

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: DRC

September, 2012

1. R-PP Implementation and FCPF Readiness grant

- Around USD 1,014,000 of the FCPF grant has been disbursed to date.
- The National REDD Coordination has already prepared a mid-term progress report and request for increased grant support to the FCPF that will be publicly presented to the PC13 on October 21st in Brazzaville. Contacts with donors for additional funding are ongoing.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Coordination operational, with over 15 technical staff
- National REDD Committee and Inter-ministerial Committee in place, but their role has been questioned by the mid-term independent evaluation and should therefore be reconsidered.
- Provincial REDD Focal Points have been hired for all 11 provinces to spearhead the province-level REDD+ dynamics, with the ex-National REDD Coordinator leading this deployment effort.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- The 'Information, Education and Communication' Cell at the National REDD Coordination is active, with two full time staff and an Integrated Communication Plan for 2013-2017.
- The Third REDD+ University was organized in Kinshasa in August 2012, bringing together over 800 participants for 10 days of intense discussions on REDD+ topics.
- In-depth consultations on the content of the REDD+ Framework Strategy are underway through the Thematic Coordination groups at the central level and about to be conducted in the provincial by the end of the year (*see below*).

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Sixteen (16) "Thematic Coordination" (TC) covering sector-based and cross-cutting options to fight deforestation and forest degradation in DRC were constituted. They are led by a representative from the public administration, facilitated by the REDD Coordination, and supported by various stakeholders. The TCs have started their work gathering 350 people and will feed into the REDD+ Framework Strategy.
- 2 provincial consultations scheduled during the month of October and a national validation workshop early November should help finalize this Framework Strategy before the COP18.
- The seven pilot projects financed by CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) are under implementation.
- The FIP investments are under preparation by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, following the Investment Plan approved by the FIP Sub Committee in July 2011.

5. Implementation Framework

- An options paper on benefit sharing has been prepared by national consultants.
- The UNDP is in active discussions with the Finance Ministry about the creation of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, to manage early REDD+ financing to the country.
- The accreditation and validation process for REDD+ projects in DRC was adopted formally by the

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Government in the form of a Decree issued on February 15. It institutionalizes the process whereby actors interested in initiating a REDD+ project in DRC have to comply with before getting an authorization from the Ministry of Environment. It also formally established the national REDD+ registry. It is in the process of being reviewed together with civil society and the Government.

- The national registry for REDD+ projects is at advanced stages of design. The registry serves as a database of all REDD finance and activities going on in the country, including those projects targeting carbon transactions in the voluntary market.

6. SESA

- The firm hired to lead the preparation of the SESA and ESMF in DRC (AGRECO) is conducting its work. The proposed methodology has been adopted by the National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits. The firm has conducted provincial consultations. A zero version of the Strategy identifies the main social and environmental risks of potential strategic options to achieve REDD+.
- The SESA process is now preparing the safeguards management tools, such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework. It is expected that the SESA process will be finalized by the end of the year.
- The National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for REDD has been formally created and all members nominated. The Committee is up and running.
- CSOs have prepared the National Social and Environmental Standards for REDD+. A procedure manual for the application of these standards is currently under preparation.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- The Ministry of Environment, through its National REDD Coordination, signed a contract with the National Statistics Institute to support the National Household Survey. The REDD Coordination worked with the Survey team to make sure the surveys covered issues relevant to REDD+ (such as wood consumption in rural zones, areas under agriculture cultivation, etc.). This exercise will provide a wealth of data for the establishment of the national reference scenario, contributing to the 'national circumstances' aspect of reference scenario.
- The National REDD Coordination just facilitated a workshop conducted by IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) presenting its REDD Policy Assessment Center (REDD PAC) based on land-use modelling. Other models were presented and should help feed the development of a reference scenario.

8. MRV

- The National System for Forest Monitoring in DRC has been prepared and is online.
- Capacity building efforts (mainly targeted at DIAF, at MECNT) continue.
- GIS/Remote sensing-lab equipment purchased.

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9. Other