



**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
Carbon Fund**

Emission Reductions Program Idea Note (ER-PIN)

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

ER Program Name: Mai Ndombe REDD+ ER Program

Date of Submission or Revision: May 17, 2013

Disclaimer

The World Bank does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in the Emission Reductions Program Idea Note (ER-PIN) submitted by a REDD Country Participant and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence of their use. The boundaries, colors, denominations, and other information shown on any map in the ER-PIN do not imply on the part of the World Bank any judgment on the legal status of any territory or the endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

In accordance with Section 16.2 of the FCPF Charter and subject to compliance with the World Bank's Access to Information Policy, the FCPF Facility Management Team will make the ER-PIN available to the Carbon Fund Participants and to the public.

Note: The REDD National Coordination (REDD NC) thanks the many contributors who provided valuable comments and precious advices to this ER-PIN throughout its development. The REDD NC bears the full responsibility for the content of the document.

Guidelines:

1. The FCPF Carbon Fund will deliver Emission Reductions (ERs) from activities that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forests, promote the sustainable management of forests, and enhance forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) to the Carbon Fund Participants.
2. A REDD Country Participant interested in proposing an ER Program to the Carbon Fund should refer to the selection criteria included in the Carbon Fund Issues Note available on the FCPF website (www.forestcarbonpartnership.org) and to further guidance that may be communicated by the FCPF Facility Management Team (FMT) over time.
3. ER Programs shall come from FCPF REDD Country Participants that have signed their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, using this ER Program Idea Note ('ER-PIN') template.
4. The completed ER-PIN should ideally not exceed 40 pages in length (including maps, data tables, etc.). If additional information is required, the FCPF FMT will request it.
5. Please submit the completed ER-PIN to: 1) the World Bank Country Director for your country; and 2) the FCPF FMT (fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org).
6. As per Resolution CFM/4/2012/1 the Carbon Fund Participants' decision whether to include the ER-PIN in the pipeline will be based on the following criteria:
 - i. **Progress towards Readiness:** The Emission Reductions Program (ER Program) must be located in a REDD Country Participant that has signed a Readiness Preparation grant agreement (or the equivalent) with a Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund, and that has prepared a reasonable and credible timeline to submit a Readiness Package to the Participants Committee;
 - ii. **Political commitment:** The REDD Country Participant demonstrates a high-level and cross-sectoral political commitment to the ER Program, and to implementing REDD+;
 - iii. **Methodological Framework:** The ER Program must be consistent with the emerging Methodological Framework, including the PC's guiding principles on the methodological framework;
 - iv. **Scale:** The ER Program will be implemented either at the national level or at a significant sub-national scale, and generate a large volume of Emission Reductions;
 - v. **Technical soundness:** All the sections of the ER-PIN template are adequately addressed;
 - vi. **Non-carbon benefits:** The ER Program will generate substantial non-carbon benefits; and
 - vii. **Diversity and learning value:** The ER Program contains innovative features, such that its inclusion in the portfolio would add diversity and generate learning value for the Carbon Fund.

1. Entity responsible for the management of the proposed ER Program
Please provide the contact information for the institution and individual responsible for proposing and coordinating the proposed ER Program.

Name of managing entity	Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT)
	General Secretaryship to the Environment
	Mr Vincent KASULU SEYA MAKONGA
	General Secretary
	15, PAPA ILEO Street, Kinshasa Gombe
	+243814510594/ +243999905957
	kaseyamak@yahoo.fr
	www.mecnt.cd
Type and description of organization	Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT)
	General Secretaryship to the Environment
	Mr Vincent KASULU SEYA MAKONGA
	General Secretary
	15, PAPA ILEO Street, Kinshasa Gombe
	+243814510594/ +243999905957
	kaseyamak@yahoo.fr
	www.mecnt.cd

2. National REDD+ focal point contact information
Please provide the contact information for the institution and individual who serve as the national REDD+ Focal Point and endorses the proposed ER Program, or with whom discussions are underway

Name of entity	REDD National Coordination (REDD CN) Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT)
Main contact	Victor KABENGELE wa KADILU
Title	National Coordinator
Address	64, Colonel Monjiba Street, Kinshasa/Ngaliema
Telephone	+ 243 811 711 889 / +243 998 66 37 80 +243 999995462 / +243 898152282
Email	cnredd.rdc@gmail.com abckab@gmail.com
Website	www.redd.cd

2.1 Endorsement of the proposed ER Program by the national government
Please provide the written approval for the proposed ER Program by the REDD Country Participant's authorized representative (to be attached to this ER-PIN). Please explain if the national procedures for the endorsement of the Program by the national government REDD+ focal point and/or other relevant government agencies have been finalized or are still likely to change, and how this might affect the status of the attached written approval. ER Program) must be located in a REDD Country Participant that has signed a Readiness Preparation grant agreement (or the equivalent) with a Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund, and that has prepared a reasonable and credible timeline to submit a Readiness Package to the Participants Committee

The approval of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo of the ER- Program of Mai Ndombe is clear and unequivocal through the National REDD Coordination (CN-REDD), under the authority of the

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT). The national procedure for the endorsement of the program has been finalized, through National and Inter-ministerial REDD Committees, encompassing all sectoral Ministries.

2.2 Political commitment

Please describe the political commitment to the ER Program, including the level of support within the government and whether a cross-sectoral commitment exists to the ER Program and to REDD+ in general.

The Congolese government has shown consistent political commitment to the ER-Program, through its participation in the FCPF and UN-REDD-supported readiness process, its initial presentation of the Program design to the FCPF Carbon Fund (upon submission of V1.0 the ER-PIN 2012), and also through the documents prepared by CN-REDD at the workshop to finalize the ER-PIN held in Kinshasa from 26 to 28 February 2013 under the direction of the Minister of MECNT, Mr. Bavon N'sa Mputu Elima, with participation of the Governor of Bandundu and provincial Minister of the Environment. This Program is seen as a step towards national implementation of the DRC REDD+ strategy as well as an opportunity to provide input into the UNFCCC process on REDD+. The Program is supported at the highest level of the central and provincial DRC government. The ER-Program also benefits from necessary political support from the government of the province of Bandundu.

3. Partners and other entities involved in the proposed ER Program

3.1 List of existing partner agencies and organizations involved in the proposed ER Program

Please list existing partner agencies and organizations involved in the development of the proposed ER Program or that have executive functions in financing, implementing, coordinating and controlling activities that are part of the proposed ER Program. Add rows as necessary.

Name of partner	Contact name, telephone and email	Core capacity and role in the proposed ER Program
GOVERNEMENTAL ENTITIES		
MECNT – Direction of Inventories and Forest Improvement (DIAF)	Sebastien Malele Director of Inventory and Forest Management semalele@yahoo.fr	In charge of the national MRV system and leading the deployment at the ER-Program level
Direction of Sustainable Development (DDD)	Benjamin Toirambe, Director be_toirambe@yahoo.fr	
Province of Bandundu – Ministry of environment	Louison Ngwo Provincial Minister of Environment; Jean Jacques Bambuta REDD provincial Focal Point jjbambuta@yahoo.fr	Responsible for coordinating the deployment of the national REDD + strategy at the provincial level
REDD+ National Funds under supervision of Ministry of Finances	Felicien Mulenda Fmulenda2000@yahoo.fr	In charge of the fiduciary management of ER-Program
CIVIL SOCIETY		
WWF – DRC	Flory Botamba, fbotamba@wwfcarpo.org Bruno Perodeau Bperodeau@wwfcarpo.org	Partner in Program Implementation; Carrying the R-PAN project in the territory of Bolobo.

Board of Direction	To be designated	Guide Program Implementation and provide Program oversight
Satellite Observatory of Forests of Central Africa (OSFAC)	Landing Mane lmane@osfac.net	Technical support to national and provincial MRV system development
PRIVATE SECTOR		
Ecosystem Restoration Associates/Wildlife Works Carbon (ERA/WWC)	Bolambe Bwangoy-Bankanza +243 822877712 Bwangoy.Bankanza@sdstate.edu	Partner in Program Implementation; implementing a REDD + project approved under VCS and CCB Standards
NOVACEL	Olivier Mushiete, olivier@mushiete.cd	Carrying the pilot REDD + NOVACEL South Kwamouth funded by CBFF
SOGENAC	Van Braekel; vbk@vodanet.cd	Owner of a cattle-ranching concession in Bolobo and Mushie. Candidate for the sectoral activities on its concession.
SPONSORS		
UN-REDD program	FAO - Danae Maniatis, CT danae.maniatis@fao.org UNDP – Gilbert Aho, gilbert.aho@undp.org UNEP – Julie Greenwalt, Julie.greenwalt@unep.org	Technical and financial support for the design and implementation of the national MRV system and therefore its variation across the ER-Programme
Forest Investment Program (FIP)	Clément Vangu Lutete, Coordinateur, vangulutete@gmail.com	Technical and financial support for the development of enabling activities
Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF)	Clotilde Mollo Ngomba c.ngomba@afdb.org	Funding South NOVACEL Kwamouth project
NORAD	Jostein Lindland Jostein.Lindland@mfa.no	Financing initiative of WWF and VCS to deploy and test REDD + jurisdictional approaches
JICA/JAFTA	SHU MIZUSHINA Senior advisor, International Cooperation group smizushina@jafta.or.jp	Technical and financial support for DIAF implementation of Bandundu Province forest inventory and monitoring of forest cover
USAID-CARPE	Ken Creighton (USAID/CARPE) kcreighton@usaid.gov	Financing activities in the CARPE landscape of Lake Tumba

3.2 Capacity of the agencies and organizations involved in implementing the proposed ER Program
Please discuss how the partner agencies and organizations identified in section 3.1 have the capacity (both technical and financial) to implement the proposed ER Program

Bandundu Provincial Government: The provincial government has been involved in the development of the ER-Program concept, and has participated in the workshops where the program has been discussed. In addition, the Bandundu province has participated in the national REDD+ process, and has designated a

REDD focal point for the province, who has been working with stakeholders and Program managing partners as well as the national government in establishing the ER-Program.

National REDD+ Fund: DRC's National REDD+ Trust Fund was established in November 2012 by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Finance and the MPTF office of UNDP (Administrative Agent) to serve as the financial arm for the implementation of the National REDD Strategy and thus of the ER-Program. The National REDD+ Fund will ensure coordinated allocation and provide a transparent channel for funding while ensuring alignment of ER-Program with national REDD+ priorities.

DIAF: DIAF, with the support of JICA, has been leading the development of the national MRV system for REDD+. In this role, DIAF will also direct the design and implementation of the provincial MRV program, and will guide its implementation, to insure it meets all requirements of the national program, and integrates with the national system and national registry.

ERA/WWC – ERA/WWC is envisioned to be part of the ER-Program Management entity, providing technical expertise in MRV and standards implementation and validation/verification. In partnership with the DRC government, ERA-WWC has implemented a VCS and CCB validated and verified emissions reduction project within the Mai Ndombe province. ERA/WWC therefore brings demonstrated expertise in the design and implementation of all aspects of sizeable and scalable REDD activities.

WWF - WWF is envisioned to be part of the ER-Program Implementation entity, providing expertise in social and environmental benefits and safeguards, land-use planning, MRV and biodiversity protection and enhancement. WWF is already present in the two landscapes overlapping with the Mai Ndombe region, which is approximately one-third of the current ER-Program area. WWF's Mai Ndombe R-PAN project works with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure the REDD + socialization process leads to broader understanding of rights to landownership. All of these ongoing activities are tied to the activities of the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the proposed Emission Reduction Program (ER-PIN).

Board of Direction – provide overall Program oversight and guidance to Program Management Entity; members yet to be designated, but will be composed of key stakeholders related to Program area.

The R-PAN project implemented by WWF

The project was developed in an integrated approach - involving government, community, indigenous people, civil society and the private sector, working at local, national and sub-national levels - in order to achieve the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation, providing alternatives to rural poor and improving local governance. The project also works at the national level in order to develop main strategy, methodology and safeguards. .

At the local level, the Mai Ndombe REDD+ project works particularly with the indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure participate effectively in the REDD + process in order to know and claim their rights. This involved, among other things:

- The Micro-zoning of land communities to improve their tenure;
- Capacity building of local governance;
- The design of alternative approaches to participatory MRV and benefit-sharing.

It also took into account local priorities, and including them in the national REDD + strategy to:

- Promote and validate methodological tools at the national level of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Support the national communication strategy on climate change;
- Develop social and environmental standards;

Novacel - Novacel is envisioned to be a REDD+ project implementer in the ER-Program, bringing expertise in community forestry, agroforestry, and community-level carbon sequestration projects. Currently, the project of NOVACEL South Kwamouth (NSK) is one of the six Congolese REDD+ pilot projects funded by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF).

SOGENAC: A major cattle ranching concessionaire inside the Program area, SOGENAC has participated in studies to improve their land use management in order to reduce emissions. SOGENAC has expressed interest in participating in the ER-Program as an activity implementer.

UN-REDD Programme: Since 2009, the UN-REDD Programme directly supports the design and implementation of the national REDD+ process in DRC. It provides funding and technical assistance for the development and consolidation of the national program and methodologies (Registry, National Fund, SIS, etc.). It will also support the deployment of the REDD+ process in the Bandundu province.

FIP : FIP, Forest Investment Project, is a project of the Government of the DRC, based in CN-REDD, and funded by the FIP, the Forest Investment Program, one of the tools Climate Fund. The part of the FIP-DRC conducted by the World Bank (\$ 36.9 million), on the Supply Basin of Kinshasa, funds an "Integrated REDD Project" of the Plateau district, for a total of about 13 million dollars. The current district board will include one component of the future Mai Ndombe Province. Its goal is to reduce overall emissions in the district while improving the living conditions of the population.

Norway: The Government of Norway has endorsed the Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in the Congo Basin, endorsed in Durban on December 7, 2011, and has made a commitment to substantially scale up its financial support to REDD+ in the Congo Basin. Norway is currently in the process of supporting a UNDP REDD+ project that is working on the operationalization of the National REDD+ Fund and the elaboration of a concrete REDD+ investment programme. Additionally, Norway is financing the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) to test the VCS Joint Nested REDD (JNR) standard in the Bandundu Province and the WWF RPAN Project.

JICA : JICA is supporting the Government of DRC in the province of Bandundu with the implementation of its forest inventory and in the development of capacity in MRV.

USAID: USAID is financing village-based land use planning and participatory micro and macro zoning and outreach/sensitization of local communities about REDD+. In addition, the US Forest Service provides support for introducing a methodology to reduce fire damage within the province.

4. ER Program location and lifetime

4.1 Scale and location of the proposed ER Program *Please present a description and map of the proposed ER Program location and surrounding areas, and its physiographic significance in relation to the country. Indicate location and boundaries of the proposed ER Program area, e.g., administrative jurisdiction(s).*

The ER Program is located within the present-day Province of Bandundu in central-western DRC. It will be developed at the scale of the districts of Plateau (including the territory of Mushie) and Mai Ndombe, that is to say, the scale of the future Mai Ndombe province, as defined by the new Constitution (that was adopted by referendum and came into force in February 2006). Pending the establishment and the implementation of a provincial government for the future Mai Ndombe province, the ER Program is

therefore based in the government of the province of Bandundu and the decentralized territorial entities (territories) that have authority over the area today.

With an area of a little more than 12.3 million hectares, the future province of Mai Ndombe is almost 75% covered by forest, about 9.2 million hectares. To the east of the Congo River and to the South of the Kasai and Kwa rivers, the area is characterized by large plateaus of wooded savannas crossed by many rivers lined with gallery forests. The Northeast area is characterized by the dominance of dense tropical wet forests or wetlands. These forests are mostly open along access roads and major rivers (including the Kasai River).

Figure 1 – ER Program Location

The integrated and large-scale ER-Program in the Mai-Ndombe province – ER-Program location, classified forests or granted and REDD+ initiatives already started.

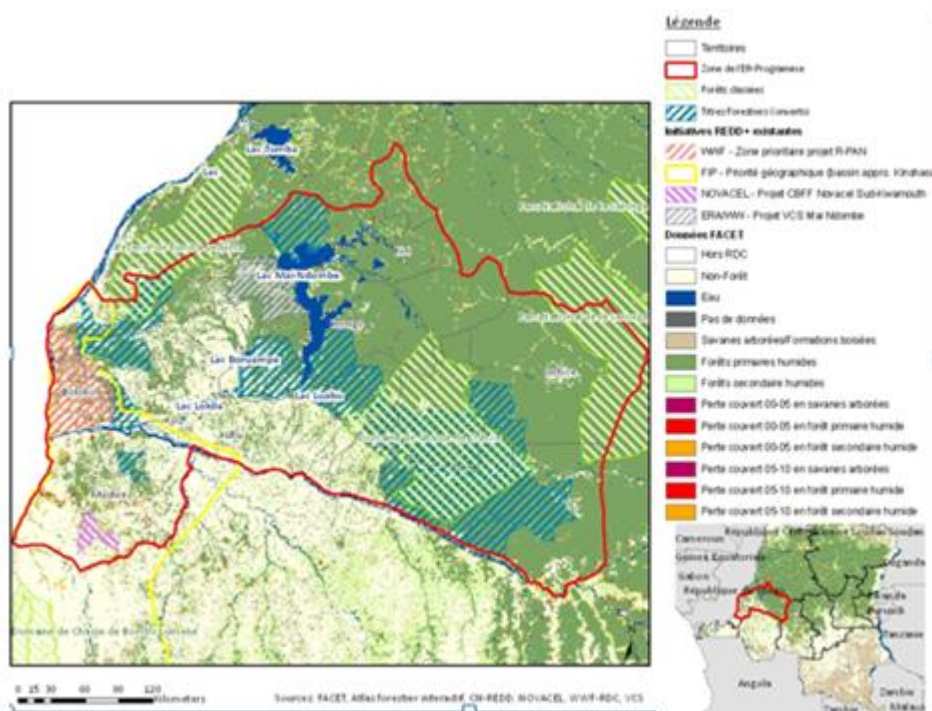


Table 1 – Vegetal Cover in the future Mai Ndombe province (source: FACET)

	Surface Area (ha)
Non forest areas	2 736 200
Water Plans	420 330
No data (in DRC)	5 290
Forest- Savanah/afforested formations	271 360
Primary wet tropical Forests	8 215 420
Secondary wet tropical Forests	687 750
TOTAL	12 336 350
TOTAL of Forest 2010	9 174 530
2010/total Forest	74%

The Future Mai Ndombe Province contains - or is close to - several areas of major ecological interest:

- Lake Mai Ndombe, at the heart of the area and, together with the surrounding swamp forests, forms the southern part of the Ramsar site Tumba-Ngiri Mai Ndombe;
- Some priority CARPE landscapes of Lake Tele-Lake Tumba;
- The classified forest of Domaine de Chasse Oshwe;
- The Salonga National Park;
- The Tumba-Lediima Nature Reserve

The landscape of Lac Tumba and the Salonga National Park are home to iconic but threatened species such as the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) and chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*). Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana Cyclotis*), buffalo (*Syncerus Caffer*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) are also present among many other species. The activities of the ER Program will expand and protect the habitats of these wild species, in part thanks to the maintenance of ecological connectivity between areas of high conservation value.

The future Mai Ndombe province has a population of about 1.5 million people, overwhelmingly composed of dispersed agricultural households (Minagri EU, ISCO, 2011 Household Survey of Bandundu). The Bantu ethnic group is the main ethnic group represented in the area with a score of tribes that still coexist with particularly vulnerable Pygmy populations and are in the northern area (Bandundu Monograph, 2005). This region’s forests are under increasing development pressure from the city of Kinshasa, most importantly due to its growing population of almost 8 million people who depend on a reliable source for the supply of charcoal and timber products (see Section 5.1 of this document).

Table 2 – Demographic data for the future Mai Ndombe province (sources: varied)

Monography of the Bandundu Province (Ministry of plan, 2005 – data since 2003)					households Survey (Minagri, UE, ISCO, 2011)			
District	Territory	Total Population	Surface area (km ²)	Density (hab/km ²)	Population registered	Households Number	Agricultural households	Density (hab/km ²)
Mai Ndombe	Inongo	373 534	23 000	16.2	252 467	50 285	47 343	10
	Kiri	201 727	12 000	16.8	No data			
	Kutu	450 936	17 000	26.5	462 746	96 307	90 967	25
	Oshwe	233 867	43 000	5.4	No data			
Plateau	Bolobo	121 270	3 451	35.1	88 285	18 151	17 934	22
	Kwamouth	152 709	13 946	11.0	69 087	14 048	13 369	5
	Mushie	135 774	10 505	12.9	73 488	16 943	16 108	3
	Yumbi	186 292	2 549	73.1	78 953	15 548	15 008	60

4.2 Expected lifetime of the proposed ER Program
 Please describe over how many months/years the proposed ER Program will be:
 a) prepared; and
 b) implemented (including expected start date of the proposed ER Program).

The ER Program will be integrated permanently into the implementation plan for REDD+ within the future Mai Ndombe Province and the DRC. At the local level over the long-term, it will contribute to the adoption of a sustainable development policy that takes account of climate change and the need to mitigate its effects.

The Program is envisioned to begin in 2013, with Program Design Phase expected to last 6-12 months, and implementation from 2014. Despite the limited life of the ERPA (until late 2020), the program will be

developed and implemented with a long-term perspective (up to 2050) and with an objective of economic value (carbon and other assets) extending beyond the ERPA with the FCPF-CF.

5. Description of activities planned under the proposed ER Program

5.1 Analysis of drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and conservation or enhancement trends
Please present an analysis of the drivers, underlying causes and agents of deforestation and forest degradation. Also describe any policies and trends that could contribute to conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Please distinguish between both the drivers and trends within the boundaries of the proposed ER Program, and any drivers or trends that occur outside the boundaries but are affecting land use, land cover and carbon stocks within the proposed ER Program area. Draw on the analysis produced for your country’s Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and/or Readiness Package (R-Package).

Deforestation Rates and Key Drivers, Underlying Causes, and Agents of Deforestation and Forest Degradation at National Level: The 2012 DRC R-PP states that the deforestation rate during the 1990-2000 period was about 0.25%, which was not distributed evenly throughout the country, but is particularly higher in locations near large cities such as Kinshasa’s savannah belt. The recent UN-REDD/MECNT report on drivers of Deforestation and Degradation (DD) at the national level in the DRC (MECNT, UN-REDD Programme, 2011) lists the main drivers as itinerant slash and burn agriculture, artisanal wood exploitation, wood energy and charcoal production, and mining activities. The report lists the main underlying causes as demographic growth, civil wars, governance, infrastructure and urbanization, as well as unemployment and poverty. Particularly notable is that firewood and charcoal energy sources represent nearly 80% of national energy needs; a correspondingly important fuel source to the Kinshasa supply basin. Particularly notable is that firewood and charcoal energy sources represent nearly 80% of national energy needs; a correspondingly important fuel source to the Kinshasa supply basin. According to the study, deforestation and degradation are closely linked to environmental factors such as the occurrence of forest fragmentation due to population growth in both rural and urban areas, expansion of the road network, shifting subsistence agriculture, and proximity to villages. According to the study, deforestation and degradation are closely correlated to biophysical factors such as the presence of already degraded forests and the occurrence of forest fragmentation due to population growth, roads, subsistence agriculture and village proximity. No specific correlation was established with forest concessions.

Drivers, Underlying Causes, and Agents of Deforestation and Forest Degradation at Provincial Level: Within the Mai Ndombe Province, slash-and-burn agriculture for crop production and livestock, firewood and charcoal production, and illegal logging are the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation, showing that in many respects the national-level assessment is largely representative of the pressures on forests at the provincial level. Studies show high variability of direct and underlying causes of deforestation at the sub-national level. The primary agents of deforestation and degradation in the province include local villagers who convert degraded forest to agricultural uses for subsistence and market sale, as well as logging companies. Deforestation and forest degradation are exacerbated by enabling conditions including ease of transport due to proximity to major rivers, roads, and markets (Kinshasa), and access to efficient deforestation machinery. The Mai Ndombe forest area is approximately 200 km from Kinshasa, and therefore under important pressure for food, wood energy, and timber products to support a large and rapidly increasing population.

Table 3 – Synthesis of main agents and roots of deforestation according to types of lands uses in the ER-Program area

Area type	Surface	Agents	Roots of deforestation / degradation or obstacle of natural
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		area (M ha) In the zone		regeneration
Converted concessions titles	Production series	2.63****	Forestry companies	logging in production series mainly for international markets roads opening and infrastructures development for logging (timbers park, sawmills, workers camps, etc.)
	Production and conservation series		Local Populations	Overflow of agricultural series in production series, even of conservation
Former forest titles threaten of reconversion		0.29****	Forest companies	Risk of attribution of a new logging title that could lead to a type of deforestation/degradation like those observed in active forest titles This risk has been already identified by ERA/WWC the Inongo zone and was addressed by obtaining a conservation concession in the former logging concession area.
Zones under traditional regime (non-granted, non-classified)	afforested	4.34	Local population	Slash-burn agriculture
			Artisanal loggers	Carbonization, especially for supplying Kinshasa markets Collection of firewood Illegal artisanal logging, especially for supplying the Kinshasa markets Risk of conversion in mining square or forest title
	Non-afforested	2.58	Local Populations	Artisanal legal logging (it-is-to say led by certificate of artisanal cut) Impediment of the natural regeneration caused by bush fires (agriculture and breeding)
emphyteotic Concessions and farms contracts		To be determined	Agribusiness Companies and neighboring populations	Impediment of natural regeneration caused by bushfires (maintaining and renewing of pasturing) Overflow of community slash-burned in the breeding concession
Classified forest		2.04	Local Populations	Slash-burn agriculture Carbonization, especially for supplying the Kinshasa market Collection of firewood Illegal artisanal logging, especially for supplying Kinshasa market
Mining squares		unknown	Mining Concessionaires	Destruction of forest cover for mining and logging

*** Impossible to calculate because of lack of information on the totality of geographical expropriation of these types lands use.

**** **Further analysis of the existing forest concessions must be performed before it can be accurately determined whether they fall into the IFM or « formers forest titles threaten of reconversion » categories. Currently represented in the “former forest titles threaten of reconversion is the conservation concession managed by ERA-WWC.**

Several policies in the National REDD+ Strategy contribute or could contribute to the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks. These policies include:

- The Forest Code of 2002 introduced the concept of sustainable development as a prerequisite to any operation of the forestry sector (Articles 71 and 72).
- The stated goal to rehabilitate existing protected areas and expand coverage to 17% of the national territory (today coverage is estimated at 12% of the national territory).
- Maintaining a moratorium on the granting of new forest concession titles, and on their renewal or extension from 2002 until the present day.
- The National REDD + Strategy Framework, adopted in 2013, which makes a commitment to a green economy and sustainable development.
 - The National Environmental Law Framework, adopted in 2012

Within the area of the future Mai Ndombe Province, recently established FIP activities and corresponding funding, allocated by the Carbon Fund of the FCPF, are expected to support proposed ER-Program enabling and emission-reducing activities (refer to Sec. 5.3). Momentum started by the FIP in the supply basin to Kinshasa will lead to coordination of logistics, funds and program activities.

5.2 Assessment of the major barriers to REDD+

Please describe the major barriers that are currently preventing the drivers from being addressed, and/or preventing conservation and carbon stock enhancement from occurring.

Barriers to REDD + are exemplified by the difficulty for all stakeholders, including government, the private sector and local communities, to develop financially viable and competitive alternatives to deforestation and forest degradation. These difficulties are due in particular to:

- Poverty; lack of economic opportunities and access to credit; low capital access of rural families that prevent initiatives for improved agricultural practices and production
- Insecurity of tenure that encourages rapid exploitation of resources and discourages investment and sustainable land use practices
- Lack of alternative agriculture and energy options
- A business climate that, while improving, remains less attractive due to the post-conflict state of the country
- Weak governance, and law enforcement that prevents a clear and uncompromising implementation of the Forest Code and environmental legislation, due to lack of resources and technical capacity

5.3 Description and justification of planned and ongoing activities under the proposed ER Program

Please describe the proposed activities and policy interventions under the proposed ER Program, including those related to governance, and justify how these activities will address the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and/or support carbon stock enhancement trends, to help overcome the barriers identified above (i.e., how will the ER Program contribute to reversing current less sustainable resource use and/or policy patterns?)

The overall goal of the Mai Ndombe ER Program is to develop ***a model provincial green development program that provides alternatives and rewards performance to address the challenges of climate change, poverty reduction, natural resource conservation and protection of biodiversity.*** As the first large scale REDD+ and green development program in the Congo Basin, the Mai Ndombe ER Program seeks to initiate climate change mitigation action by instituting a holistic and coordinated land use and capacity building platform from which sustainable development activities will be developed to take pressure off of native forests. This has a further impact of delivering poverty reduction, supporting energetic and food security needs; and enabling natural resource conservation and management to maintain the region's floral and faunal diversity and critical ecosystem services. The Program is designed to bring all relevant actors together around a sub-national strategy for local development and climate change mitigation in line with the National REDD + Strategic Framework. The goals and activities in the ER-Program and those of the FIP are well aligned for the region, as the FIP is focusing on enabling activities in the Plateau District.

The ER Program will seek to address **five objectives** that link to the carbon benefits and non-carbon co-benefits prescribed by the UNFCCC as the basis for all REDD+ actions and which are summarized in the [5 Guiding Principles of REDD+](#) presented by WWF, Greenpeace and CARE. Indicators for each objective are

proposed to measure carbon benefits and non-carbon co-benefits. These indicators also draw significantly from and seek to link to the FIP Results Framework.

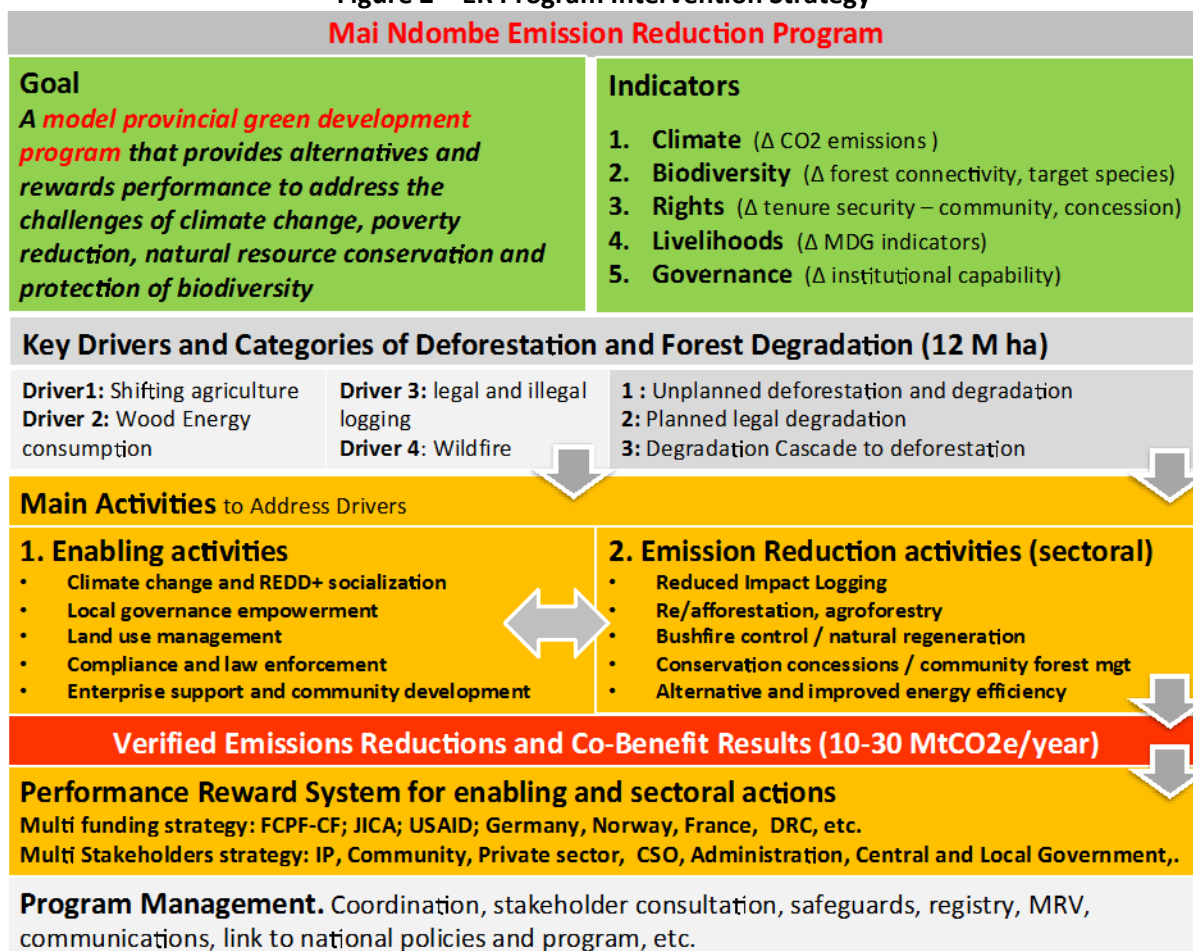
Table 4: Objectives and Indicators

Main Objectives	Indicators ((to be confirmed in design phase))
1: CLIMATE. Achieve zero net emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Mai Ndombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt CO2 emission reduction committed / achieved • Net greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
2: BIODIVERSITY. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in forest cover (overall and core) • Change in abundance and distribution of target wildlife species
3: RIGHTS. Statutory and customary rights to lands, territories and resources are recognized, respected and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of indigenous peoples and local / forest communities with legally recognized use and/or tenure rights; number of business sector actors with improved concession tenure • Level and quality of community and indigenous peoples participation (women and men) in decision making and monitoring
4: LIVELIHOODS. REDD+ benefits are shared equitably and improve long-term livelihood security and well-being of stakeholders with special attention to the most vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount and type of benefits (monetary and non-monetary) distributed for ecosystem services • Change in % of population living on less than a \$1 a day • Change in and equitability of the distribution of monetary / non-monetary assets from REDD+ across households / communities with special attention to the most vulnerable people • Increase in productive employment related to REDD+, including potentially vulnerable or marginalized people
5. Mobilize immediate, adequate and predictable resources to reward performance in priority forest areas in an equitable, transparent, participatory and coordinated manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective functioning of ER Program governance mechanisms and consultation platform with effective involvement of the full range of stakeholders • Effective functioning of a registry to manage and ensure transparency of information on funds, actions, payments and impacts of ER Program activities • Change in payments to reward performance for carbon and non-carbon benefits • Change in governance capability (transparency, participation, coordination etc.) of key institutions of the ER Program • Uptake of practices from learning activities

The ER Program can be considered an umbrella program that will develop overarching plans, priorities, and principles for land use and forest management activities determined to be most relevant to communities, climate change mitigation efforts, and biodiversity conservation.

The schema below presents an overview of the ER-Program and its intervention strategy.

**Figure 2 – ER Program Intervention Strategy
Mai Ndombe Emission Reduction Program**



Enabling activities lay the groundwork for emission-reducing interventions. These are vital to improve local governance and stakeholder involvement, including private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. Four priority actions are envisaged:

- **Climate change and REDD+ socialization.** This is essential in order to ensure free prior informed consent of all stakeholders and to enable effective engagement in ER Program activities.
- **Local governance empowerment.** The purpose is to ensure effective participation, representation, ownership and transparency in the implementation of the program, which will mainly be done by supporting local development committees democratically related to the formal territory administration.
- **Land use planning and management.** This will be undertaken with active participation of decentralized authorities. Participative cartography and zoning will be undertaken by communities to define areas for limitation of deforestation and degradation and to determine practical actions to achieve these goals. This process enhances broader commitment and engagement of all stakeholders towards the program objectives. This action has the additional benefit of clarifying use and tenure rights over forests and forest resources and is an initial step towards recognition of these rights by the territorial and Provincial administration.
- **Compliance and law enforcement.** The program will support the decentralized authority to ensure awareness of and compliance with laws and regulations regarding exploitation of natural resources. Community rangers and law enforcement personnel will be trained and equipped.

Emission-reducing activities that directly generate VERs are planned, and in some cases already initiated, with communities and other stakeholders as part of a payment for environmental services program focused initially on carbon. The entire program will be organized following the principle of results-based performance payments. In many cases, community and other stakeholder performance indicators will involve the use of proxies (ex: number of hectares reforested), while overall activity performance will be measured in terms of carbon abatement, along with social and environmental indicators following the 5 objectives of the ER Program. These activities include:

- **Reduced-impact logging.** Incentives will be provided for legally-compliant concessionaires to implement low-impact logging procedures that will be verified by third parties based on widely accepted standards;
- **Re /afforestation.** Incentives will be provided to stimulate reforestation and afforestation in different land use types, and for different stakeholders, in order to address demands for timber, fuel wood and other wood-based products.
- **Agroforestry and agricultural intensification.** Specific zones will be identified for perennial culture development such as cacao, café and other agroforestry systems that improve long-term land use management and carbon sequestration;
- **Bushfire control for protection of natural regeneration.** Protection of anthropogenic savannas will allow enhancement of carbon stock and reduce deforestation and degradation due to wildfire.
- **Creation of conservation concessions** - As already implemented in the Mai Ndombe REDD+ project, former logging concessions can be converted to conservation concessions, under the management of the logging companies, or other entities.
- **Community forest management.** Community forest concessions with the purpose of conservation, NTFP production or legal artisanal logging will be promoted.
- **Improved energy efficiency.** Alternatives to wood energy will be promoted in specific areas, including the use of improved wood stoves.
- **Biodiversity-related Activities:** To ensure significant biodiversity conservation results are integrated into the Emission Reduction program, biodiversity co-benefits will include monitoring programs to aid in species management and conservation (e.g, locally important or threatened species including bonobo, forest elephant), protection of landscape connectivity for species movement between savannah and forest blocks, and campaigns to reduce overhunting, especially in the case of large mammals. The main current threat to biodiversity in DRC is bushmeat commercialization and wildlife trafficking. The latter will be addressed as a matter of high and immediate priority with law enforcement over the whole ER program area with local support from communities. The bushmeat issue is more insidious as it is integrated with local and national consumption of wildlife as the principal means of providing protein sources into the daily diet. As each community has an important role to play, this issue will be tackled with a longer-term perspective, following a process that can be summarized here as follow:
 - Environmental education and sensitization
 - Local governance empowerment, specifically on natural resources management;
 - Capacity building on local biodiversity monitoring (hunting prize, hunting permits, etc.), completed by scientific support
 - Anti-poaching and surveillance support for communities
 - Protein substitution and agricultural intensification programs to provide the community with viable, culturally welcome alternatives to bushmeat.

Emission-reducing activities will be applied to the 3 main types of deforestation and degradation in the region as follows:

- 1. *In-concession planned degradation cascade to deforestation:*** Characterized by commercial logging within a legal concession as the first step in a cascade involving illegal secondary logging and charcoal production, and then slash and burn agriculture resulting eventually in full deforestation. This type of deforestation can be classified through identification of areas of deforestation or degradation within current logging concessions. In order to identify these non-compliant forest concessions in a transparent way, clear obligations and deadlines previously established by the central and provincial state will be invoked. The plan is to convert non-compliant logging concessions into **conservation concessions**, as has been done in the case of the Mai Ndombe REDD+ project. This approach offers the potential for significant long-term income streams that can support costs of program implementation. Additionally, **agroforestry, reforestation, community forest management, and improved energy efficiency** activities may all be implemented for this type of deforestation.
- 2. *In-concession degradation within legal limits:*** Characterized by degradation within the limits of a legal forest logging concession. It can be classified through identification of compliance to legal limits of degradation within legal logging concessions. **Reduced-impact logging** is the main activity targeting this type of deforestation. The plan is to enforce legal logging limits through intensified monitoring and application of existing legal mechanisms of enforcement to their full extent. Furthermore, for concessions already in compliance with legal logging limits, the ER-Program will provide incentives for logging companies to reduce logging below their current logging profile, and under the legal limit. This can be confirmed through continuous monitoring based on accepted technical standards.
- 3. *Unplanned deforestation outside of concessions:*** Occurs outside of logging concessions and is mainly due to population-driven activities such as charcoal production, clearing for agriculture and livestock grazing. It can be classified through identification of deforestation or degradation in forested areas outside of logging concessions. **Re/afforestation, agroforestry, community forest management, improved energy efficiency, and bushfire control** are the main activities targeting this type of deforestation. These activities will be available to communities and also small and large agricultural concessions, including livestock grazing concessions, in which a similar incentives approach will be applied under the program. The ER-Program will implement province-wide incentives to address the underlying drivers of this type of deforestation. This will begin with environmental education, local governance empowerment, followed by participatory mapping process under the enabling activities, building on work already begun in some communities, that ideally will link geographic areas of forest with communities that have the capacity to influence the trajectory of land management.

Prioritization Process for Priority Locations and Activities - To provide focus for proposed activities carried out within the Program area's 12 million ha landscape, a spatially explicit prioritization process will be undertaken during the design phase to identify hotspot locations determined to be under the most pressure of future deforestation and forest degradation. Identified hotspot locations will be assessed for their ability to address project objectives and goals, especially focused on: 1) potential to avoid maximum emissions from threatened forest; 2) community land use planning priorities; and 3) biodiversity conservation priorities. On a landscape scale, existing priority locations (current projects) and new participating locations will undergo a refined spatial modeling process (including a participatory rural appraisal process) to hone in on areas of overlap between these three issue areas where program promotion and implementation will occur.

The approaches described above will be incorporated into all nested project activities that are initiated within the Program area. The ER-Program manager is responsible to ensure that all new activities within the Program area meet these requirements, and the Program will be actively seeking new opportunities

for communities to develop partnerships with private sector and national NGO's, that will enable them to break the cycle of deforestation/degradation and poverty concurrently.

The above activities will be supported directly or indirectly by the enabling and emission-reducing program activities already mentioned. Further planning will be done during the design phase in order to identify complementary activities that maximize results.

5.4 Activities to address risks of reversal of greenhouse gas benefits

Please describe major risks of anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic reversals of greenhouse gas benefits (from e.g., fire, agriculture expansion into forest, changes in commodity prices). Also describe any activities or design features in the proposed ER Program that are incorporated to minimize and/or mitigate the anthropogenic risks or reversals, and how these activities are consistent with the design features of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy to address risks of reversal.

Addressing reversal risks is a key factor to the success of the ER Program. This will be achieved by directly addressing the agents and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and implementing activities that lessen the need for forest destruction. The ER Program pledges to adapt to the forthcoming FCPF-CF methodological framework. Additionally, the program will keep with the VCS JNR guidance, implementing tools such as buffer pools into the ER Program design. Major risks to the reversal of the ER Program are identified as follows:

Anthropogenic Risks:

- Charcoal
- Slash & Burn Agriculture
- Illegal Logging
- Anthropogenic Fires

Non-anthropogenic Risks (force majeure):

- Wild fires
- Pestilence
- Climate Change

To mitigate the identified risks listed above, the following alternative activities are proposed: For Illegal logging risks, which primarily stem from fuel wood needs, fuel wood substitution options like plantations will be provided and communities will be educated about fuel alternatives. Incentive structures built in to the Program can offset timber extraction income as well as create partnerships between local communities and jurisdictional-level administration. Training and inputs for agricultural intensification will be provided, to increase land productivity, addressing both food crop and livestock grazing needs. Existing participatory monitoring systems will contribute to identification of reversals, to reduce future risk. Local communities are best positioned to implement most reversal risk mitigation activities, like fire management, patrolling, reduced impact agriculture and livestock in forested areas.

Most of the anthropogenic reversal risks stem from increased domestic demand for cooking energy (both wood and charcoal), food, and domestic supply of construction wood. It has been observed that collateral forest damage such as roads and other ancillary extraction activities often initiate a "cascade" of events that results in complete deforestation. Policy change - primarily conservation concessions issuance - that can rival logging concession income, and enhancing rule of law represent the primary strategies for controlling logging for export. The ER Program incentivizes legal logging concession holders to reduce their emissions, and even allows for conversion of their concessions to conservation, to further minimize program risk.

Small-scale illegal and subsistence activities such as wood extraction for charcoal and local building supplies will continue, but at a reduced rate. Sustainable charcoal programs, such as that being developed and scaled by Wildlife Works in Kenya, provide a model for sustainable charcoal production. A mix of subsistence and commercial farming exists in the jurisdiction. Risk mitigation will directly address the type of farming. Existing World Bank extension programs in East Africa provide an assistance model.

Regarding non-anthropogenic risks, because of the DRC’s moist climatic regime and high tree diversity, its forests feature inherently low susceptibility to catastrophic fires, pestilence and disease.

5.5 Description of the potential risks of both domestic and international displacement of emissions (leakage)
Please describe the potential risks of both domestic and international displacement of emissions from the proposed ER Program activities. Then also describe how the proposed ER Program activities will minimize the risk of domestic displacement and international displacement (if applicable), via the design of the proposed ER Program and the ER Program activities and the selection of locations. For sub-national programs, pay special attention to identifying domestic risks of displacement of emissions, the proposed ER Program activities to mitigate these risks, which otherwise would contribute to fewer net emission reductions generated by the proposed ER Program, and how these activities are consistent with the design features of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy to address risks of displacement.

ER Program leakage will be assessed at international, national and possibly intra-jurisdictional level. Assessment will be based on the distinct concepts of “market leakage”, which is associated with reducing the supply of a commodity, such as timber or agricultural products, to the marketplace. Assessment will also incorporate “activity shifting” leakage, or the displacement of non-market emissions, based on the mobility of agents and drivers of deforestation and degradation within the jurisdiction.

As leakage mitigation guidance is currently under development within the VCS JNR standard, and the FCPF-CF Methodological Framework, we propose the following as a preliminary assessment. The ER Program will be adapted to meet the final recommendations and tools of the aforementioned standards. The following principles must be considered for leakage assessment:

- Estimation and anticipation of the risk of leakage of emissions reductions for each activity and;
- Design of possible leakage mitigation mechanisms that can either eliminate or reduce the risk of leakage, or reduce the leakage severity.

International Leakage

Neither the UNFCCC nor VCS JNR guidance currently requires responsibility for international leakage. As such, this ER Program does not currently plan to address international leakage. In fact, international market leakage is likely to result in *increases* in logging in the DRC, as supply from Indonesia and Brazil becomes more constrained, and therefore it is considered conservative to ignore it. This argument is supported by a recent peer reviewed paper entitled “Modeling Impact of Development Trajectories and a Global Agreement on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation on Congo Basin Forests by 2030” by A. Mosnier, P. Havlík, M. Obersteiner, K. Aok, E. Schmid, S. Fritz, I. McCallum, and S. Leduc.

Domestic Leakage - outside of the jurisdiction

The VCS Association is currently developing guidelines for leakage for Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) programs, as is the FCPF-CF, and the Mai Ndombe ER Program will adapt to such guidance as and when provided. Measurement of actual displacement of emissions outside the Mai Ndombe jurisdiction will likely prove extremely difficult and/or be cost prohibitive until such time as neighboring provinces are also under ER Programs, and are globally monitoring their own emissions.

Domestic Market Leakage

Leakage within the DRC, but not defined as shifting of activity, can be addressed in two ways:

- Replacement within the jurisdiction of the supply of timber and/or agricultural product supply reduced by the ER Program, through agricultural intensification, production of timber in woodlots and plantations or production of sustainable charcoal. If required, the ER Program would need to demonstrate replacement in a measurable manner to demonstrate success;
- Constraint of replacement outside the jurisdiction by national legislative moratoriums on new agricultural or logging concessions (i.e. national legislation / policy change).

Domestic activity-shifting leakage

As it is largely unplanned, domestic activity-shifting leakage must be addressed by providing viable alternatives to forest destruction. This will be addressed activity-by-activity within the ER program, and the effectiveness of such leakage mitigation activities need to be directly measured, until such time as aggregated national emissions are measured through national level MRV efforts (NFI).

Intra-Jurisdictional Leakage

Within ER program area, MRV will capture net emission reduction quantities for each land-use type. As such, leakage emission will be captured if and when it occurs. The ER Program will implement a transparent process for identifying when emissions are truly shifting within the jurisdiction, and for determining the economic consequences, if any, to relevant stakeholders.

Under the VCS JNR scenario, each nested project is required to mitigate its own leakage risk as well as quantify potential leakage. The ER Program will therefore take on the role of designing a robust reward / penalty system based on quantified leakage from one ER program or nested project to another.

6. Consistency with national REDD+ strategy and governance arrangements

6.1 Institutional arrangements

Please describe the governance arrangements anticipated or in place to manage the proposed ER Program (committee, task force), and the institutional arrangements among ER Program stakeholders (i.e., who participates in this ER Program, and how, including the roles of civil society organizations and forest dependent communities).

The ER-Program will be under the direction and authority of CN-REDD. Under CN-REDD direction and with its participation, the Program will be managed by a Board of Direction, composed of key stakeholders to include Program beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, as well as the logging and cattle ranching sectors. This structure will provide policy and management oversight and ensure a coordinated approach among major actors in the Mai Ndombe region. The specific role, function, and composition of this Board will be clarified during the design phase. In addition, an advisory committee may be instituted, composed of donors and other international entities, to provide advice and international perspective to the Program.

CN-REDD and the Board of Direction propose a 3-party ER Program Management structure, which could be formed by a partnership among the Bandundu Provincial Government, WWF DRC, and ERA-WWC (operating partners) subject to due diligence procedures, as well as respect of rules on conflict of interest. The management structure for implementation will be open to other relevant stakeholders, and subject to a transparent and inclusive program design process, due diligence procedures, and applicable procurement procedure as well as respect of rules on conflict of interest.

This unique public-private partnership combines the local authority and knowledge of the provincial government with the deep and comprehensive experience of a leading NGO and the REDD+ implementation expertise of the leading private sector REDD+ organization in Africa. Specific roles and

responsibilities will be clarified during the design phase, and will capitalize on the complementary strengths of the participating organizations. In order to ensure transparent high-level coordination of the activities among operating partners, the possibility to add an experienced coordinator to the operational management structure will be discussed during the design phase.

During this design phase, necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the proposed set up will not generate any conflict of interest with different partners. During this design phase, the main areas of Program function will be managed as follows:

- A. Carbon MRV management:** Implementation of an MRV system will be principally led by national-level authorities with technical support from ERA-WWC, WWF and other technical partners. Design phase activities will include the implementation of all applicable standards such as VCS, CF, UNFCCC, and other relevant standards. This system is currently under development at the national level, led by DIAF, with support from JICA, OSFAC, FAO, and other technical partners
- B. Social and environmental MRV management:** This aspect of the Program will be led by national-level authorities with support from WWF DRC, ERA-WWC and other relevant partners, and will include community land use planning and institutional strengthening, wildlife conservation areas, and biodiversity-related intervention activities, with support from CCBA in the case that the SES is used as a standard for social and environmental benefits.
- C. Financial management:** The National REDD + Fund was developed in late 2012, under authority of the central government. It is responsible for managing the allocation of funds for the performance of activities. Currently, the Fund has fiduciary capacity but still lacks the technical and financial capacity to manage performance payments with multiple disbursements. In the short term, it is proposed to delegate the financial management of the program to an entity that would act as prime contractor Delegate (MOD), on behalf of the National REDD+ Fund.
- D. Program-level activities:** Program-level activities will include education and capacity building, enforcement of applicable laws and regulations, reform of local regulations in support of Program goals, as well as province-wide incentive programs (enabling and emission-reducing activities) to support the reduction of emissions. These activities will be overseen by the provincial government of Bandundu, with support from the other managing partners, and under the guidance of CN-REDD.
- E. Role of Indigenous and Local Communities:** Indigenous and local communities' engagement in the Program management is fundamental to Program success, and this is reflected in the Program design. The Board of Management of the Program will include several seats for local, regional and national civil society representatives, including representatives of the indigenous and local communities affected by the ER Program, who will therefore provide input on Program design, feedback on its implementation, and a formal process for submission of ideas, grievances, and assessment of Program function. Additionally, local communities will be consulted in the design of individual project activities, and will have the opportunity to participate, based upon the process of free prior and informed consent, including in how they will receive benefits from project and Program activities. Indigenous and local communities will also be an integral part of the MRV process, for carbon, social, and environmental impacts of the Program and of specific project-level activities.

6.2 Linking institutional arrangements to national REDD+ implementation framework

Please describe how the institutional arrangements for the proposed ER Program fit within the national REDD+ implementation framework.

Institutional arrangements for the ER-Program are designed to support the continuing development of the national REDD+ implementation framework. The Program will serve as a pilot of many of the tools, systems and processes established in the national program. In addition, the Program management structure is designed to build the capacity of local and regional government to manage multi-faceted natural resource management programs, work with international partners from civil society and the private sector, and transparently and effectively engage with local stakeholders.

The Program, while initially focusing on reducing emissions, is a part of the DRC's broader green development vision, and as such, provides a vital platform on which to build additional activities and programs in support of this vision.

6.3 Consistency with national REDD+ strategy and other relevant policies

Please describe:

- a) How the planned and ongoing activities in the proposed ER Program relate to the variety of proposed interventions in the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy.*
- b) How the proposed ER Program is strategically relevant for the development and/or implementation of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy (including policies, national management framework and legislation).*
- c) How the activities in the proposed ER Program are consistent with national laws and development priorities.*

As detailed in the R-PP and the National REDD + Strategy framework, the construction of the national strategy is based on studies and is intended to be field-tested through pilot projects. The program of the future Mai Ndombe will support the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy in the field, and provides the opportunity to operationalize it at the subnational level. To ensure the participation of all stakeholders in the process, the DRC has established multi-stakeholder committees assigned to 16 thematic areas to support construction of the national REDD+ strategy. Hundreds of people participated in these Thematic Coordination Groups. The design of the ER-Program's strategy is directly tied to 13 of the 16 thematic areas identified and is therefore fully in line with the emerging strategic design for REDD + in the DRC.

6.4 National registry

Please include a short description of the relationship of the proposed ER Program to national REDD+ activity management arrangements, and if the proposed ER Program will be part of any system to track REDD+ or other emissions reduction activities (e.g., a REDD+ registry).

Development projects/programs to generate emission reductions for emerging markets - both voluntary and/or compliance, and/or dedicated carbon funds such as the FCPF Carbon Fund are supervised by the order No 004/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/012 of 15 February 2012, fixing the approval procedure of REDD+ projects. To support the approval procedure of a REDD + activity, the REDD + national registry was created and officially recorded by the same decree.

A pilot version of the national REDD+ registry has been developed by the National REDD Coordination with the assistance of UNDP and the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa. It is publicly available online at the following address: <http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/REDD.welcome.php>. This register is fully integrated into the National Surveillance System for DRC forests, available at: www.rdc-snsf.org.

This register will be a dynamic tool by which the administration can follow the investment received through the ER-Program and its social and environmental impacts. This register will also ensure transparency and sharing of data generated by the program, as well as their control and verification by all stakeholders.

7. Preliminary assessment of the proposed ER Program in the context of the national Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)¹

7.1 Progress on SESA/ESMF
Please describe the country's progress in the implementation of SESA and the development of the ESMF, and their contribution or relationship to the proposed ER Program.

As part of the SESA, the program for the preparation of a national REDD + strategy was analyzed in relation to the risks involved. This was undertaken with the aim to identify the best way forward in the medium or long term, taking into account the external environment (risks and opportunities) and capacities and opportunities available internally. Through a participatory process, a sequential series of workshops helped guide and structure the thoughts of players between 9 and 27 April 2012 in Kinshasa. Ideas submitted and their associated risks have been grouped into four (4) inter-sectoral policy options presented in the table below.

Table 5 - Sectoral policy options and associated risks

<i>Sectoral strategic options</i>	<i>Risk factor</i>
<i>Alternatives to slash-burn agriculture</i>	<i>Traditional practices of rural populations are firmly implanted and the lack of knowledge of alternatives makes changes difficult.</i>
<i>Alternatives for wood energy</i>	<i>Alternative energy and energy efficiency are not growing in DRC because of the availability of low-price forest energy and the lack of knowledge of alternatives.</i>
<i>Land management and land use planning</i>	<i>The main risk in land management risk is generally linked to lack of practical will : for changing mentalities of different actors to cease bad practices, it is in fact fundamental to count upon a strong political authority and also to impose new regulations in land use management. The lack of financial resources also constitutes an important risk factor. The realization of macro and micro zoning plans requires important expertise in geomatic and the availability of funds to purchase images (high resolution satellite image or aerial photography) whose acquisition is most costly. Elsewhere, the implementation of different actions needs the mobilization of important means on ground (financing the IEC campaigns, capacity buildings, consultation workshops, etc.).</i>
<i>REDD+Process Governance , forest governance and Communication</i>	REDD+ process Governance : <i>a. Corruption and embezzlement of process and funds to other use ; b. Lack of REDD+ process appropriation both at national and provincial levels , and lack of permanent result ; c. Environmental and social monitoring not fully realized in DRC, risk of</i>

¹ The SESA is the assessment process to be used in FCPF REDD+ countries during R-PP implementation and REDD+ readiness preparation. The ESMF is an output of SESA that provides a framework to examine the issues and impacts associated with projects, activities, and/or policies/regulations that may occur in the future in connection with the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy but that are not known at the present time.

	<p><i>gaps at that level;</i></p> <p>Governance and forest norms :</p> <p><i>d. Corruption of forest keepers and pursuit of destructive activities ;</i></p> <p><i>e. Communication :</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>i. messages not adapted to receivers, and limited range of communication planning ;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>ii. REDD being a new process, risk of non appropriation if communicated messages are very complex.</i></p>
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The conceptualization of the SIS will be held in four major steps.

- The development of tools and procedures for implementation of safeguards that include:
 - a macro framework at national level- (SESA and ESMF developed for National REDD+ Strategy as part of R-Package)
 - a study of environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and ESMF specific to each type of REDD + activity included in the ER Program.
 - a set of specific social and environmental management plans for each type of REDD+ activity that ensures compliance with World Bank safeguards and with additional national requirements.
- The development of national capacity to evaluate compliance of each activity with national social and environmental standards and to assess progress with respect to international safeguards and standards (such as REDD+ SES).
- Experimentation Framework (tools and processes) on the ground (2013); and
- The integration of the frame within the REDD + National Registry Tool.

7.2 Incorporation of SESA outputs and/or outcomes into the proposed ER Program
Based on the progress outlined in 7.1, please describe how the proposed ER Program is expected to make use of the outputs and/or outcomes of the SESA process. Provide an analysis of the ways in which activities planned under the proposed ER Program will rely on the measures and procedures included or to be included in the ESMF. Are there likely to be any gaps or issues regarding the compliance of the proposed ER Program activities with applicable safeguard standards, including the UNFCCC safeguards?

Through ER Program requirements (tools and procedures), the scope of socio-environmental management, and integration with the REDD National Registry, it is possible to compile and analyze information quickly and ensure its dissemination to the public. The following procedure should be observed by the project proponent for compliance with Social and Environmental requirements:

- iii. The project proponent submits the project description to register through the web portal.
- iv. Depending on the type(s) of activity(ies) and the size of the project, the registry automatically provides a model Management Plan and Monitoring (GSP) to the project.
- v. The project manager establishes its GSP and returns it to register.
- vi. The register transmits the completed PGS to the authority responsible for the approval (institutional arrangement to be specified).
- vii. A quality control analysis of the completed PGS is done.
- viii. If the project is approved, the project manager uses the GSP for the management and monitoring of the social and environmental impacts.

8. Stakeholder Information Sharing, Consultation, and Participation

8.1 Stakeholder engagement to date on the proposed ER Program
Please describe how key stakeholder groups have been involved in designing the proposed ER Program, and summarize issues raised by stakeholders, how these issues have been addressed in the ER Program to date, and

potential next steps to address them.

The idea of developing an integrated REDD+ program across the district of Mai Ndombe stemmed from the workshop to launch the REDD project for People and Nature (NEBP) implemented by WWF/DRC and funded by Norad, which was held in Malebo in the Chiefdom Batéké, Northern territory Bolobo, in Bandundu province. The participants included customary authorities of the community land Chiefdom Batéké North, political and administrative authorities of the Bolobo territory, District of Plateau and Bandundu Province, representatives of local communities, the wood private sector, breeding of cattle and conservation concession, representatives of national and international civil society as well as donors. Stages of the participatory development program are described in the table below:

Table 6: Consultation process at national and international levels for the ER Program

Consultation	Goals	Participation
2010, October Malebo, Bolobo	Inception workshop of the WWF RPAN project	Local and provincial authorities
2010, December UNFCCC COP 16, Cancún, Mexico	Presentation of the program Idea during the DRC “side event “	Several governments Representatives, NGOs & CSOs, private sector
2011, <u>FPIC Methodology</u>	Development Methodology FPIC	MECNT, private Sector, National and International NGOs
June-July: Stakeholders analysis of Free Prior and Informed Consent and on ground experience sharing	Stakeholder analysis of Free Prior and Informed Consent. Consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities on FPIC.	MECNT, CSOs, Private Sector, NGOs CSOs, LC&IP, local and traditional administrative authorities;
September-October: Consulting Mission of local communities of North Batéké Chiefdom.	Producing the first draft of the FPIC methodology .	Consultant MECNT & CN-REDD, Private sector, GTCR of OSCs,
End of October: First draft available	The validation of the FPIC draft by stakeholders and submission to the REDD+ National Committee.	Member of the REDD+ National Committee (representatives of the Government, CSO and private sector) and Consultant
Early November, validation of FPIC draft by stakeholders and submission to the National Committee REDD+	The adoption of the FPIC draft methodological guide by the REDD+ National Committee.	
End of November the adoption of the draft methodological FPIC by the REDD+ National Committee		
2011, July-September: Participatory Micro-zoning	The meaning of the participatory micro-zoning and its links with the process of local governance	Representatives of local communities Students, Private Sector, Government,

End August to September, Communication at the REDD+ national level Summer University, Kinshasa	Presentation of REDD opportunities in the future province Mai Ndombe, local governance and community MRV	PA, CN-REDD, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations,
October 2011, Communication at the international level, Berlin, Germany	Presentation of ER-PIN draft 1	FCPF participants and international stakeholders.
2011, December, UNFCCC COP 17, Durban, South Africa Fin Octobre 2010 – Avril 2012, ERA/WWC 2012, January – March, ERA/WWC	Presentation of the ER-PIN during the "side event" of the DRC and USAID/ CARPE. Agreement with Bolia communities on improved forest management. Leadership training on FPIC by applying the methodological guidelines approved by the REDD+ National Committee. FPIC guide Implementation with communities in the territory of Inongo.	Representatives of several governments, NGOs & CSOs, private sector Local communities and indigenous peoples of Inongo. CSOs, private sector, local community and indigenous peoples, traditional and administrative authorities.
2012, June, FCPF Carbon Fund meeting at Santa Marta, Colombia	Report of the progress to mid-term Memorandum of Congolese Environmental Civil Society on the REDD process in DR Congo Statutes of Progress in preparation REDD+ in DRC	PC of the FCPF, NGOs
2012, Août, <u>CLIP</u> , Kinshasa	Sharing of experiences in the four provinces Next Steps for FPIC, Development of the roadmap and improving procedures of consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples, traditional authorities and political and administrative.	MECNT/CN-REDD, Private Sector, CSOs
2012, October, FPIC, Chiefdom Batéké Northern Bolobo Territory	Field test in four communities	National CSOs, local NGOs, local communities, local administration
2012, September, CN-REDD, MECNT, Kinshasa	Focus meeting for the rest of the ER-PIN	CN-REDD, MECNT, forest private sector, civil society, NGOs, IPs
2012, October, NOVACEL.	Dialogue with local authorities in South Kwamouth	Local communities, local government
2012, November, CLIP,	Official presentation of the national	DDD, CN-REDD, OSC, Private Sector,

Kinshasa	roadmap for FPIC Discuss how to implement the roadmap	NGOs
2012, December, UNFCCC COP 18, Doha, Qatar	Presentation of the National REDD+ Strategy Framework and REDD+ National Fund of the DRC; Presentation of Case Study of integrated REDD+ across the province of future Mai Ndombe - WWF	DRC Government Side Event in the presence of Vice-Prime Minister in charge of the Budget, of Environment Minister, and of DRC Vice – Minister of Finance and some important key donors and organizations
2013, Feb/March, MECNT, CN-REDD, ER-PIN Workshop	Workshop to finalize the ER-PIN	MECNT, CN-REDD, Governor of the Province of Bandundu, NGOs, CSOs, CL & PA, Private Sector

During this process, some difficulties were encountered and solutions have been proposed, including:

Table 7: Difficulties and Solutions

DIFFICULTIES	SOLUTIONS
<p>f. Intervention area too large and incompatible financial means for the size of the area</p> <p>g. Message on REDD + creates expectations among local communities and indigenous peoples</p> <p>h. Misinformation campaign – made by politicians from project area during elections</p> <p>i. Lack of capacity of civil society on REDD</p> <p>j. Lack of validated national public consultation tools including standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work first in a pilot/test area • Speaking of climate change and solutions to local, provincial and national REDD+ issues • Presentation of the project at all levels and awareness campaign of political and administrative authorities • Training of trainers from national NGOs on climate change and REDD+, which in turn form the NGOs and local associations Participatory development tools for CLIP, SESA, communication (Integrated Communication Plan for REDD)

8.2 Planned outreach and consultation process

Please describe how relevant stakeholder groups will participate in further design and implementation of the proposed ER Program and how free, prior and informed consultation leading to broad community support for the ER Program and key associated features, including the benefit-sharing arrangement, will be ensured. Please describe how this process will respect the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws.

The engagement of local involvement in investment programs and priority activities (FIP CBFF South Kwamouth, R-PAN, ERA / WWC Lac Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project) will continue (e.g. the process of engaging the villagers in developing the Single Plan for Land Use). Based on a commitment from the FCPF Carbon Fund to continue the process of preparing the ER-Program, CLIP will be operational throughout the area covered by the program to reduce emissions through methodological guide produced and approved by the National REDD+ Committee. Socio-environmental impacts will be identified and mitigation measures taken to improve the well-being of the future Mai Ndombe province peoples and communities. Discussions continue at the national level over distribution of income from REDD+.

8.3 Feedback and grievance redress mechanisms

Please describe the mechanism(s) that are or will be put in place to resolve any disputes regarding the proposed ER Program.

A mechanism for management of complaints specific to REDD+ is being developed at the national level. A draft of this mechanism was discussed at a workshop October 30, 2012 and consultations have already started to lead to a formal validation mechanism and its operational implementation by the end of 2013.

The entire ER-program will be subject to this complaint-handling mechanism. An independent ombudsman will be placed at the provincial level and an escalation system will be set up with local contacts to avoid logistical impediments that could introduce difficulty discussing a problem with a complainant.

This mechanism will strengthen and integrate into the appeal mechanism provided by the National REDD+ Fund, which provides a national ombudsman whose office will investigate complaints from various stakeholders. It is of course elementary that the use of an ombudsman is free of charge and allows for anonymity.

Figure 3 – Procedure for Appeal Mechanism (Source: National REDD + Strategy Framework)



9. Additional Benefits

9.1 Expected social and environmental benefits

Please describe the environmental and social benefits, other than emission reductions, that the proposed ER Program is planning to achieve; and any other ways in which the ER Program would contribute to broader sustainable development.

Beyond its goal of reducing emissions and increasing sequestration, the ER-Program was designed as a true local development program and displays a clear concern for the preservation of biodiversity and environmental services. The strategic framework of the ER-program should guarantee that the activities developed in the framework of the ER- program will provide a number of environmental and social safeguards.

Outcomes and short-term impacts resulting from Program implementation will include increased local knowledge and skills with respect to participatory, democratic decision making and management-oriented processes related to community development. Short- and medium-term impacts resulting from this increase in knowledge and skills include communities’ ability to collectively and locally respond to community issues, and an increased local capacity for governance, administration, and problem solving. Ultimately, as these skills are developed, assisted, and enhanced, the long-term result will be improved community wellbeing.

Both health and education infrastructure development have been identified by engaged communities in the Mai Ndombe region as high-priority focal areas for activities. Infrastructure developments such as these are expected, over the longer term, to increase the quality and accessibility of health and education.

Accessibility of both education and health are key Program outcomes as specific project activities are expected to increase the numbers of students who have access to schools and who will graduate in areas where these activities are given priority in community planning; more people will have access to timely medical care, rather than walking many kilometres for care or reverting to non-medically proven remedies.

Agricultural improvement and diversification activities that increase food availability and sustain economies are also expected as key aspects of Program implementation. The establishment of tree nurseries, agroforestry, and agriculture demonstration plots and the construction of domestic animal enclosures have all been implemented in the Mai Ndombe area, resulting in increased quantity, diversification, and value of crops for market. As well, agricultural techniques are expected to become more sustainable and the nutritional value of harvests is expected to improve. Ultimately, these activities are estimated to have the long-term impacts of improved food security and resilience for communities.

Conservation activities noted in Section 5.3 will be developed to take into account biodiversity conservation as a part of the ER Program, building on existing conservation programs in the region (notably the work being carried out in protected areas, the Mai Ndombe REDD project, the WWF R-PAN project, among others). To capitalize on co-occurring carbon and socio-economic benefits, the ER-Program will allocate resources and funds to integrate forest and wildlife species monitoring, landscape connectivity planning, poaching enforcement, and education programs that protect biodiversity as a part of protecting native forest and savannah lands.

A mechanism for supporting and rewarding results in non-carbon benefits will be prepared in the design phase. This will particularly focus on activities that meet the four non-carbon objectives of the project (Objectives 2-4 in s5.3 above – 1. Biodiversity, 2. Rights, 3. Livelihoods and 4. Governance) and for measuring performance against the indicators related to each of these objectives. Expected social and environmental co-benefits from the ER Program are outlined in Table 8 below.

Table 8 – Expected Cobenefits by Stakeholder Groups

CO-BENEFIT	LOC COMMUNITY	PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	GOVERNEMENT	INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
1. Biodiversity	Controlled hunting, ↑ Security of water, ↑ NTFP ↑ Medicine from forest	Extended rotations, Green Image, Market access	↑ Forest cover, Carbon stock, Water flow, Key species protected, Protects 50% of CARPE landscape	As for local community
2. Livelihood	↑ Jobs, ↑ income, ↑ Health quality, ↑ education, ↑ skills, ↑ Markets	↑ Business opportunity, ↑ jobs, ↑ workers benefits	CO2 \$, ↑ Jobs, ↑ Training, Poverty alleviation, MDG results, ↑ GNP	Protection of traditional lands + lifestyle
3. Right	↑ forest tenure, ↑ community land tenure, Legal recognition of community institution	↑ security of investment	Carbon right clarified, Forest co-ownership recognized	As for local community
4. Governance	Local institutions, Representation in province LUP, Women & Youth in Less	↑ security of investment ↑ relation & communication, ↓	International recognition, Partnerships ↑ law	As for local community

	conflict	conflict Clearer roles	enforcement, ↓conflict with Stakeholders and with government	
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9.2 Diversity and learning value
Please describe the innovative features of the proposed ER Program and what learning value the Program would bring to the FCPF Carbon Fund.

The ER-Program is a pilot program in many ways. It will help to nurture and strengthen the national strategy including proposing a sub-national implementation of this strategy and operational system of pay for performance. This will provide valuable lessons for the DRC for the CF-FCPF and REDD+ in general.

In addition and in parallel, the ER-Program will initiate one of the first pilot sites for nested (JNR) initiative of the VCS and thereby has value as a pilot and demonstration project to other jurisdictions in the country and world.

The future Mai Ndombe Province includes many types of tropical forest threat, as well as both deciduous and humid forests, and hosts incredible biodiversity. It is also home to indigenous forest dwelling peoples representing a range of models of community-forest dependencies and interactions. The types of threat to forests within the ER-Program range from increasing smallholder expansion in agriculture, charcoal production and cattle grazing to logging operations and the threat caused by expanding infrastructure and access created by logging concessions. Therefore the strategies and tools brought to bear on this complex situation will have learning value not only throughout the Congo Basin region, but will offer lessons for forests facing similar threats around the world.

The DRC’s decision to partner with private sector and NGO partners in Program implementation, and to nest specific activities under a jurisdictional program offers a range of innovation opportunities, and the basis for providing many lessons valuable to the FCPF countries.

10. Benefit Sharing

10.1 Rights to territories and land, and mitigation benefits
Please describe the land use and land tenure context of the proposed ER Program, and if and how rights to territories and land and mitigation benefits from REDD+ are reflected in traditional practices and codified in legal and/or regulatory frameworks.

The design of the proposed mechanism for benefit sharing for the ER-Program is closely related to the structure of land tenure rights currently operating in the DRC.

Although it is not expected that any significant change in the national land law will be passed through this ER program, it will provide a real opportunity to assess the details of the implementation of the existing “Cahier de Charge” process, which recognizes traditional forest ownership, to ensure that the process is robust and fair.

The program will improve and strengthen the traditional ownership and management of forests through participatory mapping of land use. Previous work on participatory mapping of land use in Mai Ndombe has demonstrated that it will strengthen the support within the community for the ER Program and increase the chances of success.

Recent history of land tenure and customary rights in the DRC:

The land tenure system in the DRC is governed by the law of the Land Tenure Act passed in 1973, which states that the State is the owner of the soil and subsoil. The Act distinguishes between a "public and private domain of the State" (Article 54), allowing for the latter that a private individual or Congolese legal entity can benefit from a "permanent concession" or "ordinary concession" on the land. Such a concession is limited in time to a period of 25 years which may be renewed (Article 80 and 70 respectively). The Land Tenure Act of 1973 recognizes customary rights and defines the lands of local communities as "land occupied by the communities where they live, cultivate or exploit in any way, either individually or collectively - and in accordance with local customs"(Land Tenure Act, last published 2004).

Nevertheless, the law transferred the lands of these communities to the domain of the State, by which the right of use of land, as is often acquired by local communities should be regulated and implemented by presidential decree. The presidential decree was never adopted, leaving local communities without a legal framework to enforce their right to use the land they occupy. This has led to a situation where in rural areas two legal regimes are applicable, customary law and civil law, in which tenure rights may diverge. Under customary law, local communities are the owners, but under the civil law of the State these rights are denied, leading to the possibility of conflicts between states and local communities (Musafiri,2008.)

The 2006 Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo provides for the decentralization of power from central government to the provinces and recognizes customary authority as long as it is not in contradiction with the Constitution, the law and moral principles. The Organic Law on Decentralization 2008 clarified the complete decentralization under the Constitution of 2006, organizing the State into provinces, cities, local governments, including Sectors or chiefdoms, and defined their respective areas of authority and power (Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo 2006).

A chiefdom is defined as a territorial subdivision, which is usually populated by traditional homogeneous communities organized by custom, headed by a chief appointed by custom and recognized and inaugurated by the provincial governor (Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2006). The Organic Law on Decentralization 2008 lists some of the elements that are under the authority of the chief and council to decide, but the law did not foresee the legal protection of local communities relative to the rights of land use on land they inhabit. It only aims to recognize, organize and distribute some authority to local communities.

Forest Code, the rights of communities and forest concessions

Another piece of legislation on land use in forests that applies to the ER Program area is the Forest Code of 2002. The objective of the Forest Code is "to promote the rational and sustainable management of forest resources to increase their contribution to economic, social and cultural development of today's generations, while preserving forest ecosystems and biodiversity of the forest for future generations "(Article 2).

The Forest Code establishes the basic legal framework governing forest user rights in the DRC. Forests are classified into three broad categories: classified forests (mainly for conservation of nature), the permanent production forests (priority to the production of timber or other forest goods and services) and protected forests (for local development, conversion, and other uses; Forest Code, 2002).

The Forest Code includes a number of significant improvements over the previous legislation inherited from the colonial period, and addresses new socio-economic objectives of the DRC regarding forest management.

- It advocates the development of non-extractive forest uses and rewards for environmental services (ecotourism, conservation concessions, and bio-prospecting); It allows community forests are granted in protected forests, but there are no procedures to legally ensure the allocation (until the presidential decree will be adopted in accordance with Article 22 .)
- It requires the Minister of the Environment to consult the population before a forest is declared "classified forest" (Art. 15);
- It also provides that the use rights of local people living in or near the forest are those resulting from local customs and traditions provided they are not contrary to the law (art. 36).
- It allows communities to obtain concessions for community management of forests for which they have customary rights pending adoption of an implementing decree (art. 22 and 111).
- It provides an obligation for forest management plans, and new social and fiscal responsibilities are placed on the private sector, including mandatory contracts for social responsibility (cf. art. 89).
- It also provides 40% of the annual area fee shall be transferred to the provinces and territories, and states that these funds should be used for community infrastructure (art. 122).

Customary tenure is therefore the system that most Congolese farmers use to manage and access land and other natural resources. Beyond its legal legitimacy, customary power has moral legitimacy, and strong cultural heritage. As a community leader, traditional leader manages the land and its main natural resource, namely the flora and fauna. For example, logging companies must necessarily obtain permission from the chief before undertaking activities under a forest concession. Similarly, farmers who want to operate in an area where traditional tenure there must negotiate with the leader who is accountable to the community. Development activities in the territory of a community are also subject to the approval of the leaders.

10.2 Description of envisioned benefit-sharing arrangement for the proposed ER Program.

Please describe the benefit-sharing arrangements that are envisioned to be used for this proposed ER Program.

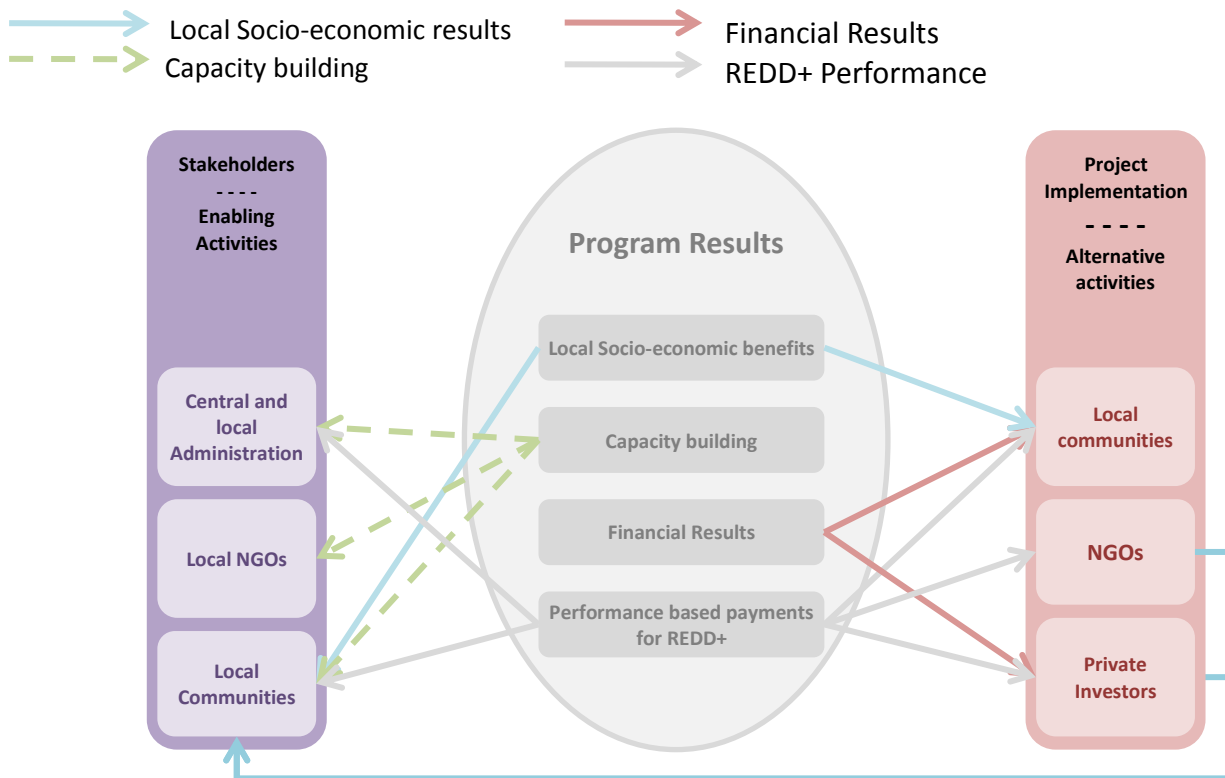
The ER Program will build on work already done by the government of the DRC, and past experiences of WWF, ERA-WWC and other stakeholders to design the benefit sharing mechanism. These include the study on revenue sharing options (CI-CODELT report finalized in April 2012), the initiative to prepare the implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the REDD process in the DRC, the DRC's first "Cahier de Charge" process completed for a conservation concession by ERA-WWC in the Lac Mai Ndombe REDD+ project, and the experience of WWC in designing and implementing the REDD+ benefit sharing for the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project in Kenya, which has 2 years of REDD+ benefit sharing experience.

The Government of the DRC, in collaboration with the ER Program Manager, and overseen by the Management Board, will be responsible for enforcing the following principles in the design and implementation of the benefit sharing mechanism of the ER Program:

- The design and implementation of benefit-sharing mechanisms should be taken after consultation with stakeholders, based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent(FPIC).
- The ER program will prioritize strengthening the capacity of communities to ensure they are able to manage the benefits from the project fairly and equitably.
- The design of performance-based payments and other forms of benefit sharing should be adapted to the specific actors involved and their context, to ensure that incentives are adequate, appropriate and capable of producing the expected change.
- Payments to communities and other program stakeholders should be transparent, including the basis for calculation of any payments for performance or proxy.

- When payments are not directly based on verified emission reductions, they must be based on proxy verification. Proxy measurements will be defined before the implementation of the respective activities, in consultation with stakeholders from the Provincial Advisory Council on Forests.
- PES contracts should clearly describe what proxy measurement was used, and it should specify the frequency and method of the monitoring procedure.
- Social and environmental impacts must be taken into account when calculating the total profits, therefore, measures to offset the negative effects should not be considered as benefits. On the other hand, the additional benefits recognized by communities and/or stakeholders should be taken into account in the balance of benefit sharing.
- The revenue-sharing mechanism should consider the training and involvement of indigenous and local communities in proxy monitoring, to the extent possible and using a phased approach.
- Performance Benefits are considered after subtraction of emission reductions for the non-permanence buffer.
- Any action and/or activity which does not comply with the principles of social and environmental safeguards, should not be able to receive a benefit from the ER Program

In addition to funding for enabling activities and compensation for REDD + performance, other non-monetary benefits will also be shared. These include progress in recognizing the rights of stakeholders and dissemination of improved agricultural and forestry technologies.



This will require more consulting work, but preliminarily, there may be two types of benefit sharing within the ER Program:

- 1) Activities funded directly by the ER Program that address specific drivers of deforestation, such as agricultural intensification, substitution of wood, low impact farming, improvement of fish stocks, prevention and control against fire, strengthening security.

2) Programs funded by the communities with their share of the proceeds, which should be collectively discussed and approved by the communities, such as:

- Construction of schools
- Tuition for high school and college
- Improved access to health care
- Alternative jobs that do not depend on the forest

10.3 Link between the envisioned benefit-sharing arrangement and the activities in the proposed ER Program.

Please explain how these benefit-sharing arrangements would support the activities identified in section 5.3 to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Identify, if possible at this stage, potential issues or constraints that may emerge in development of the ER Program that could need additional progress in order to effectively implement the benefit-sharing mechanisms.

The mechanism of benefit sharing is key to the success of the ER-Program. Incentivizing sustainable use of the land enhances the adherence of stakeholders to the program and the participation in efforts to reduce emissions, enhance carbon stocks, protect biodiversity and local socio-economic development.

The mechanism of benefit sharing will be developed during the next stages of implementation of the Programme. Studies and additional consultation efforts are still needed to answer questions of the effective implementation of this mechanism ,including:

- a transparent and participatory approach based on the principle of distribution of profits;
- the best terms for the payment of these benefits to stakeholders who have demonstrated performance.

Two key elements need to be addressed and are now an obstacle to the effective implementation of the mechanism of benefit sharing: lack of banking infrastructure and weak local governance. The program will address these issues by proposing enabling activities which include support for the creation and structuring of Local Development Committees (CLD).

The ER program will develop specific incentives for community participation, taking into account local drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, but also the needs and objectives of sustainable development in their communities. In other words, education, improvement of EC funding, and improving health care are all potential channels of distribution of profits within these communities. In addition, economic development and employment opportunities are to be considered as points facilitating the successful ER program since it will translate the benefits and development opportunities for all stakeholders involved.

Once the design of specific activities and interventions reach their final form, the DRC Government will develop a specific profit sharing arrangement to fix the characteristics, circumstances and needs of stakeholders involved in each operation.

Assuming successful implementation of emissions-reducing activities in the ER-Program, it is possible that in any given year, the Program may have more emissions reductions to sell than can be contracted. In anticipation of this possibility, the ER-Program will, in its design phase, develop a process for equitable allocation of VER's to the sales to jurisdictional buyers.

10.4 Progress on benefit-sharing arrangements

Describe the progress made thus far in the discussion and preparation of the benefit-sharing arrangements, and who has been participating in this process.

Efforts have been put in place to contribute to the design of profit sharing arrangement, such as the study on options for revenue sharing (CI-CODELT report finalized in April 2012), and the initiative to prepare implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the REDD process in the DRC.

In the ERA-WWC project, implementation of two types of profit-sharing activities have been undertaken. The project is supporting education in intensification of agriculture, and in developing alternatives for the use of firewood and slash-and-burn agriculture. The project has built two schools and plans to build 26 more schools and provides school supplies, as well as operates a mobile health clinic to provide health care in remote villages in the project area.

In 2011, WWF launched an initial effort on the institutional arrangements and the sharing of benefits of REDD+ in the area. This work, for which ONFI was contracted, resulted in a report that was distributed to stakeholders and discusses the considerations for the establishment of a mechanism for distribution of profits.

11. Reference Level and Expected Emission Reductions

11.1 Approach for establishing the Reference Emission Level (REL) and/or Forest Reference Level (FRL)

Please briefly describe how the REL/FRL for the proposed ER Program has been or will be established. Describe how the approach for establishing the REL/FRL is consistent with UNFCCC guidance available to date and with the emerging Methodological Framework of the FCPF Carbon Fund, and with the (emerging) national REL/FRL (or with the national approach for establishing the REL/FRL).

Based on multiple stakeholder input, the REL will be designed consistent with the following principles:

- Environmental integrity should be respected;
- The REL should be based on a historical deforestation analysis;
- REL/FRL should be designed in order to be monitored with the national MRV system (and its ER-Program level version). The approach to develop the REL should not be very different from what has been developed at national level (data, tools and method) and should be easily incorporated within existing tools and those under development;
- The REL/FRL shall be designed to be consistent with the national MRV system, and where appropriate, should incorporate existing and/or under-development tools at the national level. The jurisdictional REL should also feed and reinforce work that is underway at the national level.
- REL is established for the entire jurisdiction. If different calculations have to be made per land-use type, the same approach should be used over the whole jurisdiction;
- A consistent approach should be used to measure carbon stocks throughout the jurisdiction. This approach should be consistent with the National Forest Inventory (IFN), being developed by DIAF. The national stratification will be reviewed to ensure that it adequately describes all forest types throughout the jurisdiction. Each stratum will be described by a single carbon stock figure;
- The approach to developing the REL should be appropriate for large-scale analysis and should offer a robust solution to address cloud cover issues;
- When a national REL is available, the jurisdictional REL must be brought in line with the national REL;

- When possible, historical analysis should be performed within the boundaries of the jurisdiction. As the DRC is a High Forest / Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, where current threat may not be predicted by historical activity within the jurisdiction, the REL could be based on analysis performed outside of the jurisdiction. In this case, it should be supported by clear, transparent and documented argumentation;
- Once the FCPF-CF has clarified the methodological requirements for REL, the ER Program will adapt its approach as necessary;
- In line with the guiding principles of the UNFCCC, the ER Program REL/RFL must be consistent with respective national and international principles, such as:
 - Transparency;
 - Accuracy;
 - Consistency;
 - Completeness and
 - Comparability with other systems, including nested MRV systems and databases.

Finally, the approach to developing a REL, still under discussion, is based on the concept that reference levels should be designed based on forest land-use, as the threat of planned deforestation and degradation in forest concessions typically follows very different patterns when compared to unplanned deforestation. This approach provides increased granularity in depicting differences in RELs for different land-uses, but can still be easily aggregated to a single REL at a Jurisdiction or national level.

Consistent with the above principles, the specific process that will be used to calculate the appropriate land use based REL for the Mai Ndombe ER Program contains three steps:

Step 1: Calculate historical emissions based on the historical average of deforestation in Mai Ndombe Province between the years 2000-2010.

Using the data produced by OSFAC, the South Dakota State University (SDSU) and The University of Maryland (UMD) from Landsat ETM +, analyzed by an automated method and wall-to-wall approach, a forest cover map was produced in the year 2000, and gross historical change was assessed in 2005 and 2010.

However, this historical reference level fails to take into account potential emissions from logging concessions, which must therefore be addressed in an additional adjustment step:

Step 2: Adjust the aforementioned historical baseline to take into account planned forest concessions that are not represented in the purely historical approach, thus taking into consideration the particular status of the DRC as an High-Forest/Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, and the potential income from its forest sector;

2.1 Planned degradation in legal forest concessions (IFM): In this land use scenario, the REL must be measured assuming that existing forest concessions have a legal right to create emissions based on their concession agreements, rather than on observed historical emissions. Because many of these concessions were newly issued or inactive during the historical baseline, they did not contribute to the measured historical deforestation visible in satellite imagery, as described in Step 1. The REL adjustment for this land use type is measured based on inventory data or management plans from these forest concessions, not a modeled approach.

2.2 Cascade Planned Deforestation in forest concessions (REDD+): There are early action National REDD+ program pilots within Mai Ndombe that converted “cascade” deforestation logging concessions to conservation and have VCS/CCB-validated verified reference emissions level. The REL adjustment for this land-use type is modeled based on empirically-observed historical deforestation of such cascade-type concessions within the DRC.

Step 3: The historical baseline from step 1 and the adjusted baseline described in Step 2 above are then aggregated into a single adjusted Reference Level for the Mai Ndombe Province, representing the

emissions from both inside and outside forest concessions. Additional details of the three-step approach follow.

Details for REL Measurement:

Step 1: Calculate historical emissions based on the historical average of deforestation in Mai Ndombe

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) 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 forest were classified by default as savannah forest.

According to FACET, the Mai Ndombe Province covers more than 12.5 million hectares of which over 73% is classified as forest, with the following breakdown: primary forest (90%); secondary forest (7%); savanna forest(3%). Between 2000 and 2010, gross deforestation amounted to more than 196,000 ha, which corresponds to an average annual deforestation rate of 0.21% (10.45M tCO₂e).

Table 10 – Annual Deforestation Rates

Periodes	Type of change	Average annual rate (%)			Sources	
		Congo Bassin	RDC	Mai Ndombe		Central Africa
1990-2000	Deforestation zero	0.09	0.11		Ernst <i>et al.</i> 2010	
	Degradation zero	0.05	0.06			
	Deforestation	0.22			0.25	FAO, 2011
2000-2005	Deforestation zero	0.17	0.22		Ernst <i>et al.</i> 2010	
	Degradation zero	0.09	0.12			
	Total Deforestation		0.22	0.22		FACET
	<i>Whose in primary forest</i>		0.07	0.06		
	<i>Whose in forest savannah</i>		0.11	0.36		
	<i>Whose in secondary forest</i>		1.31	1.89		
2005-2010	Global deforestation		0.25	0.20		FACET
	<i>Whose in primary forest</i>		0.14	0.12		
	<i>Whose in forest savannah</i>		0.18	0.47		
	<i>Whose in secondary forest</i>		1.13	1.13		
2000-2010	Total deforestation		0.23	0.21		FAO, 2011
	Total Deforestation	0.22			0.26	

This approach is inspired by different approaches of the type “Stock-flux” (Stock-Flow Approach), that suggests an interpretation of the decision COP15 and a principle of adjustment of the historic reference level based on specific national circumstances. The context of the DRC in general and of the Mai Ndombe province in particular indicates that deforestation and degradation will accelerate compared to the deforestation and degradation of the past, as described above by the definition of HFLD.

Several justifications for this hypothesis are as follows:

- With more than 70% of the territory covered with forest and an annual rate of deforestation of the order of .21%, the province of Mai Ndombe is a jurisdiction that will likely qualify for High Forest Low Deforestation – HFLD. In the same way as other countries in the Congo Basin, the DRC and the jurisdiction of Mai Ndombe are situated at the top of the forest transition curve as pointed out by Mather (1992). Without help in addressing the pace of this acceleration, the concept of forest transition can anticipate an increase in deforestation / degradation in the future.
- The zone is under important demographic pressure, largely exacerbated by its proximity to Kinshasa. The projections of population growth leave little doubt about the future demand for land for agriculture, construction wood and charcoal. Slash and burn agriculture which has a short fallow (4 years following 2 years of cultivation) will continue to grow and take land from forest and wooded savanna. Charcoal production, notably in the south of the zone and along the river will also grow to supply the growing population of Kinshasa. In the same way, artisanal exploitation will continue to increase to supply construction wood to Kinshasa.

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Table 12 – Average Annual Population Growth

	Average annual population growth		
	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025
RDC	2.62%	2.47%	2.29%
RDC – rural zones	1.77%	1.55%	1.30%
RDC – urban zones	4.19%	3.97%	3.72%

Source : Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects : The 2010 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects : The 2011 Revision – May 4, 2012; 10:16:38 AM

In the context of the DRC and the future Mai Ndombe province, the purpose of REDD+ is not only to reduce deforestation, but avoid an increase in deforestation as well as maintain stocks that are not yet endangered but may soon become so. Hence, the idea of the baseline scenario proposed here is to adjust upward the historical annual deforestation calculated at 0.21%, (10.45 million tCO₂e per year), as clearly outlined in the next steps.

Step 2: Given the fact that the FACET-based historical data do not take into account the degradation of forests (for which different monitoring methods are being evaluated) and that degradation represents a significant share of historical emissions in the Congo Basin (Asner et al. 2005 Marklund & Schoene, 2006, Lambin et al. 2003), and it also does not take into account planned deforestation emissions within concessions, an adjustment to the REL must be applied to this purely historically-derived deforestation rate.

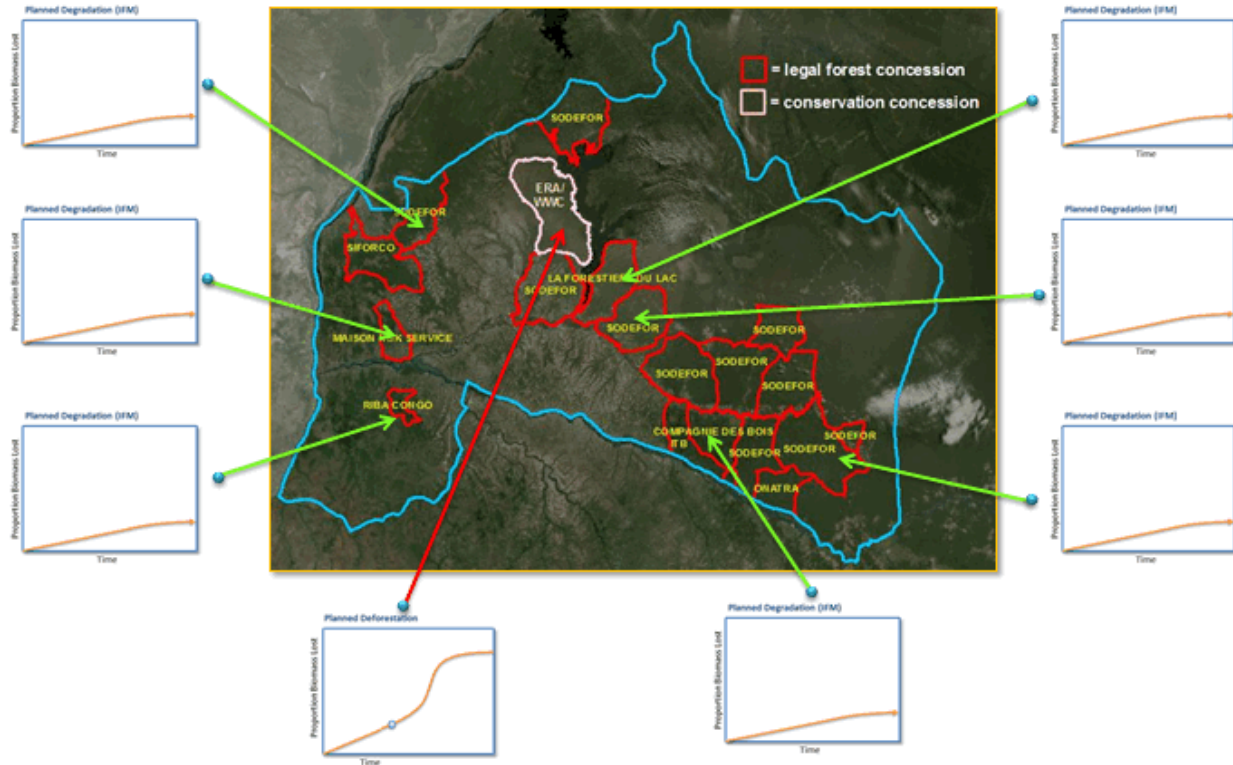
Step 2.1: Planned degradation in legal forest concessions(IFM).

Each legal forest concession contains a modeled adjustment to the historical REL, calculated from their individual legal harvestable volumes, as illustrated in the image below.

Figure 5 – Land use-based REL Approach

Future Mai Ndombe Province Land-use Based REL

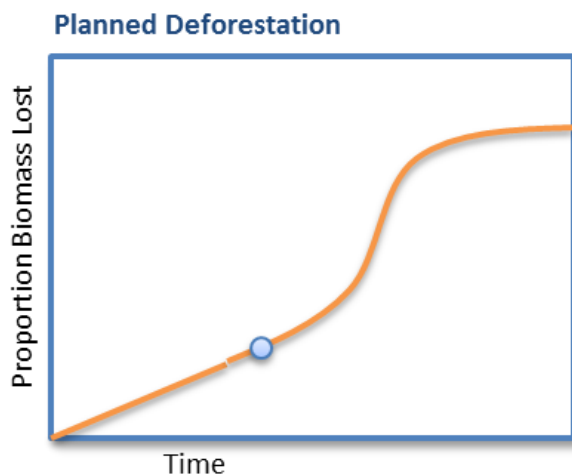
Separate reference levels for each concession



The reference emissions profile of a legal logging concession is based on its specific merchantable timber inventory and management plan. Each concession will be modeled uniquely. For the purposes of the estimate for this ER-PIN, merchantable timber volumes were taken from the extensive inventory performed for the ERA-WWC Mai Ndombe REDD+ project and scale-adjusted to each of the 18 concessions in Mai Ndombe province. However, more detailed analysis of each concession will be performed during ER Program design.

Step 2.2: Adjust for Cascade Planned Deforestation in forest concessions(REDD+).

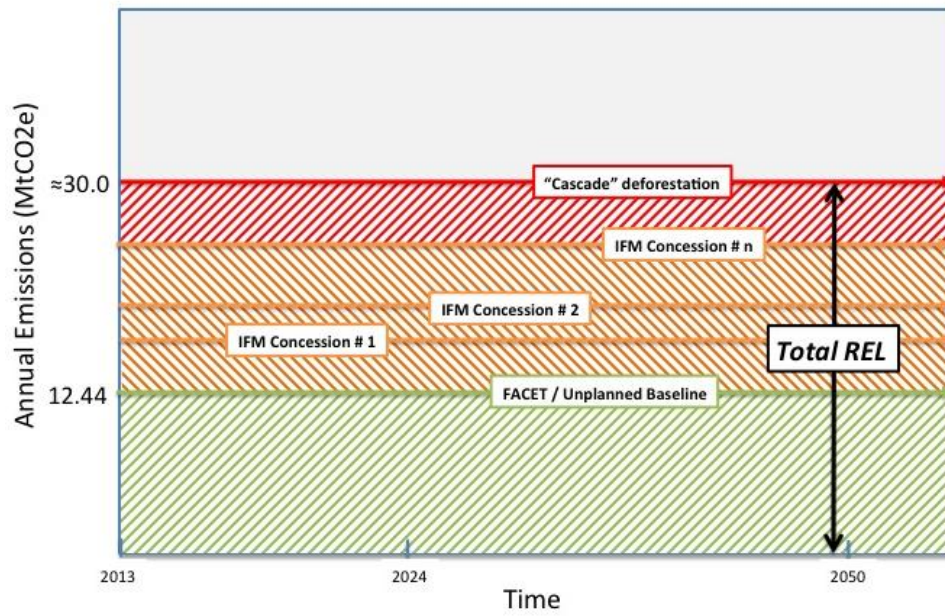
Figure 6 – Concession REL



These forest concessions have a modeled adjustment to the historical REL derived from the historical observation of the rate of deforestation of a similar “reference” forest concession in the DRC that had previously been deforested, by the same agents of deforestation as owned this concession before it was converted to conservation use. An example of this REL approach is represented by the ERA/WWC Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project, which was validated and verified by the VCS and CCBA standards in December 2012.

Step 3: The historically-adjusted baselines described in Step 2 above are then aggregated into one adjusted Reference Level for Mai Ndombe Province.

**Figure 7 – Aggregated REL
Reference Level (REL)**



Aggregated REL for the Mai Ndombe Province

11.2 Expected REL/FRL for the ER Program
 Please provide an estimate of the REL/FRL for the proposed ER Program area. Even a very preliminary estimate would be helpful.

The table below represents a preliminary estimate of REL values, developed using the land-use based approach described above. More analysis will be required during ER Program design to provide final REL using this method.

Table 13 – REL Estimate

REL Estimate	REL (Mt CO ₂ e · yr ⁻¹)	REL % original forest
<i>Unplanned Deforestation (slash & burn)</i>	9	
Planned Deforestation (cascade, agriculture, etc.)*	13	
Planned Degradation (IFM)	8	
TOTAL GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS	30	
TOTAL AGROFORESTRY GHG REMOVALS	0	
Total	30	.60%

Preliminary estimate of jurisdictional REL for the Mai Ndombe Province ER Program

Development of Forest Reference Level (FRL)

The approach used to measure FRL will use a fixed-plot sampling scheme, overlaid on the FACET land cover map for the baseline year (2010 or 2012), to calculate a biomass/GHG inventory from field forest plot measurement. This approach has the advantage of initiating fixed plots that can be used during MRV to measure degradation. This will be particularly important in analyzing the emissions performance within planned logging concessions.

11.3 Expected Emission Reductions (ERs)
 Please provide an estimate of the expected impact of the proposed ER Program on the REL/FRL (as percentage of emissions to be reduced). Based on this percentage, also estimate the volume of ERs, as expressed in tonnes of CO₂e, that would be generated by the ER Program:
 a) up to December 31, 2020 (currently the end date of the FCPF)
 b) for a period of 10 years; and
 c) the lifetime of the proposed ER Program, if it is proposed to continue longer than 10 years.

The following table represents a preliminary estimate of potential emission reductions based on a combination of verified/validated and predicted data.

Table 14 – Expected ER’s

ER Estimate	ER - total (range - Mt CO ₂ e)		ER - % of the REL (range)		ER – to Dec. 31, 2020 (Mt CO ₂ e)	ER – 10 years (Mt CO ₂ e)	ER – Program Lifetime (to 2050) (Mt CO ₂ e)
	low	high	low	high	average	average	average
Planned Deforestation within forest concessions (cascade, agriculture, etc.)(REDD)*	3	10	23%	77%	39	65	195
Planned Degradation within forest concessions (IFM)	1	7	12.5%	87.5%	24	40	120
Unplanned Deforestation (slash & burn) (AUDD)	3	6	33%	66%	27	45	135
Afforestation/ Reforestation	.2	.4			1.8	3	90
Protected Areas	No estimates made at this time. Not expected to be significant % of ERs pre 2020.						
Mining concessions	No estimates made at this time. Not expected to be significant % of ERs pre 2020.						
Total	7.2	23.4	37%	78%	91.8	153	540

Planned “Cascade” Deforestation; The “low” assumption for the planned cascade deforestation category is based on limited success in reducing emissions from illegal logging, charcoal production and slash and burn within concessions converted to conservation. The “high” assumption is based on strong success in reducing those emissions by providing viable alternatives to affected communities.

Planned Degradation within forest concessions; The range of assumptions here is based on how many concessionaires agree to reduce the emissions from their concessions below their legally agreed REL. It is assumed that the high end would not represent 100% of the REL for this type of concession as there would be some level of secondary or illegal emissions within that amount of forest, even if all the concessions agreed to convert to strictly conservation use.

Unplanned Deforestation and Degradation outside of concessions; this range represents a variety of projected success levels for the many sectoral and enabling activities to reduce measured deforestation and degradation outside of logging concessions.

Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Removals; It is not expected that there will be high levels of GHG removals from these activities prior to 2020, however it is anticipated that increased investment in this sector under the program will result in significant removals later in the program.

11.4 Volume proposed for the FCPF Carbon Fund
Please explain the portion of the expected ERs that would be offered to the Carbon Fund, and if other carbon finance providers or buyers have been identified to date, the portions of the expected ERs that would be offered to them.

The emission reductions that will be generated by the program will be offered to a range of buyers, either by the government, through the National Fund with possible support of the program manager, or directly by individual projects, when they have been approved for direct crediting.

The Government of the DRC reserves the right to determine allocation of VERs from the Jurisdictional ER Program to the Carbon Fund ERPA, assuming all VERs sold meet the CF’s standards and that the distribution reflects a fair and equitable distribution of the VERs sold, based on each VER generating program element’s financial needs. An outline of the portion of expected ER’s that would be offered to the Carbon Fund are described in the table below:

Table 15 – Annual Proposed Volume of VER Sales to Carbon Fund

Year	ERs Sold in MtCO ₂ e						TOTAL
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Proposed Program Sales to the Carbon Fund	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10.0
Existing Program Sales Outside of the Carbon Fund							1.1
Total	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	11.1

12. Forest Monitoring System

12.1 Description of approach and capacity for measurement and reporting on ERs
Please describe the proposed approach for monitoring and reporting the emission reductions attributable to the proposed ER Program, including the capacity of the proposed ER Program entities to implement this approach.

MRV Principles

The ER Program MRV system will be based on the framework of the national MRV system. It will therefore integrate the tools and methods of nested projects into the national system to ensure consistency between jurisdictional and nested project-level MRV.

The following agreed-upon principles describe, and will significantly enhance the MRV system:

National Forest Inventory: The ER Program and all nested projects should use similar methodological approaches to those being used for the National Forest Inventory. Data sharing and sampling plan design should be shared amongst stakeholders, such as DIAF, JICA, WWF, ERA/WWC, NOVACEL, etc.

Forest Monitoring System: All stakeholders and program participants will use a compatible forest monitoring system. The ER Program will be consistent with the tools and methodologies developed at the national level.

Reporting (TerraCongo, national registry): All future carbon stock (inventory) data should be monitored and measured in a manner that enables full and complete incorporation into the current national

monitoring approach, which includes TerraCongo and the National Registry system. It should be noted, however, that in the absence of a complete system at the national level, jurisdictional approaches must be able to move forward with their MRV efforts, and may use individual tools at their discretion.

Integration with Communities: All stakeholders and the Government of the DRC agree upon, and strongly emphasize, the importance of local communities' expertise and skill in the design and implementation of the MRV system. This includes MRV activities ranging from field carbon data collection, to biodiversity and social monitoring. Third party tools are being developed in the DRC - such as the MOABI system (<http://rdc.moabi.org/>) - which utilizes the concept of crowdsourcing to allow participation by the communities on the ground in the overall validation / verification process.

Once the FCPF-CF has clarified the MRV methodological requirements, it is understood that the ER Program will adapt its approach as necessary. The MRV system for the DRC will be:

- Transparent;
- Accurate;
- Consistent;
- Complete and
- Comparable with other systems, including nested MRV systems and databases.

MRV Program

The proposed ER Program MRV system under development in the future province of Mai Ndombe will integrate data and assessments made and collected at various scales, from the community level to the entire jurisdiction and will ultimately be integrated into the national MRV system.

The national MRV system is based on three pillars:

- The system of forest monitoring satellite (SSFS) TerraCongo
- The National Forest Inventory (NFI)
- The National Inventory of GHG

DIAF is the department in charge of MRV at national level. DIAF works in collaboration with FAO, JICA and the INPE, etc.

National Forest Surveillance System (SNSF)

The key element of the MRV system is the DRC's National Forest Surveillance System (SNSF) (<http://www.rdc-snsf.org/>). The SNSF is a web interface to compile, integrate and analyze a wide range of data, including deforestation statistics, calculated through interpretation of satellite data and field carbon inventories. The SNSF can also integrate other data from nested REDD+ projects / programs as well as forest concession data, data from protected areas, mining concessions, etc. All the data will be collected in a manner that ensures ease of integration into the national system. It will also provide an interface allowing robust stakeholder participation for the purposes of data validation.

Satellite Land Monitoring System: TerraCongo

TerraCongo is a platform that combines remote sensing and land-based measurement of degradation. The TerraCongo platform will generate data that can be integrated into the National Forest Surveillance System (SNSF). The TerraCongo system provides a combination of tools, including an open-source database, user interface and algorithms that are being adapted to the needs of the DRC.

National Forest Inventory (NFI)

The National Forest Inventory requires a comprehensive landcover map to be used as the basis for the stratification of the sampling activities. This map has been produced by DIAF in partnership with The Catholic University of Leuven (UCL) for the national pre-inventory. At the ER Program level, a finer

stratification could be considered for the establishment of emission factors. As better data become available, they will be assessed and incorporated into the NFI in order to continually assess stratification quality.

It is proposed that inventory work for the ER Program will be carried out by the Division of Forest inventories, a subsection of DIAF, currently in charge of the National Forest Inventory, with collaboration from other ER Program stakeholders currently involved in MRV activities within the jurisdiction (nested). Forest inventory data collection will comply with standards as required by the UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism. That said, it includes:

- A detailed land cover stratification of forest lands;
- A pilot sampling of forest lands;
- Assessment and update of stratification
- A complete sampling of forested lands, including evaluation of carbon stocks and changes in carbon stocks.

Currently the National Forest Pre-inventory is in its nascent stages. Final stratification will be based on the pre-inventory data.

GHG Inventory

To arrive at greenhouse gas equivalent (tCO₂e) results, the ER Program will use standardized allometric approaches that comply at least with Tier 2 level under the IPCC 2006 guidelines. Allometry used will derive from a combination of literature and field-collected data. This will include data generated not only for the NFI but also by ER Program stakeholders such as the Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project, Novacel and WWF/RPAN. It is envisioned these datasets may be used for calibration and/or verification of per-stratum carbon estimates. The ER Program will also explore the use of novel approaches as they become available in order to generate emission factors. These currently include technologies like LiDAR-assisted carbon mapping techniques.

One of the main goals of the GHG-Inventory is to develop an intelligent scheme for sampling biomass as well as tracking deforestation and degradation over the jurisdictional extent. A coarse-to-fine resolution is being considered as an efficient way to emphasize the collection and generation of data for those areas that are or are likely to be most dynamic within the jurisdiction. This system is based on net change (measured by GHG inventories) between ER Program monitoring periods. It will be inclusive, incorporating data and techniques from nested projects and activities, and will be comparable to national and international MRV systems. The final development of the MRV system will be completed during ER Program design, in consultation with DIAF, FAO, JICA, CN-REDD, OSFAC, local project developers and the FCPF-CF.

12.2 Describe how the proposed ER Program monitoring system is consistent with the (emerging) national REDD+ monitoring system.

As described in detail above in section 12.1, this ER program intends to fit seamlessly with the models being developed at the national level. Current nested ER efforts are working in close conjunction with the national entities responsible for the SNSF, NFI and GHG inventory programs described above. While the national systems are being developed, current nested reduction efforts will be used to test and calibrate the national systems, ensuring agreement from bottom to top, with the ultimate goal of all ER Program-related data integrating into the national systems.

12.3 Describe how the proposed ER Program monitoring system is consistent with UNFCCC guidance available to date and with the emerging Methodological Framework of the FCPF Carbon Fund.

Firstly, the ER Program will follow VCS JNR guidance, which is in full compliance with UNFCCC guidelines. As the FCPF Carbon Fund's Methodological Framework Emerges, the ER Program will incorporate all applicable guidance into the ER Program's monitoring system.

ER reduction activities under this program must conform to the national MRV approach, which combines remote sensing with ground-based carbon stock measurement, in accordance with UNFCCC Tier 3 guidance for national inventories as well as the UNFCCC LULUCF Good Practice Guidelines for monitoring and reporting forest carbon emissions and sequestration.

12.4 Describe any potential role of Indigenous Peoples or local communities in the design or implementation of the proposed ER Program monitoring system.

Local and indigenous communities will be involved in the development and implementation of the monitoring system at several levels, described as follows:

- Through their representatives on the advisory committee of stakeholders to develop the policy and procedural framework of the ER Program, which will help frame the MRV system, including the question of the involvement of local communities and indigenous projects and in monitoring the populations of individual ER projects;
- They will be mobilized on the ground to monitor the indicators of project performance, including the monitoring of project proxy and social performance;
- They will be integrated into program MRV efforts, particularly for forest inventory. Tree species identification is the most difficult aspect of forest inventory work. Often, local forest communities possess extensive, unparalleled knowledge of forest biodiversity. It is vital to program success that these groups are heavily engaged in carbon inventory work, both for technical purposes as well as the tangible community benefits / stakeholder acceptance that employment of local forest peoples brings to the ER Program.

12.5 Describe if and how the proposed ER Program monitoring system would include information on multiple benefits like biodiversity conservation or enhanced rural livelihoods, governance indicators, etc.

The ER-Program must conform to the Safeguard Information System (SIS) under development at the national level. As such, the Program will develop a jurisdictional-scale system for monitoring these safeguards, conforming to the national documentation requirements.

It was officially recorded at a meeting with stakeholders that the project would be considered effective if it respected pre-established environmental and social safeguards.

At the project level, specific safeguard efforts that may be even more advanced will be considered. As a contribution to the work reported on and planned for in the Mid-Term Progress Report, WWC has worked with ICRAF and the Learning Initiative on Social Assessment for REDD+ (LISA-REDD+), to develop a best practice social impact assessment process. WWC's social and biodiversity impact assessment process as implemented at the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project in Kenya, reflects this effective collaboration, and has been cited often as a model program. The outcome of this collaboration will help to inform the ER Program. In the case of biodiversity safeguards, WWF is currently working with DIAF and FAO to incorporate collection of biodiversity data as part of the National Forest Inventory. Conservation stakeholders will work with the Government of DRC to develop the MRV biodiversity component.

13. Summary of Progress on REDD+ Readiness

13.1 Brief summary of major achievements of readiness activities in country thus far

Please briefly provide any additional updates on REDD+ readiness activities not described above, using the component categories of the R-PP as a guide. If public information is available on this progress, please refer to this information and provide a link.

In January 2009, a primary joint mission gathered in Kinshasa under the direction of the DRC Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT), including international partners (FCPF, UN-REDD, UNDP, FAO and UNEP) and national (Civil Society). This mission led to a primary commitment by multilateral partners to the DRC REDD process (0.2M\$ from FCPF, 1.8M\$ from UN-REDD). The process has continued as described below:

- **May 2009**, implementation of the REDD National Coordination
- **August 2009**, the process had been officially launched during a workshop in Kinshasa, moderated by the Minister for the Environment.
- **November 2009**, promulgation of the Prime Minister's Decree creating the REDD process governance structures in DRC, described as follows:
 - The National Committee, governing and control body of the process
 - The Inter-ministerial Committee, responsible for the implementation of the REDD process
 - The National Coordination, the daily management body
- **March 2010**, the DRC became the first African country to obtain the approval of the national readiness plan for REDD (R-PP) by the UN-REDD orientation Board and the FCPF Participants Committee.
- **December 2010**, Presentation of Orientation documents (Mai-Ndombe Pilot projects) in Cancun at COP 16.
- **June 2011**, the FIP investment plan for the DRC is approved for \$60M
- **August 2011**, grant agreements are signed for 6 pilot projects geographically integrated with the Congo Basin Forest Fund
- **October 2011**, High Level Forum on "Climate and Sustainable Development" in the DRC
- **December 2011**, launch of the national forest monitoring system in Durban for COP 17
- **February 2012**, the Decree establishing the REDD+ Project approval process is adopted
- **June 2012**, an independent mid-term evaluation and Provincial Focal Point deployment in provinces
- **August 2012**, national consensus on the drivers of deforestation
- **September 2012**, world initiative (for parliamentary reform)
- **December 2012**, National Framework Strategy and National REDD+ Fund presented in Doha for COP 18
- **February 2013**, Workshop to finalize the ER-PIN

13.2 Current status of the Readiness Package and estimated date of submission to the FCPF Participants Committee (including the REL/FRL, REDD+ Strategy, national REDD+ monitoring system and ESMF).

Progress of the DRC under the R-Package was analyzed by an independent evaluator under the mid-term REDD process in DRC. The chart below provides the current status of the individual elements.

Table 16 - Auto-évaluation de l'état d'avancement des critères / indicateurs du R-Package

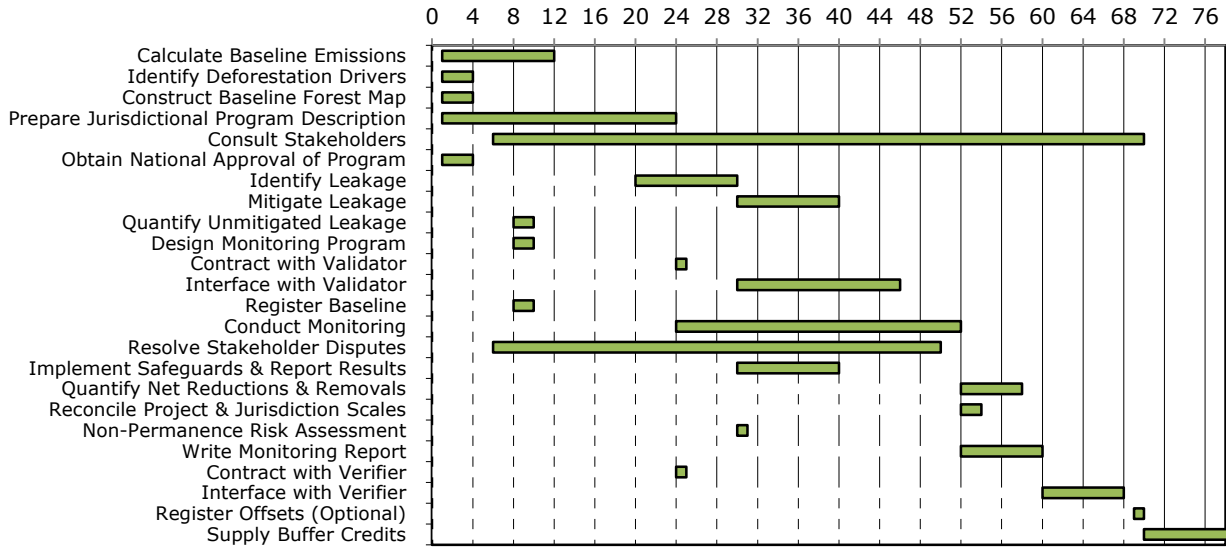
1) Accountability and transparency	Yellow
2) Operating mandate and budget	Yellow
3) Coordination with national or sector policy frameworks	Yellow
4) Technical supervision capacity	Yellow
5) Funds management capacity	Yellow
6) Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	Yellow
7) Engagement of key stakeholders	Yellow
8) Consultation processes	Yellow
9) Information sharing	Yellow
10) Implementation of consultation outcomes	Yellow
11) Assessment and analysis	Green
12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers	Green
13) Links between drivers and REDD+ activities	Green
14) Actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance	Green
15) Implications for forest law and policy	Green
16) Presentation and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	Green
17) Feasibility assessment	Green
18) Consistency with other policies	Green
19) Integration with relevant strategies and policies	Green
20) Adoption of legislation and regulations	Yellow
21) Transparent and equitable framework	Yellow
22) National REDD+ information system or registry	Yellow
23) SESA coordination and integration arrangements	Green
24) Analysis of safeguard issues	Green
25) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	Green
26) Environmental and Social Management Framework	Yellow
27) Clear, step-wise methodology	Yellow
28) Historical data, and adjustment for national circumstances	Yellow
29) Consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	Yellow
30) Documentation of step-wise approach	Green
31) Demonstration of early implementation	Green
32) Institutional arrangements and capacities	Yellow
33) Identification of non-carbon aspects	Yellow
34) Monitoring and reporting capabilities	Yellow
35) Information sharing	Yellow

Green Colour, meaning: Done

Yellow Colour, meaning : underway and well advanced

13.3 Next steps to finalize the proposed ER Program implementation design (REL/FRL, ER Program monitoring system, financing, governance, etc.). Provide a rough timeline for these steps.

Figure 8: Mai Ndombe - Jurisdictional ER Program Timeline



14. Financing plan (in US\$ million)
 Please describe the financial arrangements of the proposed ER program including potential sources of funding. This should include both near-term start-up cost and long-term financing. If the proposed ER program builds on existing projects or programs that are financed through donors or multilateral development banks, provide details of these projects or programs, including their financing timeframe.

[[Write your description here; add space as needed]]

Expected uses of funds	Description	Breakdown per year									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Costs related to developing the ER Program (e.g., monitoring costs)	REL/RFL(Technical Consulting)	0.6	1.2								
	NFI/GHG-I(DIAF)	0.5	0.5								
	ER Program Mgmt & Reporting (CN-REDD/WWF/ERA-WWC) (ERA/WWC role ends in 2015. ADD WWF \$ through ?)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Stakeholder Consultation	0.4	0.4								
	VCS Validation	0.2									
Fixed - Operational and implementation costs	Monitoring - Remote Sensing & OSFAC supported by UCSB/UMD	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
	DIAF Field Monitoring	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Program Activities - Fixed	1.7	13.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4
	Stakeholder Engagement	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
	VCS Verification	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Fixed Costs		6.1	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1
Variable - Operational and implementation costs	Program Activities - Variable	0.0	1.7	2.6	3.4	4.3	6.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
	Community Reinvestment	0.1	5.5	10.5	14.9	20.2	30.9	42.1	43.3	44.8	46.7
Financing costs (e.g., interest payments on loans)	Interest on Loans										
	Private Financing Costs		5.2	6.2	9.2	11.8	13.4	15.9	18.4	22.0	26.0
Other Costs	Program - Registration & Issuance Fees	0.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.5
	Sales & Marketing Expenses	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.1	1.0	1.0
Total Variable Costs		0.3	13.9	20.9	29.7	39.1	54.4	71.3	75.3	79.5	85.7
Total uses		6.4	34.1	40.9	49.7	59.1	74.5	91.3	95.4	99.5	105.8
Expected sources of funds	Description										
Other Sources of Income (Eg. Grants)	FIP		4	3	3	2	1				
	NORAD		5	8	8	8	8				
	Germany	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7						
	Private Investment	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Loans	(please name sources)										
Revenue from REDD+ activities (e.g., sale of agricultural products)**	(please name sources)										
Revenue from sale of Emission Reductions (contracted)	FCPF ERPA			12.0	12.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0		
	Voluntary Market			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Contracted Income		1.0	10.0	24.0	24.0	19.3	18.3	9.3	9.3	0.3	0.3
Revenue from sale of additional Emission Reductions (not yet contracted)	Sovereign Funds	0.0	25.6	22.8	31.9	44.5	60.6	78.5	83.4	0.0	0.0
	Voluntary Market	1.5	8.5	7.6	10.6	14.8	20.2	26.2	27.8	12.8	13.8
	Compliance Market								0.0	115.2	124.4
Total at risk income (before taxes)		1.5	34.1	30.4	42.5	59.3	80.8	104.7	111.3	128.0	138.3
Net revenue before taxes (=total sources – total uses)		(4.0)	10.0	13.4	16.7	19.5	24.6	22.7	25.2	28.8	32.8

15. List of acronyms used in the ER-PIN*Please include an explanation of any institutional or other acronyms used. Add rows as necessary.*

Acronym	Meaning
ERA/WWC	Joint Venture Ecosystem Restoration Association & Wildlife Works Carbon
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreement
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
VCS	Verified Carbon Standards
JNR	Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ - Redd+ juridictionnel et imbriqué
WWC	Wildlife Works Carbon
WWF	World Widefund for Nature
WWF-FCI	Climate-Forest Initiative of WWF
MECNT	Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism
COLO & PA	Local Communities and Indigenuous People
IPFC	Informed, Prior and Free Consent concept
ONFI	International Forest National Office
NOVACEL	Nouvelle Société d'Agriculture et Elevage
SOGENAC	
REDD+	Reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, forest sustainable management and forest carbon stocks enhancement
APD	Avoided planned deforestation
AUDD	Avoided unplanned deforestation and degradation
IFM	Improved forest management
ARR	Afforestation, reforestation and revegetation
ICCN	Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature
DIAF	Direction of Inventories and forest lands use
MRV&S	Measuring, Reporting And Verificating & Monitoring
ER	Emission reductions
ER-Programme	Emission Reduction Program
DDD	Sustainable development Direction
CN-REDD	REDD National Coordination
CT	Thematic Coordination
REL	Reference Emission Level
RFL	Reference Forest Level
RL	Reference level
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
UCL	Louvanium Catholic University

FACET	
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
GTCR	Working group on Climate and REDD of the Civil Society
REPALEF	Local and Indigenous population Network for the sustainable management of DRC forest ecosystems
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
CARPE	Central African Regional program for the Environment
USAID	United States of America International Agency for Development
US-FS	United States Forest Services
NORAD	Norwegian International Agency for Development
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
KWf	Trustees for Forestry Work Technology
GHG	Green House Gase
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IGCE	InterGovernmental Experts Group on Climate