

## Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN): External Review Template

**Guidelines for Reviewers**

Select a mark from the following scale: NA: Not Addressed. 1: Inadequately addresses criterion. 2: Barely addresses criterion. 3: Average, or adequately addresses criterion. 4: Good job of addressing criterion. 5: Excellent job of addressing criterion.

<p>1) Country submitting the R-PIN: <b>Equatorial Guinea</b></p> <p>2) Date of Review: <b>February 4, 2009 (update of first version reviewed August 16, 2008).</b></p> <p>Additional comments added in ALL CAPS</p> <p>3) Name and affiliation of R-PIN Reviewer: <b>TAP Review Synthesis</b></p>	
<p><b>I. Summary Assessment of the Quality and Completeness of the R-PIN:</b> <i>Note with value of 1 – 5</i></p>	<p><b>Mark</b> (score):</p>
<p>Criterion (i): Ownership of the proposal by both the government and relevant stakeholders: Ownership by government clear. Authors are mostly government officials, with a small team of outside experts; of the 21 people consulted all except 2 represent a government agency, the other two represent some unknown NGO. Thus no evidence of any consultation by civil society – (understand concept of forest dwellers not used in EG)</p>	
<p>Criterion (ii): Consistency between national and sectoral strategies and proposed REDD Strategy: <b>DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN RPIN SHOWING CONSISTENCY AMONG SECTOR STRATEGIES</b></p>	
<p>Criterion (iii): Completeness of information and data provided: <b>GREAT IMPROVEMENT—VERY COMPLETE— READS WELL—OVERALL GOOD JOB</b></p>	
<p>Criterion (iv): Clarity of responsibilities for the execution of REDD activities to be financed: No clear articulation of this component</p>	
<p>Criterion (v): Feasibility of proposal and likelihood of success:  current capacity very low, all key stakeholders have not been engaged, government <b>APPEARS TO BE BETTER COMMITTED AND UNDERSTANDS ISSUES, ADDITIONAL MATERIAL PROVIDED PAINTS A MORE PROMISING PICTURE, AND GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE COMMITTED TO ALLOCATING MORE RESOURCES TO WHOLE ISSUE. –IN LIGHT OF EG BEING PART OF COMIFAC AND IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION WHERE THERE IS A COMMITMENT TO WORK REGIONAL—THE PROPOSAL HAS GOOD LIKLIHOOD OF SUCCESS.</b></p>	
<p>How well do proposed activities fit into existing Bank-supported or other country development plans?</p> <p>The proposed activities compare well with others hence consistent with existing Bank-supported work</p>	
<p>Improvements the country could make to R-PIN, and any TA needs for it:</p> <p><b>WOULD BE GOOD IF COULD BETTER demonstrate IN PROPOSAL more consultation with all stakeholders (VILLAGERS, PRIVATE SECTOR MAYBE?) not just relevant government players, HOWEVER AS SAID ABOVE RPIN IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT, BUT COULD BENEFIT FROM CLEARER articulation of technical capacity needs including sequencing. ALSO SOME IDEA OF BUDGET FOR FIRT REQUEST AND HOW ALLOCATED TO VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WOULD BE USEFUL.</b></p>	

## II. Participants Committee Selection Criteria: Information

Relevance of country in REDD context: Priority to countries with: (i) substantial forest area and forest carbon stocks; and (ii) relevance of forests in economy, including livelihoods of forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples:

*Equatorial Guinea is a very small country AND ON a global basis, forests in EG are VERY SMALL (cover about 2 mill ha). HOWEVER BEING PART OF THE CONGO BASIN ITS INCLUSION COMPLETES THE "PUZZLE"—THE MISSING PART.*

Geographic and biome balance: across the world's main forest biomes.

*Forest is mostly lowland humid forests with some wetland forests and mangroves, most forest area if disturbed and degraded, and some so degraded it is often locally referred to as savanna.*

Variety of approaches: Proposed innovative approaches to tackling deforestation and degradation; methods; testing new mechanisms and distribution of REDD revenues; and/or regionally important leadership.

*SOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS UNDER WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO REDUCE D&D; ALSO INNOVATION ON IDEAS OF USING FONAMA FUND AS A TEST CASE FOR MEASURING EFFICACY OF INCENTIVE BASED PAYMENTS*

## III. Detailed Review of R-PIN Responses to Template Questions:

*Please review the R-PIN quality and completeness in terms of addressing the major questions in the FCPF R-PIN template.*

### 1. Government focal point, and ownership and consultation in producing the R-PIN:

*Focal point clearly identified (Ministry of Fishing and Environment-MFE), of the authors of PIN four are government staff with a team of experts (FRM and CI). The list of individuals and institutions consulted is extensive, However my concern is that too many represent the government and only two of the 20+ people are local NGOs and no other readily identifiable members of civil society or forest dwellers*

### 2. Identification of institutions responsible for: forest monitoring, law enforcement, conservation, and coordination across forest, agriculture and rural development:

*Government organizations are clearly indicated but the links between them in respect to a REDD program is not specified. A DESCRIPTION OF HOW organizations COULD COORDINATE IN REVISED PIN WOULD BE USEFUL*

### 3. Current country situation:

Where do deforestation and forest degradation occur, main causes, estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, data available? Key issues in forest law enforcement and forest sector governance?

*This section of the PIN is the most comprehensive. Most deforestation is located along coast and near towns and along transportation corridors. Degradation is associated with logging for industrial timber production as well as for local use for construction. All lands belong to the government, BUT COMMUNITIES CAN APPLY TO GEG TO BE LEGALLY RECOGNIZED AND VILLAGE COUNCIL CONTROL USE RIGHTS (areas allocated to local populations for traditional rights for their use called communal reserves). WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF HOW MUCH LAND IN THESE RESERVES OR HOW MANY VILLAGES ARE INCLUDED.*

*I NOTE THAT THE AREA OF DEGRADED AND SECONDARY FORESTS GIVEN IN THIS SECTION (1.9 M HA) IS LARGER THAN THE AREA GIVEN EARLIER IN RPIN OF 1.7 M HA*

*There is no national level effort to quantify DD—the only estimate is based on a Congo Basin wide estimate. No estimate of GHG emissions exist. Also, as industrial logging is declining the PIN states that the carbon stock of many forests could be increasing. THIS HAS MANY IMPLICATIONS FOR BASELINE—IF DEFORESTATION AND*

**LOGGING IS DOWN AND LOTS OF REGROWTH BASELINE EMISSIONS ARE BASICALLY "REMOVALS"—NO NET EMISSIONS**

*Most data on forest cover change come are very limited and rather out of date. Overall the quality of the data for REDD in EG is poor and would come from global data sets (e.g. global land cover 2001). Basically no good data exist for use in estimating C stocks of forests.*

*The section of main causes of DD is well described and they are numerous: urban expansion, overlogging for timber and fuel, extraction of raw materials (sand, soil, minerals), shifting agriculture, CONVERSION TO INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURAL, poverty, and lack of opportunity for many or the population. HOWEVER MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE DECLINING OR REMAINING UNCHANGED EXCEPT URBAN EXPANSION WHICH IS A CAUSE OF DEFORESTATION*

*Industrial logging is poorly managed—in essence no management, and has major impact on the forest, BUT THIS ACTIVITY IS DECLINING WHICH COULD MEAN FORESTS ARE TURNING IN A CARBON SINK*

*Overall, there is very little forest law enforcement and forests are poorly governed.*

**4. Data available on indigenous peoples and forest dwellers?**

*RPIN STATES NO FOREST DWELLERS IN SENSE OF PEOPLE LIVING THE MAJORITY OF TIME IN FOREST—THIS SECTION HAS IMPROVED SINCE LAST VERSION AND ADEQUATELY COVERS THIS SECTION*

*REFERS TO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO IP/FOREST DWELLERS, CITES ONE STUDY ON EG VILLAGES BUT GIVES NO RESULTS OF STUDY. NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH GOEG HAS DEVELOPED POLICIES RELATED TO LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS, FOREST MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY STILL CENTRALIZED.*

**5. Current strategy in place to address deforestation and forest degradation. What stakeholder process was used to arrive at it?**

*SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SECTION SINCE LAST VERSION. ALSO APPEARS TO BE MORE COMMITMENT FROM GOEG TO SUPPORT FOREST CONSERVATION, PUT IN PLACE LEGAL AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS, STRENGTHEN CAPACITY BUILDING AT UNIVERSITY FUNDED BY GOEG, IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT OF RELEVANT LAWS, INCREASING OUTREACH TO PUBLIC, AND SEVERAL OTHER ACTIVITIES.*

*LISTS MANY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES DESIGNED TO ADDRESS DD—OF NOTE IS THE GOAL TO INCREASE PROTECTED AREAS FROM 17% TO 40% ON COUNTRY—ESPECIALLY CONVERSION OF EXPORT ORIENTED TIMBER CONCESSIONS TO FORESTS MANAGED FOR TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL USES.*

*CURRENT STRATEGY INVOLVES OVERLAPPING SEQUENCE OF EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS: THEY BASED THIS ON A COUPLE OF PROJECTS THAT INCLUDED AN ANALYSIS OF NEEDS BY LOCAL PEOPLE RELATING TO THEIR USE OF FORESTS.*

*Although several other policies are in place related to better government of forests, THERE ARE STILL CONFLICTS OF AUTHORITY AMONG MINISTRIES—NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED FOR DEVELOPING A REDD STRATEGY. RPIN SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OUTLINE SOME IDEAS AS TO HOW THIS COULD BE DONE.*

**6. What would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation?**

*Equatorial Guinea HAS ELEMENTS OF A STRATEGY TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION. BUT THESE ELEMENTS REQUIRE INCREASED COORDINATION AND STREAMLINING OF LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND PROJECTS. TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION THE MOST PRESSING NEED IS TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW THESE ELEMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY. THIS STATEMENT IF FOLLOWED BY 6 STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MEET THIS NEED—OF NOTE IS THE STATEMENT CONCERNING THE NEED TO ALLOW CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS, PARTICULARLY GUINEAN NGOS AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND RESIDENTS, TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION*

Has country considered the potential relationship between REDD strategies and country's broader development agenda?

**Government of Equatorial Guinea HAS AGREED TO ANALYZE ITS NATIONAL CARBON BALANCE AND ITS 20-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF MAKING ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CARBON NEUTRAL. A REDD PROGRAM WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF REACHING THIS OBJECTIVE.**

Has any technical assistance been received, or is planned on REDD?

*Some international assistance has been provided such as from France, COMIFAC, CI (though CARPE) but for EG technical assistance on REDD issues is considered to be a priority. They need assistance on all aspect such as developing baselines, data for forest cover change, carbon stocks, etc. It seems the EG is lacking basic capacity and technical know how at present to be engaged in this REDD mechanism.*

7. What stakeholder consultation process would country use for developing and implementing REDD under FCPF support?

**WELL DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION OF HOW LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS ARE INVOLVED IN DECISIONS AND THE STRATEGY NEEDS IMPROVEMENTS**

**OF NOTE IS THE FOLLOWING: THE EG FRAMEWORK POLICY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR ("ESTRATEGIA") EXPLICITLY REQUIRES CONSULTATION OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN FOREST POLICY AND PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT STILL PLAYS THE DOMINANT DECISION-MAKING ROLE IN FOREST PROGRAMS AND POLICIES AND THE REQUIREMENT AND MECHANISM FOR INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT WELL DEVELOPED OR FORMALIZED.**

**NO STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS ON REDD HAVE BEEN HELD**

8. Implementing REDD strategies: challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies, and how might they be overcome?

Given that EG is part of the Congo basin, it is felt that some of the REDD challenges could be effectively managed at this scale—for example DD monitoring.

Given the lack of coordination among the various ministries, many aspects related to managing forest lands under a REDD program could result in conflict because similar activities reside in different ministries—this lack of coordination among government ministries would need to be overcome.

A large challenge is lack of local scientific and technical capacity in all aspects related to a REDD program..

Another key challenge in implementing a REDD program in EG is related to obtaining agreement by local populations to change their habits and behavior and adopt new technical innovations in agriculture and forest management for example.

Given the future trajectory for development is unlikely to be what it has been in the past, a challenge for EG is to develop a baseline projection for DD—a development goal of the country is for self sufficiency in food production.

**BASICALLY NO CHANGE TO ABOVE—DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CHALLENGES PROVIDED**

Would performance-based payments through REDD be a major incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation?

**LARGE CHANGES IN THIS SECTION AND GREAT IMPROVEMENT. TO SUM (FROM RPIN):**

**A FUND ( FONAMA) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WILL BEGIN OPERATIONS VERY SOON. THE SOCIAL BENEFITS SUPPORTED BY FONAMA WILL BE A VERY STRONG TEST CASE FOR MEASURING THE EFFICACY OF REDD INCENTIVE PAYMENTS. UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS PERFORMANCE-BASED REDD PAYMENTS COULD BE A POWERFUL INCENTIVE AT THE VILLAGE AND COUNCIL LEVEL TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION.**

**THE RPIN THEN GOES ON TO EXPLAIN HOW THIS WOULD WORK—GOOD JOB**

**9. REDD strategy monitoring and implementation:**

How forest cover and land use change are Monitored today, and any constraints in this approach?

Practically, forest cover and land use change are not being monitored at present. There is no local capacity and any work on this topic is done by international researchers for other purposes.

A major constraint perceived by the RPIN is the presence of constant cloud cover in the coastal region of EG and the lack of high resolution imagery. NO REAL CHANGE

MANY CONSTRAINTS IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING D&D FROM SPACE. IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL ISSUES (LACK OF GOOD OPTICAL SATELLITE DATA FOR EG—THERE IS LACK OF CAPACITY TO USE MORE RECENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR MONITORING.

Proposed method for C stock does not reflect new field-based techniques and methods but instead relies on conversion of traditional forest inventory data which does not exist anyhow in EG. Thus no need to build a carbon stock estimation system on data that they do not have and which is used as a fall back basis . NO MAJOR CHANGE TO THIS PART IN REVISED PIN

**10. Additional benefits of potential REDD strategy, and how to monitor them: biodiversity and rural livelihood?**

THE RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION IS WELL THOUGHT OUT AND DESCRIBED BUT IN ESSENCE, THERE IS NO SYSTEMATIC SYSTEM IS IN PLACE FOR MONITORING AND ARCHIVING BIODIVERSITY OR LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS AT PRESENT, THOUGH SYSTEMS EXIST THAT THESE OTHER BENEFITS COULD BE MONITORED.

**11. What assistance is country likely to request from FCPF Readiness Mechanism?**

The main assistance requested by EG is organization of transparent stakeholder consultations—outreach, workshops etc.—these would be used also to define priority actions

development of historical DD reference emissions levels and baseline projections into the future

help in identifying programs to reduce DD and design of a system for providing targeted financial incentives of REDD to land users

design of a system to monitor emissions and emissions reduction from DD

understand better the impact of timber harvest on GHG emissions

No indication of amount of resources to accomplish this was presented.

THE ABOVE TOPICS ARE SAME IN REVISED RPIN BUT BETTER DESCRIBED

**12. Donors and international partners already cooperating with country on REDD.**

The key donor to date HAS been the French Ministry of Foreign Affaires through COMIFAC, plus various international NGOs and other countries have indicated potential support.

**13. Country's Potential Next Steps and Schedule:**

THE HIGH PRIORITY IS REFINE A METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING FOREST C STOCKS AND EMISSIONS

ALSO NEEDED IS AN ECONOMIC STUDY ON THE EFFECTS AND CAUSES OF THE PAYMENTS, ON ENFORCING LEGAL ASPECTS, ON BUILDING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CAPACITY AS MENTIONED ABOVE WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC PANEL.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP IS TO START REDD PLANNING IN PARALLEL WITH RAISING AWARENESS TO ENGAGE ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL REDD PLAN.

**14. Attachments and their usefulness:**

generally useful to understand status of forests in EG

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