

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: DRC

June, 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- R-PP Implementation Grant (US\$3.4 million) signed in March 2011.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Coordination operational, with over 15 technical staff
- National REDD Committee and Interministerial Committee operational. They had their first meeting in August, 2010; second meeting in February 2011, third meeting in March 2011, and a week-long training and consultative workshop, in Kisantu (Bas Congo Province) in May 2011.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Continued collaboration with different groups from civil society, including indigenous peoples representatives. Close contact with the *Groupe de Travail Climat REDD (GTCR)*.
- Preparation of radio and TV awareness-raising spots through performance with professional actors. Five TV and radio short plays (sketches) were conceptualized and developed in Lingala and translated into Tschiluba, Kikongo, Kiswahili and French. TV and radio first broadcasts started in January 2011 and continue to day.
- Preparation of a synthesis brochure "Inventing REDD+" (summarizing the REDD Readiness process in DRC) in French and English along with brochures on each early action REDD+ programmes and a CD, for distribution at the COP 16 in Cancun.
- Consultations continue around every activity led by the National Coordination (studies, preparation of pilot project, early programs, FIP Investment Plan, etc.).
- In-depth consultations on the design of REDD+ Strategy continues through the Thematic Coordination groups (*see below*).
- Extensive consultations for the preparation of the FIP Investment Plan. Two national civil society organizations, DGPA and CODELT, led consultations with various stakeholders (local government and traditional leaders, private sector, local civil society and representatives of indigenous peoples) in 6 provinces, reaching over 600 people, on the draft FIP Investment Plan. These rich consultations generated inputs that shaped the final investment strategy prepared by the Government, to be presented for approval by the FIP Sub-Committee in June 2011. In addition, targeted consultations with private sector representatives also took place.
- The Ministry of Environment was present at the Carbon Expo 2011, and organized a side event on "REDD+ Projects in DRC".
- Preparation of a website dedicated to the REDD+ process in DRC where all relevant documents will be shared publically, which should operational in September 2011.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Thematic Coordination Groups" (TCG) covering 30 sector-based and cross-cutting options to fight deforestation and forest degradation in DRC were constituted. They are led by a representative from the public administration, facilitated by the REDD Coordination, and supported by various stakeholders.

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The TCGs have started their work gathering 350 people and will feed into the REDD+ Strategy. 11 TCGs also participate in the preparation process for the FIP (a subset of the national strategy). Each TCG has been tasked with engaging in more in-depth discussions over an 18-month period about the potential contribution of a sector or option to the REDD+, providing a report with recommendations by June 2012

- The study on the causes of deforestation and forest degradation is about to be finalized. A bibliographical review has been compiled. The qualitative study, aimed to generate a national consensus on the causes of deforestation and forest degradation and based on extensive field visits to deforestation hotspots, will be available by the end of June (all field visits have been completed). The quantitative study is being led by the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) based on remote sensing analysis with the FAO facilitating the ground-truthing with the civil society. This piece of the work is ongoing.
- An Assessment of past efforts in reducing deforestation and forest degradation in DRC has been completed and is available.
- Climate change has been incorporated as a pillar in the new Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) currently being prepared in DRC .
- Seven pilot projects prepared for CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) approved by CBFF Governing Body in November, 2011. The grant agreement for two of these projects (Isangi and Mambasa, both in the Orientale Province) has been signed in early June, and the launch activities will take place by the end of the month. For the other five projects, grant agreement is expected to be signed by the end of the month.
- DRC has prepared a comprehensive USD 60 million Investment Plan for the Forest Investment Program, to be presented at the FIP Sub-Committee meeting in June 2011. This Plan will promote sectoral (biomass energy and community forestry) and enabling activities (land tenure securitization, land management, support to business development) around three key deforestation hotspots (the supply area of Kinshasa, Kisangani and Mbuji May/Kananga), as well as support private sector engagement in REDD+ activities and promote small-scale promising REDD interventions throughout the country.

5. Implementation Framework

- An initial workshop on benefit sharing took place in January 2011. A second workshop is scheduled for July 2011, where the basic concepts around benefit sharing will be discussed (notion of benefit, actors entitled to receive benefits, rights, models of benefit sharing) and international experiences will be presented. As a result, a roadmap for the preparation of an options paper for a benefit sharing mechanism in DRC will be prepared.
- The in-depth analytical study on options for REDD+ funds management in DRC should start in August. Technical proposals are being assessed by the national coordination at the moment.
- The accreditation and validation process for REDD+ projects in DRC is being designed in close consultation with the legal counsels of the Ministry of the Environment. In-country consultations have been conducted and an international review is being finalized. A legal text will provide the early 'rules of the game' for REDD+ projects in DRC.
- A draft national registry for REDD+ projects and initiatives was launched at the COP 16 in Cancun. The registry will serve as a database of all REDD finance and activities ongoing in the country, including those projects targeting carbon transactions in the voluntary market. An operational version is being coded and will be tested in August.
- A political economy analysis of REDD+ in DRC will be finalized in June 2011 (under WB leadership)
- A study on broad institutional and legal issues affecting the implementation framework for REDD should start in July. ToRs are currently under discussion.

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6. SESA

- **The National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for REDD has been formally created and all members nominated. The Committee is operational.**
- **National civil society is currently leading a consultative process to establish social and environmental standards for REDD+ in DRC (with UNEP funds). The proposed indicators for the national standard will be tested in three sites (REDD+ pilot projects) by the end of June.**

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- **The Ministry of Environment, through its National REDD Coordination, will be supporting the National Household Survey to be launched in 2011, under the leadership of the Ministry of Plan and the National Institute of Statistics. The REDD Coordination worked with the Survey team to make sure the surveys covered issues relevant to REDD+ (such as wood consumption in rural zones, areas under agriculture cultivation, etc.). This exercise will provide a wealth of data for the establishment of the national reference scenario, contributing to the 'national circumstances' aspect of reference scenario.**
- **The study on the drivers of deforestation will also contribute to the development of a reference scenario (outputs expected by mid-2011).**
- **A preliminary Reference Scenario should be presented in COP17.**

8. MRV

- **A strategic document on the MRV vision for the DRC was prepared by FAO in November 2010.**
- **Training of staff for the National Forest Inventory (NFI) started**
- **GIS/Remote sensing-lab equipment purchased**
- **NFI officially launched in June 2011**
- **1St version of the national monitoring system in place by November 2011**

9. Other

- **The International REDD University in DRC will take place in August 2011.**