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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED LOAN TO THE

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

FOR THE

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IN THE FOREST REGION**

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Currency Unit	=	Guinean franc (GNF)
USD 1.00	=	GNF 1 951
GNF 100	=	USD 0.05

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1 kilogram (kg)	=	2.204 pounds (lb)
1 000 kg	=	1 metric tonne (t)
1 kilometre (km)	=	0.62 miles (mi)
1 metre (m)	=	1.09 yards (yd)
1 square metre (m ²)	=	10.76 square feet (ft ²)
1 acre (ac)	=	0.405 ha
1 hectare (ha)	=	2.47 acres

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFD	<i>Agence française de développement</i> (French Development Agency)
AWP/B	Annual Workplan and Budget
CRDs	<i>Communautés rurales de développement</i> (Rural Development Communities)
FSA	Financial Services Association
GT	<i>Gestion de terroir</i> (Community-Based Natural Resources Management)
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VCSP	Village Communities Support Project

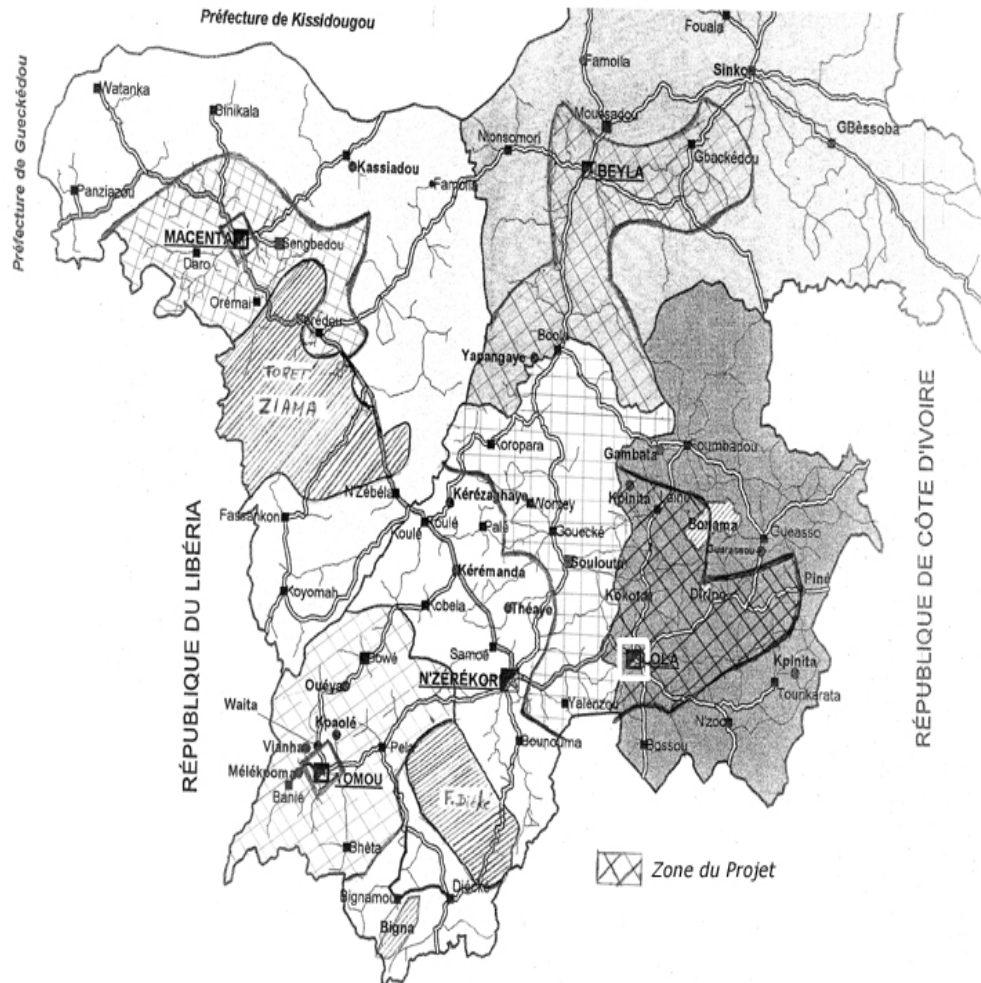
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

Fiscal Year

1 January - 31 December



MAP OF THE PROJECT AREA



Source: IFAD

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.



REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

**THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE FOREST
REGION**

LOAN SUMMARY

INITIATING INSTITUTION:	IFAD
BORROWER:	Republic of Guinea
EXECUTING AGENCY:	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	USD 15.5 million
AMOUNT OF IFAD LOAN:	SDR 9.4 million (equivalent to approximately USD 12.5 million)
TERMS OF IFAD LOAN:	40 years, including a grace period of ten years, with a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum
COFINANCIERS:	To be determined
CONTRIBUTION OF BORROWER:	USD 1.9 million
CONTRIBUTION OF BENEFICIARIES:	USD 1.2 million
APPRAISING INSTITUTION:	IFAD
COOPERATING INSTITUTION:	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



PROJECT BRIEF

Who are the beneficiaries? The target group comprises poor, vulnerable rural communities living in the forest region of Guinea, with limited access to resources (land in particular), social infrastructure and information. The typical beneficiaries – constituting the majority of the rural population of the forest region – are smallholders engaged in subsistence agriculture on marginal land characterized by high levels of soil degradation and low productivity and depending mostly on dry farming activities for their livelihood. Women and young people are particularly vulnerable, as they are traditionally excluded from decision-making and have greater difficulties in accessing resources and information.

Why are they poor? Low agricultural productivity, few wage earning opportunities, lack of access to financial services and limited rural infrastructure are the foremost causes of poverty in the project area. Poor people in the forest region are rarely involved in decision-making, in analysing the constraints they face and identifying solutions thereto, or in prioritizing their needs. Weak community organization coupled with ineffective service delivery and lack of resources further contributes to poverty in the area.

What will the project do for them? The aim of the project is to empower local communities, including women and young people, in the poorest villages, to identify and analyse their constraints, prioritize their development needs and participate in implementing related interventions. To that end, the project will provide technical and financial assistance for, *inter alia*, community restructuring; microprojects aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and environmental protection; rehabilitating wells and feeder roads; developing a system for distributing agricultural inputs and for providing financial services to poor rural people; and financing agricultural advice and research-action.

How will the beneficiaries participate in the project? Participatory planning at the community level (*terroirs*) will ensure that target beneficiaries, particularly women and young people, effectively participate in determining community development priorities and in project implementation. The targeted communities and beneficiaries will plan and prioritize their needs and manage resources received under the project. Each village will design its own development action plan with assistance from the project, and will be responsible for implementation. The capacity of communities will be strengthened, the aim, among other things, being to reinforce their negotiating capacity.

Size of the project and cofinancing. The overall cost of the project is estimated at USD 15.5 million. IFAD will provide a loan of approximately USD 12.5 million, or 80.4% of the total cost. The Government is expected to contribute about USD 1.9 million (12.1%) and the beneficiaries USD 1.2 million (7.6%).

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED LOAN TO THE
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IN THE FOREST REGION**

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed loan to the Republic of Guinea for SDR 9.4 million (equivalent to approximately USD 12.5 million) on highly concessional terms to help finance the Sustainable Agriculture Development Project in the Forest Region. The loan will have a term of 40 years, including a grace period of ten years, with a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum. It will be administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as IFAD's cooperating institution.

PART I - THE ECONOMY, SECTORAL CONTEXT AND IFAD STRATEGY¹

A. The Economy and the Agricultural Sector

1. Despite its wealth of natural resources, Guinea is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Social development, as measured by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Indicator, is low, ranking the country 162nd out of 174 countries analysed in 2000. Basic indicators are very depressed, with a life expectancy at birth of 54 years; an infant-juvenile mortality rate of 98/1 000 births and an overall adult literacy rate of 37% for men and 15% for women. Sixty-two per cent of the country's population is poor and about 40% of the total population live below the poverty line. However, the incidence of poverty is strongly biased towards the rural areas, where 53% of the population is poor compared with 15% in the urban centres. There are strong regional disparities within the country, Haute Guinée being the poorest region.
2. From independence in 1958 through 1984, Guinea experienced a high level of state control of the economy that resulted in economic stagnation. Since 1985, major structural and economic reforms have been implemented to restore the key macroeconomic equilibria and create an environment conducive to sustained, broad-based private sector-led growth. This was achieved by disengaging the state from production and commercial activities, liberalizing markets and prices, and launching reforms in the public sector. As a result, the gross domestic product (GDP) averaged 4.1% per year in 1985-96 and 4.4% per year in 1997-99. However, economic growth dropped substantially in 2000 as a result of civil strife.
3. Agriculture remains the main source of employment and income for about 80% of the population, providing 25.8% of GDP. Climatic conditions are favourable for a wide range of crops, although soils are generally of moderate-to-poor quality. Given the prevalence of low-input cultivation techniques, long fallow periods are required to restore soil fertility. Cultivation of paddy, the main staple, has expanded rapidly since 1992. Coffee, rubber and cotton are exported. Both fresh and salt-water fishing is practised in Guinea. Surface water resources are extensive: most of West Africa's major rivers, including the Niger, Senegal, Gambia and Koliba and their tributaries, originate in Guinea.
4. Women constitute the backbone of the rural economy. During the peak agricultural season, their working day is estimated at 12-14 hours. In addition to agricultural tasks, women are responsible for most

¹ See Appendix I for additional information.



household chores (except housing construction), including childcare, cooking and fetching water and firewood, but they have less access to resources such as land and financial services. Moreover, public support services tend to focus on men and are largely staffed by men.

5. The Government's policy and strategy for rural and agricultural development are outlined in Agricultural Development Policy Letters 1 and 2. The key features of the strategy involve: (a) support for the organization of professional agricultural groups to facilitate participation, ownership and sustainability of development activities; (b) improving farmers' access to agricultural inputs and the effective use thereof; (c) supporting the emerging private sector to ensure efficient production and marketing activities; (d) better access to land to ensure greater security of tenure and efficient use of rural land; (e) facilitating farmers' access to financial services, especially for the most vulnerable groups (women, young people and the disabled); (f) enhancing the capacity of service suppliers; (g) developing and promoting community and private forests; and (h) protecting the environment.

6. Guinea qualifies for assistance under the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, and IFAD's contribution for Guinea amounts to about USD 5.11 million.

B. Lessons Learned from Previous IFAD Experience

IFAD's Portfolio in Guinea

7. To date, IFAD has financed nine projects in Guinea for a total loan amount of SDR 77.85 million. The following projects have closed: Siguiri Rural Development Project and Second Siguiri Rural Development Project; Gueckedou Agricultural Development Project; Fouta Djallon Agricultural Rehabilitation Project; and the Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region. Ongoing projects are the Smallholder Development Project in North Lower Guinea; Fouta Djallon Local Development and Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme; Village Communities Support Project; and the Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée.

Main Lessons Learned

8. The main lessons of experience include: (a) **Participation**: beneficiaries, and especially women farmers, respond well to the participatory group approach. Support to, and building up the capacity of, grass-roots organizations, including functional literacy training, are essential to ensure local involvement in village-level activities. (b) **Financial services**: existing formal financial institutions do not meet the needs of smallholder households. Such services, including savings and credit, should be built up from the grass-roots level, such as under the financial services associations (FSA) approach whereby beneficiaries are fully responsible for resource mobilization and management. (c) **Output and marketing**: increased production of agricultural and other outputs depends to a large extent on the availability of marketing outlets, which are in turn tied to adequate transportation infrastructure and marketing facilities. (d) **Project management**: the project coordination unit (PCU) should support local initiatives and be involved in project coordination, financial management and monitoring, with implementation contracted out to the private/public sector and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As local capacity for financial management is weak, it will need to be strengthened both prior to project start-up and during implementation and closely monitored. A thorough institutional analysis will need to be undertaken to ensure that committed, competent institutions are selected as project partners. There is also a need for a suitable project strategy. For instance, in the case of the Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region, the lack of a sound institutional analysis and a suitable project strategy severely hampered implementation until the mid-term review recommended a drastic change in project strategy.

C. IFAD's Strategy for Collaboration with Guinea

9. IFAD's strategy in Guinea, as set forth in the Country Strategic Opportunities Paper (COSOP) prepared in 1999, aims at reducing poverty by sustainably increasing agricultural and off-farm incomes and improving the well-being of the poor through economic and social development activities. To that end, the Fund will support the Government's policies for decentralization, private-sector growth and rural development, while building on achievements in terms of establishing grass-roots organizations, including financial services targeted at the rural poor. IFAD's strategy involves three main lines of intervention: (a) participatory local development at the village, farmer and women's group levels; (b) support to decentralization and to community-level social and productive investments; and (c) cutting across these approaches, providing further support to proximity and beneficiary-managed rural financial services on the basis of experience with FSAs. The strategy calls for continued strengthening of links with other donors with a view to harmonizing approaches and fostering synergies and complementarity among interventions.

Guinea's Policy for Poverty Eradication

10. The Government's poverty-eradication policy is set out in the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of 2001, prepared with IFAD support and participation. This policy, which is in line with the orientation started in 1985 and current economic trends, aims at reducing poverty through sustainable, diversified growth based both on a dynamic private sector and on decentralized planning. The Government will continue to disengage itself from the productive sector and restore an enabling environment favourable to private-sector development. Its poverty-reduction objectives and strategies include: (a) ensuring macroeconomic stability; (b) developing the productive economic (including agriculture) and social sectors; (c) ensuring equitable access to basic socio-economic services; (d) good governance; and (e) building up the capacity of the population and institutions.

The Poverty-Eradication Activities of other Major Donors

11. In adopting a decentralized rural development policy, the Government has strengthened the capacity and authority of elected local government in the rural development communities (CRDs). The main instrument for implementation of the strategy is the Village Communities Support Project (VCSP), which is jointly financed by IFAD, World Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the African Development Foundation (ADF). In addition, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the German Credit Institution for Reconstruction are involved in financing a project for the creation of classified protected forest areas with population participation. The United States Agency for International Development has financed a project aimed at assisting the Guinean agency for agricultural production marketing and a programme for the development of enterprises. AFD is also financing three projects in the forest region – rice development, livestock support and a pilot fish-farming project – and is currently preparing an agricultural development project in the forest region. Close collaboration will be sought with the latter project. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has financed a village fish farming project in the forest region.

Project Rationale

12. IFAD's Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region (313-GU), approved in 1997, paved the way for building up the capacity of the population and their organizations to better manage their development in a sustainable manner. However, the community-based natural resources management approach (GT) is a long, drawn out process and the pilot phase of approximately two years was found to be insufficient for the population to fully master the approach and its tools. The interim evaluation mission undertaken by IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Studies recommended the preparation of a second intervention in the forest region, to sustainably improve smallholder farmers' incomes and living conditions and preserve the region's natural and productive resources. The present project should therefore consolidate the GT process, increase agricultural productivity and protect the environment.



13. The project is in line with IFAD's strategic framework and with the Western and Central Africa Division's regional strategy, inasmuch as it encompasses the following strategic objectives: (a) strengthening the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations; (b) increasing agricultural and natural resource productivity and improving access to technology; and (c) improving the access of the rural poor to financial services and markets. The project focuses on the promotion of decentralized decision-making, investments in community-driven development, monitoring of experience, and development of community-based natural resource management.

PART II - THE PROJECT

A. Project Area and Target Group

14. The proposed eight-year project will cover five of the seven prefectures in the forest region: Beyla, Nzerekoré, Macenta, Lola and Yomou, which together cover 20 CRDs.

15. The project will target poor villages and communities in the project area, focusing on the most vulnerable groups of women, young people and disabled persons. It will build on IFAD's experience in community-based natural resources management under the Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region. The project will target all the poor communities within the selected CRDs, with priority accorded to the most vulnerable groups, including women and young people.

B. Objectives and Scope

16. The overall objective of the project is to improve the incomes and living conditions of poor rural people in the forest region through the organization of rural communities/villages with a view to ensuring sustainable agricultural development. Specific objectives are to:

- empower the target population, their organizations and participating institutions to enable them to achieve sustainable levels of agricultural development;
- increase agricultural productivity and diversify income sources in a sustainable manner; and
- improve the access of poor rural people to financial services.

C. Components

17. The project will be centred on three components: (a) community and agricultural development; (b) development of financial services; and (c) project management and coordination.

18. **Community and agricultural development.** The objective of this component is to strengthen the capacity of villages through the GT approach to enable them to manage their resources more efficiently. By means of this approach, the communities will participate in preparing village development action plans and thereby master the diagnostic and planning tools; become responsible for the planning and management of their own resources; and fully participate in the decision-making process. This will increase the awareness of communities/villages regarding the fragility of their resources.

19. Subcomponents include:

- Sustainable natural resources and agricultural intensification. The project will provide support to villages in better managing their fragile resources and increasing agricultural productivity both in the valley-bottoms and on uplands through research-development, agricultural advice and agricultural inputs.
- Income-generating activities. The project will support farm and off-farm income-generating activities, mostly for women and young people. The project will also provide funding for small-scale operators providing services to the community.

- The project will finance rural infrastructures in support of agricultural development, including water supply schemes, functional literacy and training, rural roads and storage facilities.

20. **Development of financial services.** The project will strengthen the capacity of FSAs and village credit and savings associations established under the first project and promote the creation of new associations. The tasks of these institutions will be to collect local savings, ensure their safekeeping and provide short-term credit. A professional financial institution with expertise in rural finance, developed with a grant under the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme and other resources, will assist and promote FSAs.

21. **Project management and coordination.** The project will be managed by a PCU under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL).

D. Costs and Financing

22. The overall total cost of the project is estimated at USD 15.5 million over eight years, including physical and price contingencies, the latter representing 11% of base costs. Foreign exchange accounts for approximately USD 3.8 million, or 24% of the total cost. The proposed IFAD loan of USD 12.5 million will cover 80.4% of total project costs. The Government will contribute USD 1.9 million (12.1%), inclusive of all duties and taxes, and finance a number of activities in local currency. The beneficiaries are expected to contribute about USD 1.18 million (7.6%).

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS^a
(USD '000)

Components	Local	Foreign	Total	% of Foreign Exchange	% of Base Costs
Community and agricultural development	7 319.4	2 231.5	9 550.9	23	69
Development of financial services	1 519.7	557.9	2 077.6	27	15
Project management and coordination	1 541.2	580.3	2 121.6	27	15
Total base costs	10 380.3	3 369.8	13 750.1	25	100
Physical contingencies	259.5	84.2	343.8	25	2
Price contingencies	1 130.5	321.2	1 451.7	22	11
Total project costs	11 770.3	3 775.2	15 545.5	24	113

^a Discrepancies in totals are due to rounding up.

TABLE 2: FINANCING PLAN^a
(USD '000)

Components	IFAD		Beneficiaries		Government		Total		Foreign Exchange	Local (Excl. Taxes)	Duties & Taxes
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%			
1. Community and agricultural development	8 494.6	78.7	1 086.3	10.1	1 219.4	11.3	10 801.3	69.5	2 509.8	7 076.4	1 215.1
2. Development of financial services	1 990.0	84.5	90.4	3.8	273.5	11.6	2 353.9	15.1	619.1	1 461.3	273.5
3. Project management and coordination	2 008.5	84.0	-	-	381.8	16.0	2 390.3	15.4	646.4	1 364.4	379.5
Total Disbursements	12 494.1	80.4	1 176.7	7.6	1 874.7	12.1	15 545.5	100	3 775.2	9 902.2	1 868.1

^a Discrepancies in totals are due to rounding up.

E. Procurement, Disbursement, Accounts and Audit

23. **Annual workplans and budgets.** The village management committees will work with operators responsible for sensitization and community structuring to develop annual workplans and budgets (AWP/Bs) for each village in accordance with an agreed format. Each village AWP/B will be consolidated at the prefecture level and, once approved, submitted to PCU for consolidation into an overall AWP/B. The PCU will submit the consolidated AWP/B to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for review, and subsequently to UNOPS and IFAD for final approval.

24. **Procurement** under the loan will be undertaken in accordance with IFAD procurement guidelines. Vehicles and equipment costing the equivalent of USD 100 000 or more will be procured through international competitive bidding. Vehicles, equipment and materials costing between USD 20 000 and USD 100 000 will be procured through national competitive bidding. Contracts costing less than USD 20 000 for other goods and services, including rehabilitation work and training, will be procured locally based on offers from at least three suppliers. Low-cost, geographically dispersed village-level rural infrastructures and other goods and services will be procured directly by the beneficiaries through direct contracting, in accordance with procedures set out in the operations manual. Contracts for consultancies and technical assistance will be drawn up in accordance with UNOPS guidelines. A procurement schedule will be drawn up prior to project start-up setting out procurement criteria/procedures.

25. **Disbursement.** A Special Account will be opened and maintained by the PCU at a commercial bank acceptable to IFAD. Authorized allocations from IFAD loan proceeds will be equivalent to USD 700 000. This amount will be deposited in one instalment in the Special Account upon fulfilment of disbursement conditions.

26. The Government will open a Project Account in a commercial bank into which it will deposit its counterpart contribution to project costs, including taxes and duties that are not directly deductible at the time of procurement. An initial deposit in *communauté financière africaine* (CFA) francs will be made by the Government into the Project Account, in an amount equivalent to USD 50 000 to cover part of the first year's project expenses.

27. **Accounts.** Withdrawals will be made from the Loan Account against statements of expenditure (SOEs) for categories of expenditures jointly determined by the Government, IFAD and the cooperating institution. The relevant documentation justifying these expenditures will be retained by the PCU and

made available for inspection by supervision missions and external auditors. All other withdrawals from the Loan Account will be based on full supporting documentation.

28. **Audit.** An international audit firm acceptable to IFAD will be selected to undertake yearly financial and management audits. The project will finance the cost of these audits. The auditing firm will express its opinion as to whether tendering procedures, expenditure items and use of goods and services are in compliance with the project operations manual. It will also issue a separate opinion on SOEs and the Special Account. The audit reports will be submitted to IFAD not later than six months after the close of the project financial year.

F. Organization and Management

29. The organizational framework of the project entails a division of tasks and responsibilities among different entities².

Institutional Responsibilities of the Project

30. The responsibility for project coordination at the national level will rest with MAL. The latter will delegate authority to the PCU for project management, implementation, coordination and strategy; the administration and supervision of technical assistance; the coordinating and monitoring of the performance of service providers; the setting up of organizational committees; and for monitoring and evaluation. It will also establish and maintain links with other partners operating in the area, including local authorities, the Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute, etc.

31. **National-level oversight and facilitation.** A PSC will be set up to oversee implementation. The PSC will be chaired by a representative of MAL, comprise representatives of main stakeholders at the national, regional and community levels, and be mainly responsible for general project orientation, supervision and AWP/B approval. The committee will meet once-yearly, with PCU acting as the secretariat.

32. **Local coordination and facilitation.** Facilitation and arbitration at the local level will be undertaken through prefectural-level fora. These fora, which will ensure the participation of beneficiaries, local authorities and technical support services (public and private) in decision making, will meet once-yearly to discuss project results, constraints encountered and the monitoring and planning of project activities.

33. **Village coordination and facilitation.** At the village level, facilitation and coordination of project activities will be ensured by village management committees. The elected committee members will meet once-yearly as needed to prepare AWP/Bs and evaluate project impact.

34. **Support services.** Project activities will be implemented through contractual arrangements involving private and public-sector service providers. The project will promote village organizations as implementing partners and provide capacity-building support to service providers as needed. The delivery of services will be based on a business-oriented approach.

35. **Partnerships with other projects.** Close coordination will be encouraged among major projects operating in the region so as to avoid duplication and ensure synergies. These include, in particular, VCSP and projects financed by AFD. In this regard, the local development plans prepared with VCSP support will need to reflect the village development plans drawn up under the present project.

² The project organization chart is given in Appendix IV.



36. **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** will not be dealt with outside the project structure, but will form part of the overall project coordination and management capacity. The project will develop the M&E function, and specific training and technical support will be provided to that end. With the active participation of villages, M&E information will be collected on: (a) project implementation status; (b) relevance of implementation approaches and strategies; and (c) the impact of the project on both the beneficiaries and the environment. On the basis of integrated implementation indicators included in the AWP/Bs, the FSA and village management committees will provide regular information on the implementation status of project activities. Under the overall responsibility of the M&E unit, impact evaluations will be undertaken. Qualitative, quantitative and institutional indicators developed at project start-up will be updated and monitored periodically to assess the effects and impact of the project on the beneficiaries. Specialized thematic and case studies will also be conducted for that purpose.

G. Economic Justification

37. Beneficiary livelihoods are expected to improve as a result of increased agricultural productivity and better access to income-generating activities and social services. Project-supported village organizations (village management committees) will be empowered to plan and manage their own development, interact and negotiate with external partners and establish and maintain a maintenance system. Organized villages will be responsible for their own development and for influencing the local development process. The project will also improve the food security of beneficiaries through increased food-crop production and diversified sources of income.

38. It is estimated that 180 villages in the five prefectures, encompassing about 330 000 persons or one third of the rural population in the forest region, will benefit directly from the project. Furthermore, increases in agricultural productivity, preservation/protection of the environment and improved rural infrastructures will also benefit villages not directly targeted by the project. About 18 000 persons will become members of FSAs, thereby improving both their access to financial services and their income.

39. The integration of women and young people into the decision-making process will strengthen their roles in managing resources and promoting development activities. This, in turn, will allow them to further develop their economic activities, increase their incomes and improve their status within the community.

H. Risks

40. The community-based participatory approach to rural development involves an iterative process over a relatively long period of time. Any attempt to produce quick results may detract from the importance of ensuring that the population has fully mastered and owned the process and tools thereof. The project will be implemented within the framework of the decentralization process and state disengagement from production activities. In spite of positive results obtained in other countries, the decentralization process is still very slow in Guinea. Although the role and responsibility of each service provider will be clearly described and spelled out in the operations manual, there may still be some conflict among different interest groups.

I. Environmental Impact

41. The target population's awareness about the fragility of national resources, implementation of development plans and capacity-building will all have a positive environmental impact. With its strengthened capacity, the target population will be in a better position to promote and implement integrated management practices that preserve and protect the environment. Project-promoted sustainable activities for natural resources management, including implementation of anti-erosion measures, protection of critical zones and forest regeneration, will lead to better preservation of the environment. Sustainable agricultural development activities promoted by the project to assist villagers to adopt better land husbandry practices should have a positive impact on the environment. Agricultural intensification

and the promotion of income-generating activities should, in the long term, reduce the per capita area brought under cultivation each year. As a general rule, rural infrastructure will be rehabilitated only on essential feeder roads, thus reducing erosion. Environment assessment will be indicated in the operations manual as one of the criteria for microproject eligibility.

42. Based on the environmental screening and scoping note and in line with IFAD's administrative procedures for environmental assessment, the project has been classified as Category B.

J. Innovative Features

43. The project is innovative in terms of its approach and implementation. The community-based approach, which uses an intensive participatory consultation process (although tested on 20 villages in the first project) has remained small in scale and its scaling up to cover about 180 villages is new to the region. The project's GT approach aims to strengthen community capacity and empower beneficiaries to deal with their own development, leading to concerted and sustainable village resources management. The GT approach also takes account of the real problems and concerns of entire villages and makes them aware of their responsibilities, allows them to fully participate in every step of the process, and trains them. Communities and individuals will be made responsible for the management of natural resources, and for the restoration and improvement of villages' productive capacity. The GT approach will also allow for the emergence and consolidation of institutional systems for natural resource protection and management.

44. Financial support for village-level infrastructure and services (microinfrastructure) will be coordinated and channelled through the project and managed by the villages themselves.

PART III - LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND AUTHORITY

45. A loan agreement between the Republic of Guinea and IFAD constitutes the legal instrument for extending the proposed loan to the borrower. A summary of important supplementary assurances included in the negotiated loan agreement is attached as an annex.

46. The Republic of Guinea is empowered under its laws to borrow from IFAD.

47. I am satisfied that the proposed loan will comply with the Agreement Establishing IFAD.

PART IV - RECOMMENDATION

48. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed loan in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Guinea in various currencies in an amount equivalent to nine million four hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 9 400 000) to mature on and prior to 1 May 2042 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.

Lennart Båge
President

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT SUPPLEMENTARY ASSURANCES INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATED LOAN AGREEMENT

(Loan negotiations concluded on 31 July 2002)

1. The Government of the Republic of Guinea (“the Government”) shall make the loan proceeds available to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (the lead project agency) in accordance with AWP/Bs and customary national procedures for development assistance to carry out the project.
2. The Government shall be responsible for all taxes, duties and levies on goods and services needed to carry out the project, making use of the procedure of *chèques trésor série spéciale* (CTSS) to do so. Upon opening the project account, the Government shall deposit funds representing a portion of its counterpart contribution in an amount in Guinean francs equivalent to USD 50 000. The Government shall replenish the project account each year by depositing in it such counterpart funds as are indicated in the AWP/B for the respective project year. Counterpart funds shall be included in the public investment programme.
3. In order to maintain sound environmental practices, the Government shall take all necessary measures under the project with regard to pesticide management. In this regard, it shall ensure that pesticides furnished under the project do not include any pesticide proscribed by the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as amended from time to time, or listed in Tables 1 (Extremely Hazardous) or 2 (Highly Hazardous) of the World Health Organization’s Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Classification 1996-97, as amended from time to time.
4. Close monitoring is to be provided in collaboration with the Government. The monitoring and evaluation system shall collect the necessary information on: (i) the level of execution of activities called for in the AWP/B at the *terroir* and operator level; (ii) the appropriateness of the approaches and strategies adopted; and (iii) the project’s impact on beneficiaries and the environment. The monitoring and evaluation officer shall ensure subsequently that these data are compiled and analysed. Following discussion by the coordination team, the data shall be disseminated.
5. The PCU shall ensure financial monitoring and internal management control by means of a computer-based system and scorecards that will be kept up-to-date by the head of the administrative and financial unit. Said officer shall report monthly to the project coordinator on the status of expenditures and use of resources. In order to ensure economies of scale and cost-sharing, assistance will be provided to all IFAD projects under way in Guinea, with a view to strengthening the capacity of personnel responsible for finance and administration.
6. The PCU’s monitoring and evaluation unit shall analyse the impact of project activities. The evaluation will address qualitative, quantitative and institutional aspects of the project’s core objectives. The evaluation process shall be conducted once a year at the *terroir* level by community-based natural-resources management committees (*comités de gestion de terroir*), at the prefecture level by means of consensus-building workshops, and, externally, in collaboration with regional and national partners.
7. The data generated by project monitoring and evaluation shall be made available to all partners active in the region by means of the information centre (*observatoire*), specifically in the form of geo-referenced data-bases. This information will also be provided to beneficiaries in appropriate formats.
8. The Government will exempt all imports, goods, services and civil engineering works that are linked exclusively to the project from all taxes, duties and levies under the CTSS procedure. The amounts

ANNEX

corresponding to taxes, duties and levies on procurements are deemed to be part of the counterpart contribution that the Government is to provide.

9. Project personnel are to be insured against illness and accident under applicable labour legislation in the territory of the Republic of Guinea.

10. The Government undertakes to give preference *ceteris paribus* to female candidates who apply for posts – especially technical posts – to be filled under the project.

11. No withdrawals may be made from the project account until such time as a draft version of the implementation manual has been approved by IFAD.

12. The following are additional conditions precedent to the effectiveness of the loan agreement:

- (a) the coordinator and the chief of the administrative and financial unit have been recruited, in accordance with the provisions of the loan agreement;
- (b) the other members of the PCU have been selected, in accordance with the provisions of the loan agreement;
- (c) the special account has been opened at a commercial bank or other financial institution acceptable to IFAD;
- (d) the project account has been opened at a bank acceptable to IFAD and the equivalent in Guinean francs of USD 50 000 has been deposited therein, representing the initial deposit of the Government's counterpart contribution; and
- (e) a favourable legal opinion has been issued by the Supreme Court, acceptable in form and substance, and forwarded by the Government to IFAD.

APPENDIX I

COUNTRY DATA

GUINEA

Land area (km² thousand), 2000 1/	246	GNI per capita (USD), 2000 1/	450
Total population (million), 2000 1/	7.4	GNP per capita growth (annual %), 2000 1/	-0.9
Population density (people per km²), 2000 1/	30	Inflation, consumer prices (annual %), 2000 1/	n.a.
Local currency	Guinean franc (GNF)	Exchange rate: USD 1 =	GNF 1 951
Social Indicators		Economic Indicators	
Population (average annual population growth rate), 1980-99 2/	2.6	GDP (USD million), 2000 1/	3 120
Crude birth rate (per thousand people), 2000 1/	40 a/	Average annual rate of growth of GDP 2/	
Crude death rate (per thousand people), 2000 1/	17 a/	1980-90	n.a.
Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births), 2000 1/	96 a/	1990-99	4.2
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000 1/	46 a/	Sectoral distribution of GDP, 2000 1/	
Number of rural poor (million) (approximate) 1/	n.a.	% agriculture	24 a/
Poor as % of total rural population 2/	n.a.	% industry	38 a/
Total labour force (million), 2000 1/	3.5	% manufacturing	4 a/
Female labour force as % of total, 2000 1/	47	% services	38 a/
Education		Consumption, 2000 1/	
School enrolment, primary (% gross), 2000 1/	57	General government final consumption expenditure (as % of GDP)	6 a/
Adult illiteracy rate (% age 15 and above), 2000 1/	n.a.	Household final consumption expenditure, etc. (as % of GDP)	77 a/
Nutrition		Gross domestic savings (as % of GDP)	18 a/
Daily calorie supply per capita, 1997 3/	2 231	Balance of Payments (USD million)	
Malnutrition prevalence, height for age (% of children under 5), 2000 1/	26 a/	Merchandise exports, 2000 1/	940
Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5), 2000 1/	23 a/	Merchandise imports, 2000 1/	1 200
Health		Balance of merchandise trade	-260
Health expenditure, total (as % of GDP), 2000 1/	3.6	Current account balances (USD million)	
Physicians (per thousand people), 1999 1/	0.11	before official transfers, 1999 1/	-217
Population using improved water sources (%), 1999 4/	48	after official transfers, 1999 1/	-138
Population with access to essential drugs (%), 1999 4/	93	Foreign direct investment, net 1999 1/	63
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%), 1999 4/	58	Government Finance	
Agriculture and Food		Overall budget deficit (including grants) (as % of GDP), 1999 1/	-2.4
Food imports (% of merchandise imports), 1999 1/	24 a/	Total expenditure (% of GDP), 1999 1/	21.2
Fertilizer consumption (hundreds of grams per ha of arable land), 1998 1/	37	Total external debt (USD million), 1999 1/	3 518
Food production index (1989-91=100), 2000 1/	142.8	Present value of debt (as % of GNI), 1999 1/	72
Cereal yield (kg per ha), 2000 1/	1 308	Total debt service (% of exports of goods and services), 1999 1/	16.1
Land Use		Lending interest rate (%), 2000 1/	19.4
Arable land as % of land area, 1998 1/	3.6	Deposit interest rate (%), 2000 1/	7.5
Forest area (km ² thousand), 2000 2/	69		
Forest area as % of total land area, 2000 2/	28.2		
Irrigated land as % of cropland, 1998 1/	6.4		

A/ Data are for years or periods other than those specified.

1/ World Bank, *World Development Indicators* database

2/ World Bank, *World Development Indicators*, 2001

3/ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report*, 2000

4/ UNDP, *Human Development Report*, 2001

PREVIOUS IFAD LOANS

Project Name	Initiating Institution	Cooperating Institution	Board Approval	Lending Terms	Loan Effectiveness	Current Closing Date	Denominated Currency	Approved Loan Amount	Disbursement (as % of approved amount)
Siguiri Rural Development Project	IFAD	AfDB	05 Dec 80	HC	30 Apr 81	31 Dec 92	SDR	9 850 000	89.6%
Gueckedou Agricultural Development Project	World Bank: IDA	World Bank: IDA	04 Sep 85	HC	26 Sep 86	30 Jun 92	SDR	5 050 000	25.3%
Fouta Djallon Agricultural Rehabilitation Project	IFAD	UNOPS	14 Sep 88	HC	06 Jan 90	31 Dec 96	SDR	11 400 000	94.4%
Second Siguiri Rural Development Project	IFAD	AfDB	04 Sep 91	HC	22 Jan 93	30 Jun 99	SDR	9 400 000	34.8%
Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region	IFAD	UNOPS	02 Dec 92	HC	23 Feb 94	30 Jun 02	SDR	9 850 000	95.5%
Smallholder Development Project in North Lower Guinea	IFAD	UNOPS	14 Sep 95	HC	01 Jul 96	31 Dec 04	SDR	10 200 000	93.9%
Fouta Djallon Local Development and Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme	IFAD	UNOPS	04 Dec 96	HC	28 Jan 98	30 Jun 05	SDR	6 950 000	49.7%
Village Communities Support Project	World Bank: IDA	World Bank: IDA	02 Dec 98	HC	30 Nov 99	30 Jun 04	SDR	5 000 000	29.5%
Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée	IFAD	UNOPS	09 Dec 99	HC	18 Jan 01	30 Sep 11	SDR	10 200 000	05.0%



CADRE LOGIQUE

Résumé descriptif	Indicateurs objectivement vérifiables	Sources et dispositif de vérification	Suppositions importantes
1. OBJECTIF GLOBAL			
Contribuer à l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de revenus des populations rurales de Guinée forestière, par la responsabilisation des terroirs pour un développement agricole et rural durable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prévalence de la malnutrition chronique chez les enfants âgés de moins de 5 ans - Niveau de production agricole et des revenus des ménages par genre et groupe socio-économique - Nombre de personnes vivant en dessous du seuil de pauvreté par genre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquête 'point de référence au départ, à mi parcours et finale. - Etudes et enquêtes de suivi & évaluation - Etudes (externes d'impact) - Enquêtes alimentaires et nutritionnelles - Enquêtes budget/consommation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contexte socio-politique et économique stable - Arrêt des flux de réfugiés; - Libéralisation et promotion du secteur privé - Politique de décentralisation effective - Synergie avec les autres programmes nationaux (PACV) et régionaux (PDGRR, PDRiz, etc)
2. OBJECTIFS SPECIFIQUES			
1. Renforcer les capacités de la population cible, de leurs organisations, et des institutions participantes pour un développement durable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % de femmes/hommes alphabétisés par classe d'âge - nombre, performance et pérennité des institutions et organisations locales - % participation des femmes et des groupes vulnérables aux prises de décisions - Nombre de femmes, jeunes membres des organes dirigeants - niveau d'autonomie du terroir à développer et exécuter des plans de travail - niveau de réalisation du PGT et de mise en oeuvre des plans d'action annuels par les terroirs - capacité de gestion financière des microprojets par les terroirs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suivi-évaluation participatif - Rapports du projet - Enquêtes des ménages agricoles - Rapports de supervision; - Revue mi-parcours du projet. - Etudes socio-économiques <p style="text-align: center;">Indicateurs socio-économiques de la zone</p>	<p>Autorités locales (élus et admin. déconcentrée) favorables à la promotion des organisations des terroirs</p> <p>Chefs de terre coopératifs : zones critiques mises en défends, accès aux bas-fonds sécurisés</p> <p>Adhésion des populations/femmes aux programmes d'alphabétisation (libérer du temps de travail)</p> <p>Stabilité politique</p> <p>Opérateurs de qualité</p>



<p>2. Améliorer de manière durable la productivité des systèmes de production agricole et diversifier les sources de revenus (agricoles et non-agricoles) des exploitations rurales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources des revenus annuels des exploitations familiales par groupe socio-économique, - Productivité/rendement des cultures et réduction des surfaces emblavées en vivriers annuels - Durée moyenne des assolements productifs sur coteau et dans les bas-fonds. - niveau de valorisation de la production agricole (stockage, transformation, ...) - accès aux zones de production et aux marchés - accès aux infrastructures et équipements socio-économiques - temps de travail pour diverses opérations des femmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suivi-évaluation participatif - Rapports du projet - Enquêtes des ménages agricoles - Rapports de supervision; - Revue mi-parcours du projet. - Enquêtes socio-économiques - Etudes 	<p>Options technologiques adaptés disponibles</p> <p>Conseil agricole de proximité disponibles</p> <p>Intrants agricoles disponibles et accessibles</p> <p>Artisans forgerons mécaniciens formés et opérationnels</p> <p>Opérateurs et prestataires de service de qualité</p>
<p>3. Faciliter l'accès aux services financiers de proximité autogérés.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % des bénéficiaires (dont les femmes) et volume de crédit par objet et durée. - capacité des ASF à répondre à la demande des différents types de crédit (agricoles, commerciaux, sociaux, ...) - capacité d'autogestion et autonomie financière des ASF - service d'appui-conseil et de promotion des ASF - niveau de structuration régionale des ASF 	<p>Suivi-évaluation participatif</p> <p>Rapport opérateur ASF</p> <p>Audits des ASF</p> <p>Rapport de contrôle de la Banque Centrale</p>	<p>Participation des ménages défavorisés/femmes</p> <p>Agrément des ASF</p> <p>Diversification des offres de crédit</p> <p>Structure faîtière fonctionnelle</p> <p>Appuis par structure nationale</p> <p>Opérateur de proximité de qualité</p>
<p>3. RESULTATS ATTENDUS</p>			
<p>3.1 . En matière de Gestion des terroirs et développement agricole durable.</p> <p>(i) Les capacités d'analyse humaines et organisationnelles des populations cibles sont renforcées (alphabétisation et formation spécialisées) et des PGT sont préparés par les organisations du terroir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nombre de terroirs, habitants touchés, PGT développés et plans d'action mis en œuvre - Participation des femmes et groupes vulnérables dans le processus - Nombre de formations techniques, en gestion, négociation et en management - % de la population alphabétisée par sexe, classe sociale 	<p>Rapports d'activités de l'opérateur</p> <p>PGT et plans d'actions des terroirs</p> <p>Rapports de formations</p> <p>Ateliers participatifs auprès des bénéficiaires</p> <p>S-E participatifs</p> <p>Rapports d'auto-évaluation</p> <p>Rapport d'activités des CGT</p>	<p>Compétence et professionnalisme de l'opérateur pour la mise en œuvre de l'approche participative</p> <p>Efficacité des animateurs pour la mobilisation et la mise en œuvre des plans d'actions des terroirs</p> <p>Participation active des bénéficiaires</p>



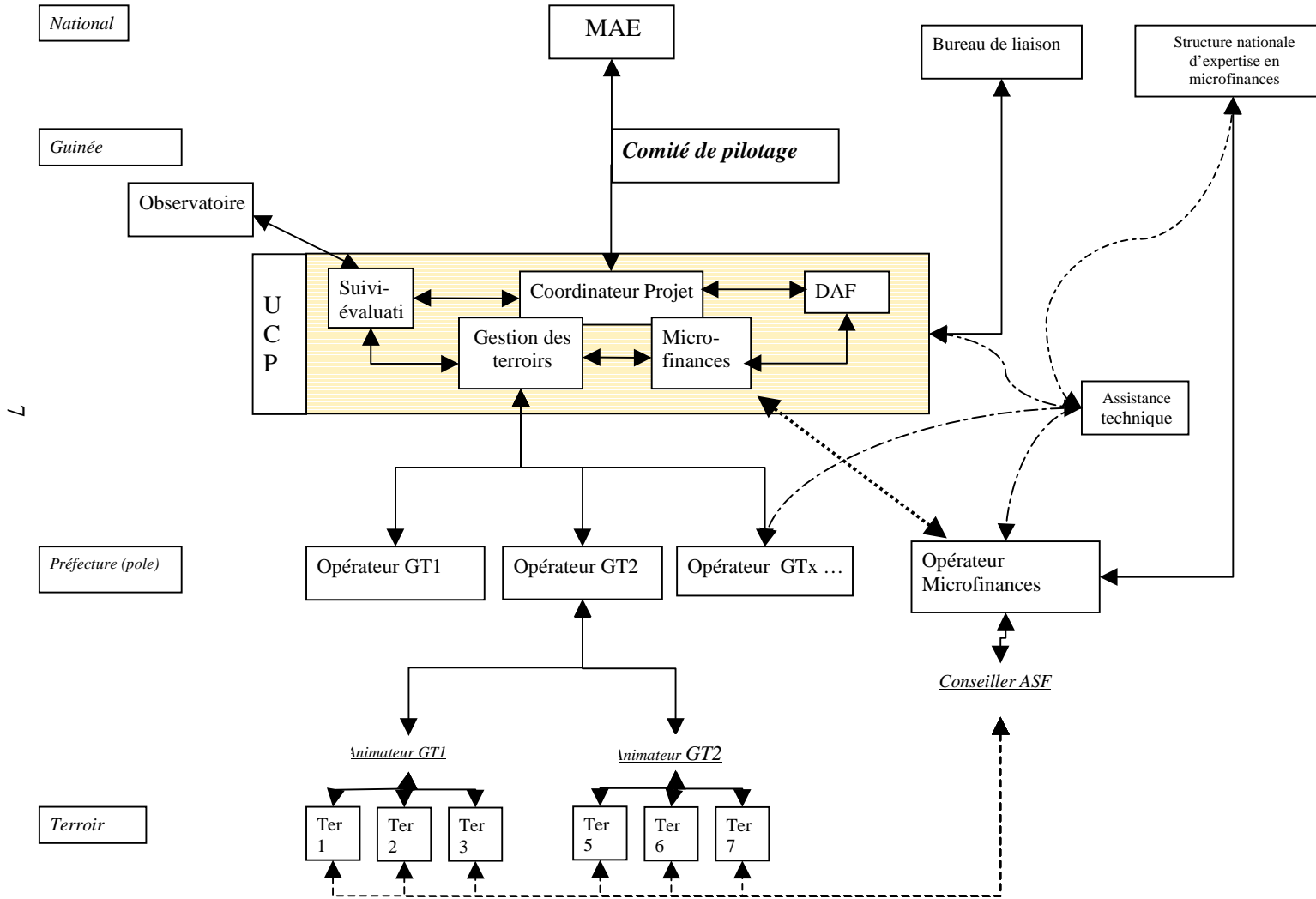
<p>(ii) La Recherche-développement répond à la demande prioritaire des terroirs</p> <p>(iii) Le service de conseil agricole de proximité est opérationnel :</p> <p>(iv) Accès aux intrants de qualité (semences, engrais, ...) est amélioré :</p> <p>(v) Diffusion de l'information sur les référentiels et la gestion des exploitations est effective</p>	<p>Thèmes de R/D et leur pertinence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Réseau R/D paysan est effectif : nombre de paysans, nombre d'essais, nombre de visites paysannes (journées portes ouvertes) - Nombre des agents agricoles en place sur le terrain démonstrations, conseil technique permanent, formation de capacités techniques, - Accès aux services d'appui agricole suivant sexe, groupe social <p>Nombre de petits paysans utilisant des engrais, des semences améliorées</p> <p>Quantité de semences produites et /vendue (utilisées</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nombre de messages Radio – Nbre de groupes de discussion actifs <p>Niveau d'accès aux informations sur le marché (quantités et prix)</p>	<p>Suivi évaluation participatif</p> <p>Rapports des opérateurs</p> <p>Rapports du projet</p> <p>Rapports de supervision</p> <p>Rapports de suivi</p> <p>Revue mi-parcours.</p> <p>Rapports de l'observatoire</p> <p>Etudes spécialisées</p> <p>Comptes des sociétés d'approvisionnement des engrais</p> <p>Etudes spécialisées</p> <p>Enquêtes de ménages agricoles</p>	<p>Appui et formation répondent aux besoins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ingérence politique limité dans le choix des activités -Adhésion des élus locaux au processus de gestion de terroir <p>Stabilité politique et économique</p> <p>Inflation maîtrisée</p> <p>Référentiels technico-économiques établis et diffusés</p>
<p>(vi) La valorisation des produits agricoles est promue et sources de revenus diversifiés</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Niveau de transformation/valorisation des productions agricoles primaires ; % des produits agricoles transformés - qualité et type des produits offerts - Evolution du différentiel de prix entre matière première et produit (semi)fini - Nombre moyen d'animaux/ ménage (et type) - Nombre d'étangs piscicoles, d'apiculteurs/ruches - Proportion des exploitations ayant intégré l'élevage semi-intensif - Superficies cultivées en contre-saison ('maraîchères') - Nombre et type d'entreprises de prestations de service par terroir - Diminution du niveau de pénibilité du travail (surtout des femmes) - Proportion des ménages tirant leur revenu des activités hors-sol. 	<p>Suivi évaluation participatif</p> <p>Rapports des opérateurs</p> <p>Rapports du projet</p> <p>Rapports de supervision</p> <p>Revue mi-parcours.</p> <p>Rapports de l'observatoire</p> <p>Enquêtes de marchés</p> <p>Etudes spécialisées</p>	<p>Environnement socio-économique favorable au niveau régional et national (concurrence des produits liés à l'aide alimentaire et autres dons)</p> <p>Opérateurs et prestataires de service de qualité</p>



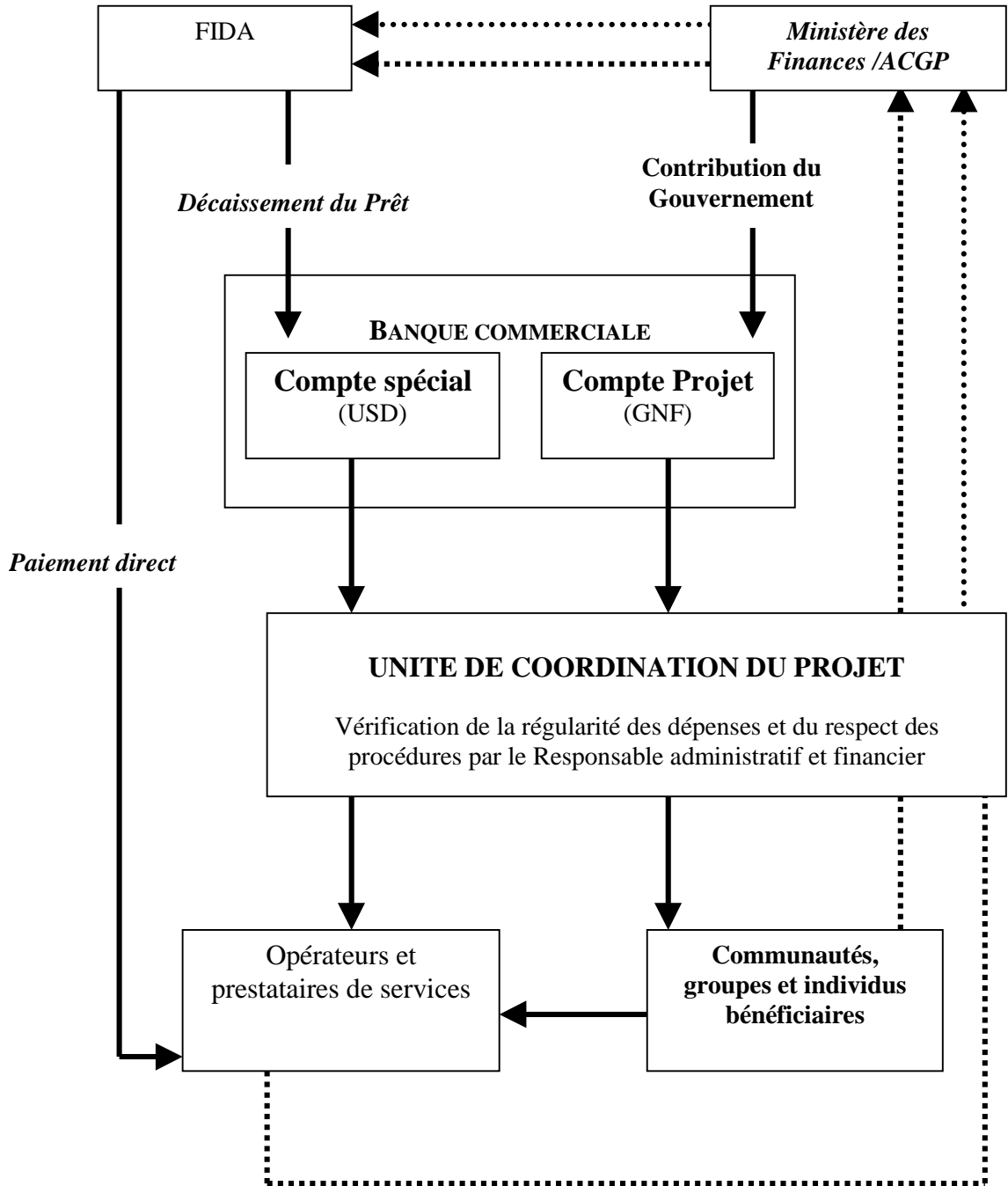


<p>(vii) Entrepreneurs prestataires de service opérationnels</p> <p>(viii) Les infrastructures rurales d'appui au développement agricole durable sont réalisées et/ou réhabilitées</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nombre et type d'entreprise de prestations de service par terroir - Nombre de passages difficiles en saison des pluies - Nombre et qualité des infrastructures sociales et économiques réalisées par type - Niveau de la prise en charge de la maintenance des infrastructures communautaires (CVEP effectivement opérationnelles) - % des ménages avec l'accès à l'eau potable <p>Niveau des maladies liées à la consommation de l'eau</p>	<p>Suivi évaluation participatif</p> <p>Rapports des opérateurs</p> <p>Rapports du projet</p> <p>Rapports de supervision</p> <p>Revue mi-parcours.</p> <p>Rapports de l'observatoire</p> <p>Etudes spécialisées</p>	<p>Adhésion de la population au cantonnage de proximité</p> <p>Stabilité politique et socio-économique</p> <p>Qualité du suivi et de la post-formation</p>
<p>3.2 En matière de développement de services financier de proximité</p> <p>(i) Environ 40 ASF et leurs relais villageois (CVC) sont établies et autogérées</p> <p>(ii) Une structure (faitière) d'appui aux ASF est mise en place et opérationnelle</p> <p>(iii) L'expertise nationale appuie efficacement les ASF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nombre d'actionnaires (H/F) par ASF- - Répartition du capital entre couches sociales et sexes - Taux de recouvrement par type de crédits, <p>- Une structure faitière d'appui a été mise en place et est à même d'assurer la pérennité des services d'appui aux ASF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L'agrément des ASF auprès de la Banque Centrale est obtenu (adapté au cadre réglementaire) - Niveau de capacité des comités ASF - Niveau d'autonomie des ASF 	<p>Rapports de l'opérateur d'appui aux ASF</p> <p>Comptabilité des ASF</p> <p>Rapports de l'ATI</p> <p>Suivi-évaluation UCP</p> <p>Audit externe (annuelle)</p>	<p>Efficacité de l'opérateur pour la composante et disponibilité de l'ATI</p> <p>Mobilisation des bénéficiaires</p> <p>Rigueur absolue de la gestion</p> <p>Partenaires financiers crédibles/fiables</p> <p>Complémentarité entre les ASF et le CRG</p> <p>Fond de capitalisation des ASF opérationnel;</p> <p>Niveau de détournement des ressources limité et effectivement sanctionné</p>
<p>3.3 Les capacités d'intervention publiques et la coordination des efforts de différents partenaires pour répondre à la demande des communautés sont améliorées</p>	<p>Fonctionnement du comité de pilotage, coordination et partage efficaces des responsabilités entre les intervenants (UCP/opérateurs/terroirs).</p> <p>Processus participatif de prise de décision (plus de concertation). Bonne relation Etat/secteur privé.</p>		

ORGANIGRAMME



FLUX FINANCIER



Légende :

- Flux financiers
- Certification des dépenses (factures et décomptes)
- Résumés certifiés des dépenses et demandes de retrait de fonds (DRF)

