Dear The Hub Committee,

I would like to express my interest in applying to the Junior Scientist Program with my research, "Governing Zero-Deforestation Cocoa: Cross-Sector Policy Alignments, Institutions, and Spatial Deforestation Patterns in Cameroon and Guinea", in collaboration with the Alliance Biodiversity & CIAT team in Multifunctional Landscapes based in Cali, Colombia.

I am currently completing the third semester of my MSc in Global Forestry, an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's program that has also allowed me to study at the University of Copenhagen, the University of Padova, and currently, at Dresden University of Technology. This interdisciplinary program, focused on sustainable forest management, equips students to become decision-makers, managers, and researchers in a rapidly changing global context. Through my chosen track, I have developed strong knowledge and skills in governance and policy, climate change, forest landscape restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and development cooperation, applied to global and tropical forest landscapes. Additionally, I had the chance to conduct research in Chiang Dao (North Thailand) in collaboration with Kasetsart University, assessing the carbon credit potential of community forests in a dry tropical forest. This strengthened my research and fieldwork skills within an international and interdisciplinary team. Last summer, I interned in the Nature Positive Unit at Etifor, an environmental consultancy based in Padova, and I participated in the EMMA4EU PRO specialization school, where I received professional training on deforestation-free supply chains management, in the context of the emerging zero-deforestation regulatory challenges.

I am highly motivated to join the Alliance Biodiversity & CIAT team through the JSP to gain first-hand experience conducting research within an organization dedicated to scientific excellence and development impacts. I am eager to collaborate within an interdisciplinary and international team that can guide me in applying rigorous scientific tools and methodologies, while further developing part of my master's research in a real-world project, supporting national sustainable development strategies. I am particularly motivated to learn how to connect research objectives with tangible development outcomes, integrating scientific rigour with practical impact, especially in the agricultural sector, where addressing deforestation and rural development are major concerns. In addition, engaging with The Hub's networking and training platform seems like an interesting opportunity for innovative learning.

I believe this collaboration will meaningfully complement my academic and professional journey these past two years, strengthen my analytical skills—particularly in spatial and policy analysis with a mixed-methods approach—and deepen my expertise in forest governance and landscape approaches across diverse contexts such as Latin America and West Africa. I am confident that my academic training, research experience, and international exposure have prepared me to contribute effectively to the program while adapting to a new, challenging social/cultural context and collaborative research environment. I truly believe this opportunity will significantly enhance my personal, academic, and professional growth, equipping me with the skills needed to make a positive impact in achieving sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and climate goals both in my home country and internationally, working as an agent of change, as an empowered woman from the global south.

I look forward to contributing to and learning through the Junior Scientist Program and to supporting CGIAR's mission. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dresden, 15/02/2026