Eligibility criteria

1. The proposed project is located in at least one of the following geographies:

    a. Cameroon
    b. Central African Republic
    c. Democratic Republic of Congo
    d. Gabon
    e. Republic of Congo

2. The project targets one or more of the following sectors:

    a. Agroforestry & Cultivated Tree Crops
    b. Sustainable Forest Management & Non-timber Forest Products
    c. Sustainable Agribusiness (incl. Agri-processing and AgTech)
    d. Clean Cooking & Charcoal Alternatives
    e. Renewable Energy
    f. Circular Economy & Waste
    g. Ecosystem Protection & Restoration (incl. Ecotourism)

3. The total requested contribution of capital from Canopy Trust for the project is between:

    a. 100k – 500k USD for technical assistance
    b. 1M – 5M USD for direct investment (debt or equity)

4. The project is expected to address the following Sustainable Development Goals:

    a. Life on Land (SDG 15),
    b. Climate Action (SDG 13)
    c. Gender Equality (SDG 5)

5. In addition to the above, the project should positively contribute to at least two of the following Sustainable Development Goals:

    a. Affordable & Clean Energy (SDG 7)
    b. Sustainable Cities & Communities (SDG 11)
    c. Decent Work & Economic Growth (SDG 8)

6. The project does not fall under the Exclusion List in the Canopy Trust Environmental & Social Management System.

7. The Environmental & Social Risk categorization is B or C, in accordance with IFC Performance Standards.

8. The main stakeholder has the legal power to represent his entity, which is legally registered.

9. The proposal is complete, and all the compulsory files/questions are present/answered.

10. Agriculture and forestry projects are to ensure that production is deforestation-free.

11. Renewable energy projects should support and add value to sustainable forestry and agriculture value chains, including those within special economic zones.

12. The project owner must be able to demonstrate legal land tenure with no resettlement requirements.

Exclusion criteria

1. Activities with significant adverse environmental and social risks that are diverse, irreversible or unprecedented.

2. Non-legal and non-sustainable projects.

3. Transboundary movements of waste prohibited under international law, unless compliant with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and underlying regulations.

4. Projects involving physical or involuntary resettlement.

5. Activities prohibited by host country legislation or international conventions relating to the protection of biodiversity resources or cultural heritage.

6. Destruction of High Conservation Value areas or areas with major biodiversity.

7. Projects that may cause significant adverse impacts (equivalent to Category A).

8. Projects estimated to fall under Category B require an ESIA, including stakeholder consultation.

9. Projects that adversely impact cultural heritage or cultural heritage sites.

10. Projects that threaten individual rights and freedom, or that directly violate human rights.

11. The production of, or trade in, any product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations, or subject to international phase-outs or bans under international conventions and agreements.

12. Production of, or trade in, pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides or other hazardous substances subject to international phase-outs or bans, for example:

a. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and DDTs (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

b. ODS (ozone-depleting substances), HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) and CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) under the Montreal Protocol.

13. Production/use of, or trade in, GMOs.

14. For any Projects involving animal husbandry: synthetic growth promoters, including hormones, may not be administered.

15. Production of, or trade in, wildlife products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

16. Trade in goods without required export or import licenses or other evidence of authorization of transit from the relevant countries of export, import and, if applicable, transit.

17. Production of, or trade in, weapons and/or munitions.

18. Production of, or trade in, cosmetics or other products involving testing on animals.

19. Any activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced or child labour, as outlined in the International Labour Organization's core standards.

20. Any business activities involving the production, trade, and/or distribution of the following:

    a. Pornography
    b. Racist, anti-democratic and/or neo-Nazi media.
    c. Alcoholic beverages
    d. Tobacco products
    e. Gambling or equivalent industries
    f. Radioactive materials
    g. Unbonded asbestos fibers or asbestos-containing products
    h. Drift-net fishing in a marine environment
    i. Shipment of oil or other hazardous substances in tankers that do not comply with International Maritime Organization requirements

21. Commercial logging operations for use in primary forests.

22. The Project area shall not be located on wetlands.

23. The Project shall demonstrate conformity to Safeguarding Principle 8 (Water).

24. The Project must not be associated with geoengineering or other energy generated from nuclear or fossil fuels; the Project may not support, enhance or prolong such forms of energy generation.