REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING (with semi-annual update)

COUNTRY: NIGERIA **PERIOD:** January through June 2015

Background: This country reporting framework has been developed following the structure of the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, its logical framework and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), so as to facilitate and systematize the data analysis. The semi-annual country reporting should provide the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) with indications of REDD+ countries' progress towards the achievement of their readiness activities and the implementation of their Emission Reductions programs overtime, in a way that data are easily consolidated and provide indications on the level of achievement of the FCPF output, outcome and impact indicators as defined in the FCPF M&E Framework.

Report preparation: Submitted country reports should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD + (component 6 of R-PP) and should be prepared in consultation with members of REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated into national reporting, and divergent views indicative of lack of consensus on specific issues should be recorded in the country report.

Reporting schedule: It is expected that the annual progress country reporting will be submitted to the FMT by August 15^{th} each year. The reporting should be based on a self-assessment of progress. An update of this country reporting will also be submitted by March 15^{th} each year.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This section should provide a short description of FCPF support in country (bullets on FCPF-financed activities only). Information should summarize progress, key achievements with a focus on higher level results and important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period. Highlights of next steps in following period should also be provided (key bullets only).

SUMMARY:

- Grant Agreement between the World Bank (as the FCPF Readiness Fund Trustee) and the Republic of Nigeria for the amount of US\$3.8 million was signed in February 2015
- The Government of Nigeria selection process for the two new states to join the Nigeria REDD+ Program has been completed. At the end of the above exercise, the two states that emerged are Nasarawa and Ondo. Details of the criteria used and scoring for all the States were provided to the Bank and informed preparation of the Assessment Note for FCPF support (Besides the two new pilot states, the FCPF support will target the federal level and supplement UN REDD Programme support in the Cross River State).
- Opening of a dedicated account for the FCPF Nigeria REDD readiness programme
- Revised 18 Months' Work plan and Procurement plan completed and implementation initiated (start of implementation was slowed down by the presidential and National Assembly elections in March and April 2015)

- Submission of the Designated Account Numbers and Signatories through the Federal Ministry of Finance to the World Bank
- Overall, the Nigeria REDD+ Programme has recorded some mileage since 2012 when the USD4million was approved. Progress under this component is as summarized below;
- The National Programme Steering Committee was held in February 2015 and approved the No Cost Extension by 22 months;
- A joint UNREDD, FGoN mission restructured the AWPB to refocus activities not achieved in the initial grant life span in line with the four elements of the Warsaw Framework;
- Advocacy and Outreach visits were carried out to the Deputy Governor and later to the Governor of CRS by UNDP Country Rep, UNDP RTA, UNEP RTA, CTA and NPC,
- On REDD+ Strategy, ToR for Study on Forest Valuation were developed and Circulated; NASRDA provided a geospatial assessment of drivers of deforestation for review; ToR for Study on Private Sector participation in REDD+, SFM, Policies, Laws & Regulations are being finalized for recruitment of consultants, to be lead UNEP/UNDP/FAO
- Forest Monitoring: Training on Satellite Information System was held, GIS
 Supplementary Equipment delivered to CRS, and National/CRS REDD+ Coordinators
 , MRV Expert, CTA, UNEP, UNDP Regional Technical Advisors had consultative
 meeting with Nasarawa State Geographic Information Service on technical support
 for the state's REDD+ Programme;
- FREL/FRL; Began field data collection for forest carbon inventory at CRS level, led by FAO:
- Safeguards Information System (SIS); The Safeguards Working Group has commenced development of Nigeria's Country Approach to Safeguards, National Safeguards Specialist, CSO Representative participated in a Regional Workshop on Safeguards;
- Stakeholder Engagement; Engaged 3 Pilot Site Coordinators to sustain contact and liaison with target communities; CTA visited the Pilot Area Communities and met Paramount Rulers, Clan Heads and Community members on familiarization, advocacy and mobilization; the first bi-annual meeting of the Stakeholders' Forum was held on May 7-8;
- Community Based REDD+; Designed call for Papers and Review Protocol and performed ranking of the received Concept Papers for the CBR+ SGP led by UNDP
- Meeting of the Green Economy Working Group held
- Arrangements for the second International REDD+ Academy to be hosted by Nigeria in Calabar, October 2015 are being finalized

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

The section below should provide qualitative and quantitative data on the progress towards expected results along the following subsections. Information is to be provided cumulatively. If the information requested is not available or not relevant at the time of the reporting, mention "does not apply – n/a".

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):					
Source: UN-REDD Programme	Amount provided: 4.0 million USD				
Source:	Amount provided:				
Source:	Amount provided:				
Amount of non-FCPF investments received for im Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sectors.):	•				
Source:	Amount provided:				
Source:	Amount provided:				
Source:	Amount provided:				

Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.A):

<u>Provide examples of how IPs and CSOs are represented in institutional arrangements for REDD at the</u> national level.

From prior work carried out the Nigeria UNREDD readiness programme, which the FCPF is building on, IP¹s and CSOs are represented at the National level through membership of the following institutional bodies:

- i. National Stakeholder Platform for REDD+
- ii. Women Groups
- iii. Forest Dependent Communities
- iv. Media Group for REDD+
- v. Women Environmental Programme (WEP) NGO representative in the Steering Committee
- vi. Community Forest Management groups
- vii. Universities and Research Institutions
- viii. Field Works in Stakeholder Engagement, Community Based REDD+, Sustainable Livelihood, Carbon Measurement, etc.
- ix. CSO Forum at Federal and State levels

As the REDD Programme in Nigeria was originally designed as a pilot state led activity, the active examples of stakeholder participation and engagement are found in Cross River State, which will be replicated in the two New States. In 2014 and 2015, the following initial activities under UN-REDD Programme support provided inputs to REDD+ decision-making:

- In-situ consultations with 55 communities
- Cluster meetings involving representatives from 70 communities
- Group meetings with 35 Civil Society Organizations
- Meeting with over 120 representatives from over 10 Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Local Government Councils
- Interactive forum with 40 Media representatives
- Interactive forum with 35 representatives from the Academia
- Interactive forum with over 30 representatives from the Private Sector
- Two Stakeholder Fora

The institutional structures that are emerging through these activities are listed in the following section. REDD+ Desk Officers have been appointed across relevant MDAs to strengthen inter-agency collaboration through participation in these structures and meetings. When the Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) was being carried out a PGA committee provided technical guidance in identifying and responding to governance issues in forest management.

Examples of stakeholder engagement platforms in country which meet regularly to discuss and provide inputs to the REDD+ readiness process (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.a.): The Cross River Stakeholder Forum on REDDD+ which is an independent body made up of CSOs, Forest Dependent Communities and Media has met twice, deliberated on programme implementation and community involvement in development of alternative livelihood options, forest monitoring and benefit sharing, among others.

¹ There are no Indigenous Peoples, as per the World Bank Safeguards Policies, in the project area however the program has and would ensure inclusiveness of forest enclave community dwellers and forest dependent people.

<u>Frequency</u> :
(December 2014 and
May 2015)

Once every two to three months

Recently reactivated; held first meeting in more than a year in June; expects to meet in September

About four times a year

Has just begun to meet

- Stakeholder Forum The ultimate platform for stakeholders' coordination and interaction in REDD+
- Green Economy Advisory Committee Provides technical guidance and prioritized actions to move Cross River State (CRS) on the path towards a green economy
- Safeguards Working Group Provides technical guidance to prioritize policies and measures to reduce risk and enhance benefits from REDD+ implementation
- MRV Committee Provides technical guidance in establishing a forest monitoring system and forest reference levels
- Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) Committee Provides technical guidance in developing community-based initiatives

Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs, CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.

- National UNREDD Programme budget
- Other International organisation
- Local Networks
- Academia (Technical Support)
- Government (Policy Support)
- FCPF grant support earmarked for participatory structures, stakeholder engagement, communication and consultations on REDD+

Number and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.B.):

Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:

Underway:

- How extant laws can be harmonised with customary or indigenous laws towards effective Forest management
- Policy support to coordinate MDAs for the purpose of collaborative governance
- Land Tenure reforms recognising rights of indigenous communities.

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Please describe these policy reforms:

n/a

Design of national REDD+ Strategies addresses indicators for enhancement of livelihoods of local communities and for biodiversity conservation (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.):

<u>Provide examples of how national REDD Strategies address livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation.</u>

Nigeria REDD strategy is still under development. In particular, Nigeria is piloting the Community Based REDD+(CBR+) which will focus on provision of livelihood support to forest dependent communities, being implemented in collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP). Lessons drawn from the pilot communities will be replicated in the new states and will inform national agenda. The CBR+ is being designed to fit into the outcome of the study on drivers of deforestation which forms the basis of the Nigeria REDD+ Strategy.

3. PROGRESS AT R-PP sub component level

3.1. REDD Readiness Progress

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A.): up to 300 words, if applicable

Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

N/A as Nigeria is at early stages of Readiness

Please indicate which of	your country R-PP components and sub-component	ts have received support			
from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)					
Components					
1. Readiness	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yes			
Organization and Consultation	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yes			
2. REDD+ Strategy	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Yes			
Preparation	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Yes			
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yes			
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yes			
3. Reference Emissions L	evel/Reference Levels	Yes			
4. Monitoring Systems	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	No			
for Forests and Safeguards	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	No			

Level of overall achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD) (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.):

Planned Milestones:

- ✓ Setting up operations at State levels
- ✓ Recruitment of state Project managers
- ✓ Purchase of operational Equipment
- ✓ Operational cost at State REDD+ Sec.
- ✓ Early consultations in new states
- ✓ Commencement of Country Self-Assessment for REDD+
- ✓ Commenced development of ToRs for Analytical Works for the National REDD+ Strategy

<u>Level of Achievement</u>²:

- Process initiated, informal consultations held
- Work and Procurement Plans completed

Tracking³:

		Significant progress
1		Progressing well, further development required
		Further development required
8	✓	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A		Non Applicable

Please explain why: Financial Management Arrangement will soon be finalised

² Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, on their Supplementary Grant Agreement for an additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.4 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

³ The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant will be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.

Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).

Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 15th each year

Sub-component	Progress against	Tracking ⁴	
	Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please select your light rating)

FCPF M&E Framework

⁴ The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework, The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.

Sub-compo	onent	Progress against a	nnual targets	Tracking ⁴
		Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please select your light rating)
REDD+ Mar Purpose: set readiness m arrangemen coordinate t activities wh REDD-plus i Country Selj accountabil operating m multi-sector mechanisms collaboratio supervision managemen	nagement Arrangements etting-up national enagement ents to manage and ethe REDD-plus readiness ehilst mainstreaming einto broader strategies ef-Assessment Criteria: (i) elity and transparency; (ii) enandate and budget; (iii) er coordination es and cross-sector en; (iv) technical capacity; (v) funds ent capacity; (vi) feedback ence redress mechanism	 ✓ REDD+ Management Arrangements established at national and CRS levels ✓ Setting up operations at State levels ✓ Recruitment of state Project managers ✓ Purchase of operational Equipment ✓ Operational cost at State REDD+ Sec. ✓ Early consultations in new states ✓ Commencement of Country Self-Assessment for REDD+ ✓ Commencement of development of ToRs for Analytical Works for the National REDD+ Strategy 	 The REDD+ Management Arrangements have been functioning at national and CRS level, funded under UNREDD New MRV Expert and CTA recruited and reported in January 2015, both funded by UNREDD National and CRS REDD+ Secretariat established and operational Procurement of operational equipment, Joint UNREDD FGoN review that re-focused the AWPB on achieving the four Warsaw Framework elements Processes for the new states initiated, informal consultations held (All above funded under UNREDD component) Work and Procurement Plans completed 	Significant progress Progressing well, further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable Please explain why: Financial Management Arrangement will soon be finalised

Sub-component	Progress against a	annual targets	Tracking ⁴
	Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please select your light rating)
Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	 Development of Stakeholder Plan under UNREDD component Outreach and engagement with the new Government in CRS (UNREDD) Early Consultations in new States 	 Stakeholder Plan developed through a participatory process Two meetings held with the Deputy Governor and later a Joint UNREDD mission and Technical Session were held with the New Governor and his Team Commenced outreach activities focusing on the Governors and responsible Commissioners of the new states UNREDD funded 	Significant progress Progressing well, further development required Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable Please explain why: Financial Management Arrangement will soon be finalised

	Sub-component	Progress against a	nnual targets		Tracking ⁴
		Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please se	elect your light rating)
Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance Purpose: identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to	Planned milestones	Achievements	Please expla	Significant progress Progressing well, further development required Further development required Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable tin why: Financial at Arrangement will soon
R-PP (address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications			be finalised	
	for forest law and policy				

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Sub-component	Progress against a	annual targets		Tracking ⁴
	Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please s	select your light rating)
Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies.	0			Progressing well, further development required Further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable Pain why: Financial ent Arrangement will soon d

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Sub-component	Progress against	annual targets		Tracking ⁴	
	Planned milestones Achievements		(Please select your light rating)		
Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations; (ii) guidelines for implementation; (iii) benefit sharing mechanism; (iv) national REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities			•	Significant progress Progressing well, further development required Further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable plain why: Financial ent Arrangement will soon	

Sub-component	Progress against	t annual targets		Tracking ⁴
	Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please se	lect your light rating)
Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i)) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework	 National validation workshop for SESA TORs 	Planned but not yet held	-	Significant progress Progressing well, further development Further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable In why: Financial t Arrangement will soo

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ⁴	
		Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please select your light rating)	
R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	•			Significant progress Progressing well, further development required Further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable In why: Ianagement ent will soon be finalised
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System Purpose: Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities-Forests	Collection of relevant data for REDD+ REL/RLs development; support for forest inventory and development of emission factors for forest cover change. Preparation of Forest based map, assessment of historic forest cover change (and future trend) over the reference period aligned to agreed approach. Purchase of Satellite imagery, hardware and software to prepare the forest cover change maps and estimate emissions.			Significant progress Progressing well, further development required Further development Not yet demonstrating progress Non Applicable why: Financial nt Arrangement will soon

Progress against annual targets			Tracking ⁴	
Planned milestones	Achievements	(Please	select your light rating)	
		Ø	Significant progress	
		1	Progressing well, further development required	
		8	Further development Not yet demonstrating progress	
		Manageme	Non Applicable in why: Financial ent Arrangement will soon d	
			Planned milestones Achievements (Please s	

Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E					
Framework 1.3.d.):					
	Rate	Tracking			
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements	0%	Please select your rating: Up to 10% variance with plans Between 10-25% variance with plans Between 25-40% variance with plans More than 40% variance N/A Non Applicable			

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):				
	Rate	Tracking		
Total Budget in R-PP - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (including other funding sources and FCPF Readiness Grant)	XX1,418,387.60	Please select your rating: Up to 10% variance with plans Between 10-25% variance with plans ✓ Between 25-40% variance with plans More than 40% variance N/A Non Applicable		

3.2. Engagement of stakeholders within the approach to REDD +

Examples of actions/activities where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if				
relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a.):				
Action/activity:	Describe IP, CSO, and local community participation:			
• Stakeholder Forum –	The ultimate platform for stakeholders' coordination and interaction in REDD+			
• Green Economy Advisory Committee –	Provides technical guidance and prioritized actions to move CRS on the path towards a green economy			
• Safeguards Working Group -	Provides technical guidance to prioritize policies and measures to reduce risk and enhance benefits from REDD+ implementation			
MRV Committee –	Provides technical guidance in establishing a forest monitoring system and forest reference levels			

Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) Committee - Number of IP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.): Provides technical guidance in developing community-based initiatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.):					
Please list the training	Duration	# of participants			Targets in terms of
conducted:	(# of days)	# of men / # of			number of men and
<u>comaactea</u> .	(m or days)	women			women to be trained by
					country to be defined
			_		
			4		
			8		
			N/A	$\sqrt{}$	Non Applicable
				1	

3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:			
Yes/No: No	Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period:		

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:			
Overall number by product: n/a			
# of Men:			
# of Women:			

	Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?				
Yes/No:	List the South-South learning activities:	# of men:(IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) 1 (one)			
	Joint FCPF/UNREDD Learning activities at UNREDD PBs and FCPF Pas in 2013-2015, attended by the National Coordinator REDD+, Mr. Odigha Odigha and Mr. Edwin Usang, Nigeria CSO representing Africa on UNREDD Policy Board.	man # of women: (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) Nil			

4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

This section should present any problems, difficulties or constraints faced by the country in making progress towards the intended REDD+ results (outputs, outcomes and possible impacts), the main causes and their expected effect on the work plan. Actions that have been taken to overcome or manage these constraints/flaws/problems identified should be stated. Each problem/constraint should be stated as a separate point, along with associated proposed changes in work planning for the next six month/year to address it, as relevant.

It is expected that the country monitors any changes in the assumptions that underpin the logic of intervention of FCPF at the national level and other significant risks that may arise. This section should explain through a narrative any changes in the level of risk associated with the different assumptions, or describe new risks that may have emerged and have a significant bearing on the national work-planning with respect to FCPF support for the next year and beyond, along with the associated measures required to address this change.

Reduced political will in the lead pilot state for Nigeria's REDD-readiness programme:

Elections and Politically Uncertainties in Nigeria: The period under review coincided with elections at Federal and State levels which resulted in the change in government at the Federal level and CRS. The resulting political and security uncertainties slowed down the progress of the FCPF program.

As the lead pilot state, Cross River State (CRS)'s progress is important. The most significant risk is that the new Governor of Cross River State's commitment to REDD-readiness is contingent on an unrealistic expectation of the scale and rapidity at which results-based payments can be achieved through REDD-readiness.

The National Coordinator is working with the UN-REDD programme and with FCPF team to design and conduct the following studies that will inform REDD+ strategy development and future REDD+ implementation:

- 1. Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Forest Management initiatives of relevance to REDD+ Strategy in CRS;
- 2. Assessment of the value of forest ecosystem services to CRS economy, including timber and non-timber products, and a full range of ecosystem services;
- 3. Stocktaking of financing, incentives, benefit sharing, and related financial considerations for REDD+ strategy development;
- 4. Private sector financing, investment, and engagement opportunities for REDD+ strategy development and implementation;
- 5. Assessment of Policy, legal and regulatory instruments for REDD+ Strategy development; and
- 6. Knowledge management and cross-cutting issues.

These studies will also assess the roles of key stakeholders, identify strategic opportunities and entry points for their engagement, and inform and enhance their collaboration as partners in the implementation of a sustainable REDD+ mechanism as it continues to evolve.

Policies and measures that are detached from and/or undermine REDD+ approaches in the lead pilot

state:

The CRS Forestry Commission (FC) implements policies and designs measures without discernible consideration of or interest in REDD+ readiness. Following the disbanding of the Task Force last month, the FC is now authorizing the movement of reportedly significant volumes of timber. In its design of an initiative to implement the Governor's call for a youth-employment program to address deforestation, the FC is designing enforcement and reforestation activities that may well go forward without adequate benefit/risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, or review of lessons learned from past experience (which is considerable and ranges from cautionary to inspiring). In recent years, the FC's funding was significantly reduced for activities to support sustainable forest management. Beyond the FC, other agencies authorize agricultural concessions within reserves and on forested lands in communities without due environmental impact assessment.

Limited cross-sectoral engagement and information sharing across MDAs:

The CRS climate change committee is inactive and the CRS REDD+ Technical committee, which should fall under it, is not yet established.

The National Coordinator and the REDD+ Secretariat have recommended that the Governor activate the CRS Climate Change Committee (which will address all aspects of climate change, well beyond REDD+) and establish under it the REDD+ Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will provide overall guidance to and be informed by multi-sectoral working groups noted in Section 2, above (GEWG, Safeguards WG, and MRV sub-committee). The REDD+ Programme has recommended that the State designate the following Cross River State MDAs at a minimum as members of the REDD+ Technical Committee: Forestry Commission, Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Tourism Bureau, Department of International Development Cooperation, and the Ministry of Justice. The Technical Committee may choose to form an ad hoc working group for preparation of the CRS REDD+ Strategy.

For the key institutions that manage information relevant to land use change, the State must develop effecting working relationships among at least the CRS Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, and Lands, the CRS Planning Commission, and the CRS GIA. This should include agreements for information sharing. The CRS GIA reportedly has the infrastructure in place to enable information sharing across MDAs from a common system. The CRS Surveyor General recently (August 6, 2015) met with a representative of the NAGIS (Nasarawa [State] Geographic Information Service) and exchanged ideas on approaches.

The lessons drawn from the above CRS scenarios include recognition of the risks associated with changes in political power and associated effects on political support for REDD+; the need for early mitigative dialogues with incoming authorising environments for enhanced understanding as well as improved synergy among critical Government Agencies/stakeholders; the need to introduce political safeguards as integral components of the REDD Readiness process especially in the new states, to ensure continuity of implementation activities and avoid possible choking points, etc.

5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

This section should be used to provide information on important lessons learned since the beginning of the readiness process. It is expected that this section will be fairly substantial, making reference to different lessons learned, analysis documents developed, and/or experiences made in dealing with issues of particular interest to REDD+.

- As an incentive-based mechanism dependent on international agreement among diverse nations, REDD+ needs to be well-explained to avoid creating unrealistic expectations. In Cross River State, community expectations were very high. Great efforts need to be invested in managing expectations.
- Absence of Technical Advisor in the early stages of the Project affected implementation.
- Continuous Back stopping by the Delivery Partner. The constant support received from the WB
 Country Office Nigeria proved extremely valuable right from the inception of the FCPF Component
 of the REDD+ Programme in Nigeria. The National REDD+ Secretariat was encouraged by the deep
 commitment and supervisory prowess of the Task Team. To succeed, the tempo will have to be
 maintained.
- Political Will. It is a critical success factor for REDD+ in Nigeria. However, the just concluded general elections in Nigeria came along with, in some cases, change in political will as a result of changes in Government, thereby affecting programme implementation. The need to carefully keep this on the radar in the future and commensurate outreach and advocacy plans developed and to be sprung up as soon as the need arises-.