

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: DRC

September 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- **R-PP Implementation Grant (US\$3.4 million) signed in March 2011, and currently disbursing.**

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

- **The 'Information, Education and Communication' Cell at the National REDD Coordination is currently being renovated with new personnel.**
- **The Second REDD+ University was organized in Kinshasa in August 2011, bringing together over 300 participants for 10 days of intense discussions on REDD+ topics.**
- **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.**
- **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. The TCGs have started their work gathering 350 people and will feed into the REDD+ Strategy. 11 TCGs**

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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.
- 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 some of these projects (Isangi, Mambasa, both in the Orientale Province, Sowth-Kwamotuh with NOVACEL) have been signed by September.
- DRC USD 60 million Investment Plan for the Forest Investment Program was presented at the FIP Sub-Committee meeting in June 2011, and endorsed by the Committee. The country is now engaged in the preparation of the projects that form the Investment Plan, with support from the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

5. Implementation Framework

- An initial workshop on benefit sharing took place in January 2011. A second workshop took place in July 2011, where the basic concepts around benefit sharing were discussed (notion of benefit, actors entitled to receive benefits, rights, models of benefit sharing) and international experiences were presented. As a result, a roadmap for the preparation of an options paper for a benefit sharing mechanism in DRC was prepared. Two national consultants should be recruited to prepare the options paper, along with an international consultant to provide overall guidance. The goal is to have an options paper ready for Durban.
- The in-depth analytical study on options for REDD+ funds management in DRC should start in October, 2011. Meanwhile, the UNDP is discussing with the Government and CSOs the possibility of creating a Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the UNDP, to attract early Phase 2 financing for DRC.
- 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 presenting the early 'rules of the game' for REDD+ projects in DRC has prepared, and is expected to be adopted as an *Arrêté* by December, 2011.
- A draft national registry for REDD+ projects and initiatives is under preparation. 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 of the registry is expected by Durban.
- A political economy analysis of REDD+ in DRC will be finalized in October 2011 (under WB leadership).

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

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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.

- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the REDD+ process in DRC should start in October, 2011.

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.
- 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