

## REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

**COUNTRY: DRC**

**June, 2013**

### **1. R-PP Implementation and FCPF Readiness grant**

- **US\$ 2,178,120 of the FCPF grant, out of US\$3.4M, has been disbursed as of today (June 5, 2013).**
- **The country finalized in May 2013 the review of the request for additional funding (US\$5.0 million FCPF grant), initially presented in October 2012 to the FCPF's 13th Participant Committee (PC13). Once the document translated in English, it will be submitted to the PC members with a 14 day period for comments. In case of no objection, the FMT will enter into the due diligence phase paving the way to a new grant agreement to be signed by the end of the year.**
- **Objective for the submission of the revised request: Mid June 2013**

### **2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements**

- **The DRC is currently restructuring the agency in charge of executing the REDD+ process (the "CN-REDD"), based on two reference documents: the "mid-term evaluation of the REDD+ process in the DRC", completed by an independent consultant in June 2012 and the "Readiness-Package" with its set of criteria and indicators, that measures countries' readiness. After going through those two reports, the CN-REDD staff and the Bank's team established the human and budgetary needs to implement the next stage of the REDD+ process. A streamlined organization chart was agreed upon with fewer positions whose terms of reference are being developed. Competitive recruitments are underway.**
- **Objective for operationalizing the new organisation chart: July - August 2013**
- **National REDD Committee and Inter-ministerial Committee in place, but their role has been questioned by the mid-term independent evaluation and should therefore be reconsidered. The DRC would go for only one Committee.**
- **Provincial REDD+ Focal Points were hired in 2012 for all 11 provinces. The review of the request for additional funding highlighted the cost of such a large deployment. As a result, the DRC decided to shrink its ambition geographically while strengthening the content of its mission. The deployment will occur in only 5 provinces (pilot provinces supported by Norway) with the FLEGT agenda as part of the core mission of the REDD+ focal points. The DRC is currently discussing with the European Forest Institute (EFI) in order to identify and build operational synergies between the REDD+ and the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) processes so as to increase the effectiveness of both processes. A partnership is envisioned with the EU REDD facility.**

### **3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication**

- **The 'Information, Education and Communication' Cell at the National REDD Coordination is active, with two full time staff and an Integrated Communication Plan for 2013-2017.**
- **The Third REDD+ University was organized in Kinshasa in August 2012, bringing together over 800 participants for 10 days of intense discussions on REDD+ topics.**

### **4. REDD Strategy Preparation**

- **The strategy has been finalized and validated in 2012 with an official presentation at the Doha Climate Change Conference (November 2012).**

## REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

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- The seven pilot projects financed by CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) are under implementation.
- The FIP investments are under preparation by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, following the Investment Plan approved by the FIP Sub Committee in July 2011.

### 5. Implementation Framework

- An options paper on benefit sharing has been prepared by national consultants.
- The UNDP is in active discussions with the Finance Ministry about the creation of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, to manage early REDD+ financing to the country.
- The accreditation and validation process for REDD+ projects in DRC was adopted formally by the Government in the form of a Decree issued on February 15, 2012. It institutionalizes the process whereby actors interested in initiating a REDD+ project in DRC have to comply with before getting an authorization from the Ministry of Environment. It also formally established the national REDD+ registry. It is in the process of being reviewed together with civil society and the Government.
- The national registry for REDD+ projects is at advanced stages of design. The registry serves as a database of all REDD finance and activities going on in the country, including those projects targeting carbon transactions in the voluntary market.
- All these achievements will have nevertheless to be reviewed to take into account the outputs of the SESA process, and more particularly the ESMF under discussion.

### 6. SESA

- The firm hired to lead the preparation of the SESA and ESMF in DRC (AGRECO) is conducting its work.
- The National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for REDD+ has been formally created and all members nominated. The Committee is up and running.
- A first SESA draft is available, as well as a first ESMF draft. Both documents are currently discussed with all the stakeholders involved locally in the REDD+ process. Comments and recommendations were submitted to the National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for REDD+, in charge of the validation process.
- During the May 2013 mission, an action plan was established to seek the validation of the SESA, ESMF and associated frameworks by the end of October 2013. As part of this validation process, a first workshop will be organized in June 2013 to get feedback from civil society, indigenous people, project owners and administrations. More than 100 participants are expected to attend the workshop.

### 7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- The Ministry of Environment, through its National REDD Coordination, signed a contract with the National Statistics Institute to support the National Household Survey. The National 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.

## REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

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- A forest cover map was produced in 2000, and the gross changes were assessed in 2005 and 2010. The final product is a map for 2010 indicating forest areas divided into three classes: primary forest, secondary forest and savannah, and stratified in each of these classes between the 2000-2005 and 2005-2010 time periods. The resolution of this map is 60m by 60m. These data are available on the website of the OSFAC ([www.osfac.net](http://www.osfac.net)) and are commonly used in the DRC. All forested areas with a canopy cover over 30% and mature tree height over 5 meters were classified as forests. The forest category was then further divided into the following sub-types:
  - Primary forest is defined as mature rainforest with canopy cover greater than 60%;
  - Secondary forest is defined as a regenerating forest with canopy cover greater than 60%; and
  - Savannah forest is defined as a forest with a canopy cover of 30 to 60%. All forested areas not classified as primary forest and secondary forests were classified by default as savannah forest.

### 8. MRV

- Many initiatives are under development, such as the National System for Forest Monitoring in DRC which is online today. There is a need nevertheless to make sure that all these initiatives are contributing to building the right infrastructure which will allow tomorrow the payment of environmental services.
- Capacity building efforts (mainly targeted at DIAF) continue with a GIS/Remote sensing-lab well equipped
- The FMT met with the FAO team in May 2013 to take stock of progresses. The DRC would be in a position to properly monitor land use changes next year (pre-inventory underway in the Bandundu province to validate a new typology of stands, working methodology duly validated for image treatment, etc.)

### 9. Other

- The country is currently defining a clear strategy with regards to an Emission Reduction Program (ER-Program) in the Bandundu province, paving the way towards the possible signature of an ERPA (Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement) between the DRC and the FCPF Carbon Fund.
- The selection of the geographical area of Plateaux and Mai Ndombé Districts is based on the various existing initiatives and actors on the ground contributing to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, namely the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) project developed by Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA) - Wildlife Works Carbon (WWC), as well as the activities implemented by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Forest Investment Program (FIP).
- The DRC and its partners developed an ER-PIN to be presented to the participants of the FCPF Carbon Fund at the June CF7 meeting. The ER-PIN was validated at a national workshop held on May 8, 2013.
- The key point remains the baseline and the ability of the DRC to adjust the reference level. The FCPF methodological framework is thus of critical importance to the DRC. Depending on its recommendations, the DRC could keep going or give up.....