



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

RESSAC is a programme on applied research in **ecology and social sciences** in support of the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. It is financed by the European Union (EU) and led by the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF). The aim of RESSAC is to direct research over four years (2022-2025) towards “operational solutions” that need to be invented and applied by stakeholders in the field who are confronted with the many challenges of sustainable management of natural resources as part of their duties or their productive activities.

Following an initial call for proposals launched in March 2022, the RESSAC coordination committee is calling on scientific and academic institutions from Central African and European countries, as well as on forest and environmental resource managers from Central Africa, to form a grouping and submit research proposals for RESSAC funding. **For this second call for proposals, the RESSAC programme will favour research proposals relating to the social and/or economic sciences.**

Partners



cifor-icraf.org/ressac

The proposals must include the following:

a. The name of the scientific grouping or consortium

A consortium shall be made up of: 1) a European university or research centre interested in conducting research in Central Africa; 2) a university or research centre in a Central African country; and 3) a manager (legal person) of a conservation site or a site for the production of ecosystem goods and/ or services in Central Africa (e.g., forest concession, protected area, agro-industrial concession, conservation concession, etc.), or a development project manager in the forest-environment sector.

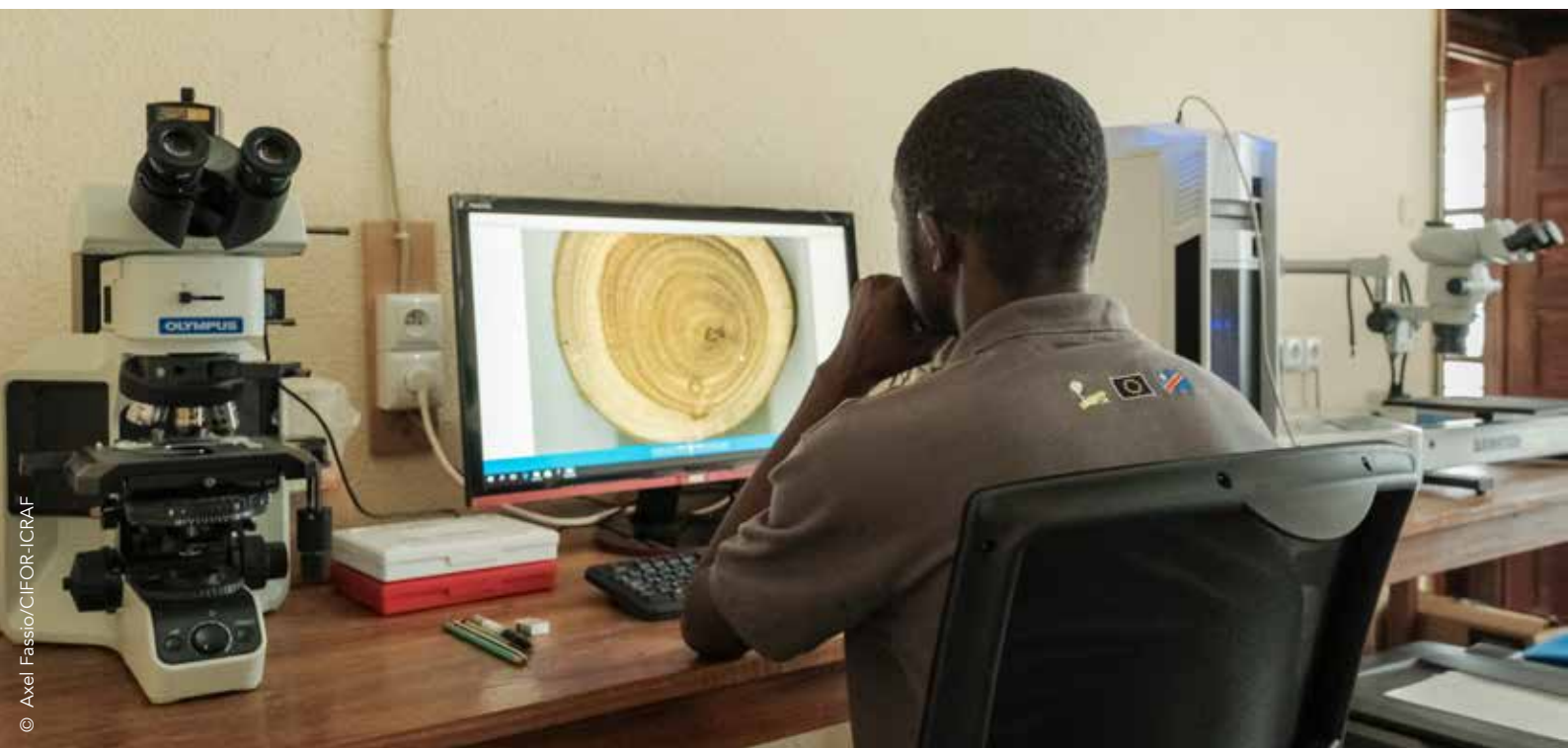
Each consortium will have to provide proof that they are a grouping that has been formalized through agreements signed by each of the members of the grouping. Detail should be provided on the roles of those members with regard to the conduct of the research and the management of the funds granted by the RESSAC programme. These roles should include the following:

- The leader of the consortium, who will be responsible for managing the financial resources made available by the RESSAC project
- The methods by which the postdoctoral and master's students will be selected, hosted and supervised
- The arrangements for hosting researchers at the research locations

b. The research proposal/topic (seven (7) pages maximum)

For the research proposal, activities shall be spread over 18 to 24 months and be supported by a postdoctoral researcher and master's students. As a rule, RESSAC support will focus primarily on support for postdoctoral and master's students, including their field activities, and will not pay for the salaries of the researchers/supervisors of the consortium.

The research proposal should include the following: A description of the context of the research and the significance of the proposed topic (including its consistency with the relevant national policies and the mainstreaming of gender aspects), its objectives and its methodology. There should also be a brief description of the geographical framework of the proposed study, the expected results and a timetable of the activities. The proposal should also clearly highlight the strategy for publishing the research findings via scientific articles and policy analysis notes.



c. Budget

Given the differences in costs faced by institutions located in Central Africa compared to those with head offices in Europe and based on the experience of the initial call for proposals, the average budgets made available by the RESSAC will vary from €55,000 to €250,000 depending on the contexts in which postdoctoral researchers are hosted.

- FCFA 37 million (about €55,000) if the institutions that host the postdoctoral researcher and master’s students are based in Central Africa
- FCFA 168 million (€250,000) if the institutions that host the postdoctoral researcher and master’s students are based in Europe.

The budget presentation should be simple and should include the budget items contained in the table below.

Items	Contribution expected from RESSAC	In-kind contribution from partners	Cash contribution from partners	Totals
Postdoctoral researcher support				
Master’s students support				
Fieldwork support				
Travel				
Publications				
Totals				



Criteria for the selection of proposals

Final selection of the submitted proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Whether or not there is a formal grouping agreement duly signed by the competent authority representing each member of the grouping
- A budget taking into account the provisions of section c. above, including the financial cash or in-kind contribution by the partners
- The link with forest resource management
- The potential for landscape management impacts at the national or even subregional level
- Relevance to national or subregional forest and environmental policies
- Whether or not the timetable of activities is realistic
- The quality of the research methodology
- The potential for scientific publication and publication for the general public
- The consortium members' experience in the management of and publication on Central African forests

Proposals should be sent to cifor.cameroon@cifor-icraf.org with a copy to j.mbane@cifor-icraf.org and r.atyi@cifor-icraf.org with **"RESSAC 2 grouping proposal"** in the subject heading, by **15 April 2023** at the latest.

