

Analysis of the September 2011 version of the Republic of Congo's R-PP

Context

The Republic of Congo presented its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for assessment by the FCPF Participants Committee at its 6th meeting, held in June 2010, in Georgetown, Guyana. At this meeting, the PC adopted Resolution number PC/6/2010/3, where they decided to allocate grant funding for the Republic of Congo to enable the country to advance its REDD+ readiness process, provided that the country would submit a revised R-PP addressing all *key issues* identified in the Resolution.

The Republic of Congo submitted a revised R-PP to the FCPF FMT on March 10, 2011. At FCPF PC 10 meeting in June 2011, some PC members and observers raised concerns that not all key issues raised in resolution PC/6/2010/3 had been fully addressed.

The FMT discussed the issue with the Government of the Republic of Congo which agreed to revise the R-PP to address the concerns raised. A revised version of the R-PP was shared with the FCPF FMT on September 22. The note below presents how the remaining *key issues* have been addressed in this revised version of September, 2011. It is the FMT's view that this revised final version of the R-PP fully responds to the *key issues* identified in Resolution number PC/6/2010/3.

Remaining Key Issues raised by some PC members and observers at PC 10 and RoC's response in the revised final R-PP

| Issue | Response in the revised R-PP |
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| Better reflect in the R-PP how ongoing or planned developments in other sectors (including mining, agriculture and infrastructure development) are likely to impact deforestation and how REDD+ would potentially support the mitigation of these impacts. | The national team added information to Component 2a on the tar sands exploration project by ENI and on iron ore mining by Mining Project Development (MDP) and "Congo Iron". The team provided the most updated available data on the issue. As to how REDD+ would potentially support the mitigation of these efforts, the team notes that the National REDD+ Committee and the Department REDD+ Committees should serve as dialogue spaces for national stakeholders to build a vision for REDD+ and to discuss potential conflicts linked to natural resources management. |
| Further elaborate how the REDD+ and the VPA/FLEGT processes complement each other in addressing governance challenges, taking into account the VPA/FLEGT | The links between the REDD+ and the FLEGT process were further elaborated in box 2b1. Some concrete synergies are mentioned, including the promotion of the legality frameworks (<i>grilles de légalité</i>) prepared as part of the FLEGT process. They also clarify that the REDD+ process has a broader scope than FLEGT, as it is also concerned with other sectors beyond |

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| <p>achievements in terms of stakeholders consultations, trust building among parties and the analytical work produced</p> | <p>forests, including agriculture, energy, etc, due to the cross-cutting nature of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Finally, the Republic of Congo will deliver a presentation at the FCPF PA meeting in Berlin, on October, 17, 2011, exploring the synergies and links between the two processes. The presentation will be given by both the FLEGT and REDD+ Focal Points.</p> |
| <p>Provide more details on how monitoring of co-benefits would be carried out;</p> | <p>The budget for this activity has been increased to USD355,000. The national team is proposing the creation of an independent Observatory for REDD+, inspired by the FLEGT experience with the Independent Forest Observer (see box 2a3). The national team has also requested budget to support the <i>Agence Nationale de l'Environnement</i>, which should play a key role in implementing social and environmental safeguards in the future.</p> |
| <p>Provide more in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, especially industrial logging;</p> | <p>In component 2a, when discussing governance challenges, the national team added further information on the governance challenges in the forest sectors (conclusions from the 2007 FLEGT Workshop in Brazzaville) and provided a link to the findings of the Independent Forest Observer (REM). They also added text on the forest sector reforms implemented in the context of the HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) initiative. Further, the national team detailed the ToRs for two key studies: (i) Detailed analysis of causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including direct and indirect causes (Annex 2a); and (ii) In-depth analysis of strategic options for REDD+ in the Republic of Congo (Annex 2b).</p> |
| <p>Articulate more clearly in the R-PP how the analytical studies to be carried out during the Readiness phase will address the issues of insecure land tenure, carbon rights and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.</p> | <p>The national team provided detailed ToRs for the study on the national implementation framework for REDD+ (Annex 2c). This study should, among others, analyze the options for benefit sharing mechanisms, REDD+ funds management, and the legal aspects of the REDD+ Law to be designed and adopted as part of the Readiness process.</p> |