

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: REPUBLIC OF CONGO

February, 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- R-PP assessed by FCPF PC at PC6 (July, 2010). World Bank to carry on with grant preparation, contingent upon the country's addressing a series of comments to the R-PP and presenting it for reactions from the PC;
- \$200K FCPF Formulation Grant is signed and fully disbursed as of October 2010;
- UN-REDD Program will provide financial support (\$75) for the country to finalize the R-PP, including the organization of additional consultations. This support is not yet available as of February 2011.
- An R-PP validation workshop was held in late February based on the comments to the R-PP submitted by the civil society representatives. A final version of the R-PP, integrating results of the validation workshop, will be submitted to the FCPF in March.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The National REDD Committee is not operational yet. The official legal text for the creation of the Committee is under preparation. However, various members of the Committee already have informal meetings to discuss REDD-related issues.
- National REDD Coordination created, but not fully operational. New staff to be recruited with UN-REDD funding, including a Communication and Information specialist, and a consultant responsible for the preparation of project proposals. Recruitment has not started because of delays in the disbursement of UN-REDD funds.
- REDD coordination submitted a proposal to AFD for funding tree additional members of the coordination team (forest and environmental legislation specialist, MRV specialist, reference scenario specialist), decision pending.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Provincial workshops, funded by AFD, were organized jointly by the REDD Coordination and civil society commission in late January in the departments of Lekoumou, Niari and Likouala.
- A Provisional Committee (Commission intérimaire REDD+ de la Société civile) regrouping members of the national civil society has been put in place, with the goal of closely working with the National REDD Coordination towards the finalization of the R-PP; ensuring a proper level of consultations.
- Communication material for the provincial workshops was supposed to be produced, with the support of UN-REDD but has not happened yet due to the challenges with the funding.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Studies on the analysis of causes of deforestation and forest degradation are to be launched once second tranche of FCFP financing is available.
- Pilot projects proposals for submissions to CBFF, AFD and other potential donors will be prepared with the support of a technical assistant to be hired under UN-REDD financing. An initial REDD Opportunity Scoping Exercise (ROSE), including government, civil society and private sector stakeholders, will be held in late February 2011 in order to

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provide more detail on pilot projects (in the R-PP. These pilot projects would take place in different regions of the country, dealing with different causes of deforestation and degradation.

5. Implementation Framework

- Analytical studies (funds management, benefit sharing, carbon ownership, REDD+ regulations) to be launched once the second tranche of FCPF financing is available.

6. SESA

- Terms of Reference for the SESA have been prepared as part of the R-PP. The assessment should be launched once the second tranche of FCPF financing is available.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- No activity to report at this stage. Activities to be launched once the second tranche of FCPF financing is available.

8. MRV

- The MRV component is moving forward with strong support from the World Resources Institute, which is implementing a project financed by the Congo Basin Forest Fund.
- The project "Quantification of carbon and emissions from deforestation and degradation from forests of the Republic of Congo" aims to generate accurate data, develop methods and strategies, and build relevant stakeholder platforms for measuring, accounting for and monitoring forest carbon and emissions in the Republic of Congo. The international project team is fully in place. Technical partners (Winrock, SDSU, OSFAC and Imazon) are on board. A training workshop on carbon measurement took place in October.

9. Other