expected Results and Implementation Tables and Section 1.5 above, the project ensures that women, men and youth will be equitably and actively involved in, consulted with and will benefit from project activities. The project assesses how gender relations will affect the achievement of the outcomes of the project and correspondingly takes measures to integrate gender considerations into all the outputs. For example, this will include, but will not be limited to defining functions, roles, responsibilities, and entitlements of various groups, including women, youth, and men in the investment planning process and mainstreaming gender into the GCF proposal.

To help measure the progress of this work and identify areas of improvement, the project uses gender specific indicators and targets to ensure the effective implementation of a gender approach and the equitable and active participation of women, men and youth in project implementation. The project also adopts gender project performance monitoring processes to measure progress and apply lessons to promote gender equality and social equity. Additionally, the project has earmarked budget to help support the integration of a gender approach within project implementation and monitoring. (See project budget)

Knowledge Management and Communications

A KM strategy was developed for CRS and this strategy provides the framework to capture, share, and disseminate results, knowledge, lessons learned and good practices with relevant stakeholders in the jurisdiction. In line with this, the proposed project will regularly capture unique results and seek opportunities for learning visits to share our experiences and learn from others elsewhere. Through reports, knowledge exchange visits and web-based platforms, the proposed project will be able to communicate the results at various levels nationally and internal.

The MRV laboratory in CRS is designed, furnished, and managed by trained personnel to capture and disseminate information on REDD+ activities. This project will utilize the MRV system to collect information and report on project progress.

The project will produce knowledge products that capture lessons and best practices in real time as they happen to ensure the applicability in other states in Nigeria and as guidance documents for advancing REDD+ process in the country. The focus will be on promoting learning, creating knowledge and improve capturing and sharing evidence from REDD+ readiness and implementation. Success stories and regular project progress updates will be shared with the GCF Regional Coordinators and the Secretariat in the form of articles, blogs and tweets.

To respond to the needs of stakeholders and promote through evidence and practice the benefits of knowledge sharing, a focus will be on creating knowledge networks in CRS and adopting KM practices and information technology relevant to REDD+ mission in CRS. The communities of practice will provide practical opportunities to come together at the state level to discuss selected key thematic issues, and learn from on-going mutual efforts, practices and lessons. An online community of practice will be created to allow for the continuation of relevant topics to be discussed by partners. These

lessons will be captured and disseminated on CRS REDD+ platform, at the national level and with GCF regional coordinators and the Secretariat.

South-South Knowledge Exchanges are an effective instrument to inspire and equip REDD+ actors with successful experiences from peer countries and institutions. These knowledge exchanges have the ability to broaden the menu of development options, strengthening ownership and leadership, and promoting capacity development. The project will explore opportunities for South-South knowledge exchanges between Nigeria and other countries to learn from other countries' experiences and apply new innovative approaches to implementing REDD+ at CRS and national levels. Through this exchange, learnt lessons on technical issues around REDD+ and in process management, will enable CRS to implement the proposed GCF project and Investment Plan in the 18 months period for project implementation.

2. Risks, Monitoring and Evaluation (2 pages)

2.1. Risk Management (1/2 page)

Political risk: This is a major risk with the main concern being the political framework that determines the transition from one democratically elected government to another. Political appointees are linked to political parties and thus changes with changes in government. This may create instability in the implementation of this proposal, including gaps linked to knowledge, capacity and technical issues. To mitigate this risk, the proposal development process and plan for implementation actively includes the participation of civil servants, of whom several have received REDD+ training during the readiness phase. Also, the CRS REDD+ Technical Committee is a repository of knowledge for REDD+ and will continue to provide technical input in the entire process. The participation of civil society and communities will also mitigate this risk.

Social risk: This may be associated with norms like the influence of the predominantly patriarchal system in CRS where women's roles and interests do not receive much attention. As women and youth, given various political, socio-economic and cultural barriers they face, are often marginalized in traditional, customary and formal processes in CRS, there could also be the risk of their exclusion in the project and the worsening of gender inequalities. However, the project will be utilizing a gender-responsive approach in its design, implementation, and monitoring in order to help address these existing gender gaps and ensure women, men and youth equitably have their perspectives taken into account within and benefit from the project. Additionally, there are successful models among communities in the State that allows equitable access to forests and land between men women and youth. Such models will also be highlighted as part of the knowledge management plan and will be integrated into the implementation approach.

Economic risk: Moving away from business as usual may be challenging for the private sector, smallholder, and public-sector investors. Inadequate information on the benefits of applying economic tools to establish operational production standards may lead to some resistance. However, the project is already taking proactive steps to mitigate this by engaging with and involving the Calabar Chamber of Commerce, which is responsible for regulating private sector investments in CRS. Private and public-sector participation will be broadened and sustained throughout the implementation, to help set the tone for the development and application of economic tools to trigger REDD+ compliance.

Environmental risk:

One of the potential risk envisaged here is the fact that, the lack of policy coherence in the broader environment and natural resource sector, and hence, one sector undoing some of the gains achieved through REDD+ implementation. This potential risk will be mitigated through the proposed

stakeholder engagement and coordination platforms.

2.2. Monitoring (1/2 page)

The project will encourage participatory and result-based monitoring which includes stakeholders from various sectors, hereunder civil society and local communities. This project's monitoring will be at the level of outcome indicators and will again be linked with the existing REDD+ related MRV system in CRS. Staff of REDD+ at the national level will also be involved in monitoring this project to keep it aligned with the national REDD+ process and national level priorities.

2.3. Sustainability of Results (1 page)

This project responds to priorities set out in the CRS REDD+ Strategy, which is underpinned by the State's 30-year growth and development plan. As part of efforts to implement the plan, the State has developed an operational plan defining institutional roles and responsibilities. Within the forestry law, the State made provision for special funding that is relevant to REDD+. Overall, existing institutional arrangements, processes and policy environment are capable of enabling participatory governance even from the grassroots. CRS is committed to reduce emissions, and to build individual and institutional capacity to ensure that goal. The objective is to ensure that CRS will have a workable investment plan and improved capacity to implement and sustain the outcomes of this project.

The proposal also intends to support the design of and provide several of the elements needed in the development of the full GCF proposal.

Additionally, the proposal considers how funding under Window A will lay the foundation for innovative approaches under Window B and/or seeking additional funding to take REDD+ jurisdictional strategies and investments to the next phase.

3. Budget (to be included as separate excel file)