

Update regarding the Republic of Congo's Revised Emission Reductions Program Document for the Emission Reductions Program in Sangha and Likouala

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Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

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In June 2017, the 16th Meeting of the FCPF Carbon Fund provisionally selected the Emission Reductions (ER) Program of the Republic of Congo (RoC) based on the [Emission Reductions Program Document \(ERPD\) dated April 21, 2017](#), into the portfolio of the Carbon Fund subject to fulfillment of five conditions listed in [Resolution CFM/16/2017/2](#).

The Republic of Congo submitted its [revised ERPD](#) on December 18, 2017. This note has been prepared by the FMT to provide an update regarding the fulfillment of the conditions in the Resolution.

The World Bank is following up with the RoC government regarding the pending conditions and will propose options for the Carbon Fund Participants' (CFPs) decision-making and make a recommendation.

Summary

The FMT's analysis reveals that, as of today, four out of five conditions are met, while one condition is partially met (Table 1). The three issues that are pending under Condition b) concern the adoption of laws (REDD+ decree, Forest Code, Agriculture Law), which goes beyond the control of the National REDD+ Coordination. The FMT's lawyer had alerted CFPs at the 16th Carbon Fund meeting that the adoption of laws is normally not acceptable to be imposed as a condition but it was included based on RoC's own commitment.

In the FMT's view, given that significant work has taken place to finalize the Forest Code, the delay in passing the new Forest Code cannot be interpreted as a lack of political commitment, which was the intention of this condition. Regarding the Agriculture Law, it seems that RoC overcommitted itself in June 2017 in terms of a realistic timeframe for the finalization of the law under pressure from CFPs. It is beyond the control of the National REDD+ Coordination to influence the speed of a law development process. However, the intention of the condition has been followed up upon through the Tropical Forest Alliance's (TFA) Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI). The APOI process has progressed significantly since June 2017.

It is difficult to provide a realistic assumption about the timeframe for the adoption of the three legal documents. This is not so much content-related or associated with the Government's commitment on a

REDD+ friendly legal framework but rather related to the parliamentary schedule, which is difficult to control or influence. It is possible that the two laws and the REDD+ decree would be adopted in the first half of 2018.

Table 1: Summary of FMT assessment of the five conditions listed in the Resolution

| Conditions | Met / not met |
|---|--|
| a) Submission of National REDD+ Investment Plan | Met |
| b) Publication of legal texts in the Official Journal | Partially met (2 out of 5 elements are met, 3 are pending) |
| c) Progress under TFA Africa Palm Oil Initiative | Met |
| d) Formalization of governance matrix | Met |
| e) Revision of reference level | Met |

Besides the fulfillment of the conditions, RoC has undertaken significant efforts to improve the ERPD further based on comments from CFPs and the TAP as captured in the [Chair's Summary](#) of the 16th Carbon Fund meeting. A summary of the additional revisions is provided in Annex 1.

Assessment of Condition a)

a) Finalize and submit to the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), by October 31, 2017, a comprehensive and ambitious National REDD+ Investment Plan, in accordance with the qualitative and procedural requirements of CAFI, which: 1) is endorsed by the Ministerial Chamber of the National REDD+ Committee confirming the country's high-level and cross-sectoral engagement on REDD+; and 2) will include a process for developing a national land use plan. The Republic of Congo will update the Carbon Fund Participants, through the FMT, on the steps it has taken to comply with the qualitative and procedural requirements of CAFI by December 31, 2017;

This condition contains several elements which are broken down in Table 2.

Table 2: Assessment of the various elements of Condition a)

| Conditions | Assessment |
|--|--|
| Finalize and submit to the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), by October 31, 2017, a comprehensive and ambitious National REDD+ Investment Plan, in accordance with the qualitative and procedural requirements of CAFI... | <p>This element of the condition is met in the FMT's view.</p> <p>RoC submitted its "Investment Plan for the National REDD+ Strategy 2018-2025" (NIP) to CAFI on October 2, 2017, i.e. before the October 31 deadline. It then presented the NIP at the CAFI EB meeting on October 10, 2017. Subsequently, the CAFI EB submitted its comments on November 19, 2017 (delayed by 2 weeks). The EB comments confirm that the NIP is comprehensive and ambitious in terms of expected emission reductions. The EB also welcomes a widened scope of the NIP that includes a combination of enabling (land use planning, governance, green mines, green industrial agriculture, green infrastructure) and five geographically integrated programs. Furthermore, the EB makes suggestions for improvements on several issues, e.g. the inclusion of land tenure. In line with the CAFI procedural requirements, RoC will submit a revised version of the NIP in early May 2018. The next steps will then be an independent expert review and another EB review.</p> <p>The steps that RoC has undertaken to comply with the qualitative and procedural requirements of CAFI include the organization of joint in-country missions of the CAFI EB and the World Bank. One mission took place in September 2017 to discuss an early draft of the NIP, another one in November 2017 to discuss improvements. A high-level EB mission to follow-up on policy issues related to the NIP is planned for the first week of April 2018.</p> |
| ... 1) is endorsed by the Ministerial Chamber of the National REDD+ Committee confirming the country's high-level and cross-sectoral engagement on REDD+; | <p>This element of the condition is met in the FMT's view.</p> <p>The NIP was endorsed by the National REDD+ Committee in an extraordinary session on October 18-19, 2017. The session was chaired by the President of CONAREDD, who is the Environment Advisor to the President of RoC.</p> <p>The Ministerial Chamber is not yet formalized since the issuance of the revised REDD+ decree is pending the adoption of the Forest Code (see Condition b), point ii. below). However, the participants of the extraordinary session of CONAREDD in November included participants across ministries and members of the future Ministerial Chamber. The fact that the highest cross-sectoral body</p> |

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|---|---|
| | in charge of REDD+, as specified in the Presidential decree on REDD+, adopted the NIP can therefore be taken to imply high-level commitment on the NIP. |
| ... 2) will include a process for developing a national land use plan. | This element of the condition is met. A concrete proposal for developing a national land use plan is provided in Annex 2 of the NIP. |

Conclusion: Condition a) is met to the satisfaction of the Trustee.

Assessment of Condition b)

- b) As presented by the Republic of Congo at this meeting, adopt and publish in the official journal:
- i. The decrees establishing the National Council on Land Use Management and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Use Management;
 - ii. The decree establishing in the National REDD+ Committee the Ministerial Chamber, chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Technical Chamber;
 - iii. The decree canceling the mining permits overlapping with Odzala Kokoua National Park;
 - iv. The new Forest Code, after consultations with relevant stakeholders; and
 - v. The new Agriculture Law, including specifications for agricultural activities in forest areas related to forest carbon.

This condition also contains several elements which are broken down in Table 3.

Table 3: Assessment of the various elements of Condition 2

| Conditions | Assessment |
|--|---|
| i. The decrees establishing the National Council on Land Use Management and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Use Management; | This element of the condition is met. Both decrees were published in the Official Journal of July 20, 2017: <i>i) Décret n° 2017-226 du 7 juillet 2017 fixant la composition, l'organisation et le fonctionnement du conseil national d'aménagement et de développement du territoire;</i> <i>ii) Décret n° 2017-227 du 7 juillet 2017 fixant la composition, l'organisation et le fonctionnement du comité interministériel d'aménagement et de développement du territoire.</i> Electronic copies of the journal are available from the FMT upon request. |
| ii. The decree establishing in the National REDD+ | This element of the condition is not yet met. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Committee the Ministerial Chamber, chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Technical Chamber;</p> | <p>The decree (<i>Décret modifiant le Décret n° 2015-260 du 27 Février 2015 Portant création, attributions, organisation et fonctionnement des organes de gestion de la mise en œuvre du processus REDD+</i>) is part of the full package of regulatory texts (in French: <i>textes d'application</i>) of the new Forest Code. This suite of texts underwent public consultations in October 2017. A national validation workshop took place on January 31 and February 1, 2018. Subsequently, the texts will be finalized and submitted to Parliament for promulgation together with the Forest Code. The delay is not related to the content or support of the decree but to the fact that the Government in 2017 decided to no longer adopt regulatory texts independent of the corresponding law. Regulatory texts can only be submitted as a package together with the respective law to ensure consistency. In the FMT's view it is therefore understandable that this decree could not be adopted independently from the new Forest Code.</p> |
| <p>iii. The decree canceling the mining permits overlapping with Odzala Kokoua National Park;</p> | <p>This element of the condition is met.</p> <p>The decree was signed on September 18, 2017 and published in the Official Journal No. 39-2017. Electronic copies of the journal are available from the FMT upon request.</p> |
| <p>iv. The new Forest Code, after consultations with relevant stakeholders; and</p> | <p>This element of the condition is not yet met. There are two reasons for this:</p> <p>First, a new regulation requires the submission to Parliament of the complete set of regulatory texts accompanying a law as one package for adoption. After consultations with civil society on June 15, 2017, the Ministry of Forest Economy submitted the new Forest Code on September 11, 2017 to the General Secretariat of the Government. However, the Forest Code could not be passed on to Parliament for adoption because of this new regulation.</p> <p>The Forest Code goes along with a number of regulatory texts, which are currently being finalized. A national validation workshop for the entire package of the regulatory texts took place in January 2018. The Government is currently revising the texts based on the feedback provided during the workshop. The regulatory texts are not part of the ERPD conditions (except the revised REDD+ decree as explained above). When RoC agreed to the condition in June 2017, it was not aware of this new regulation. In the FMT's view, it can be said that the intention of the condition is met because the Ministry of Forestry did conduct consultations on the Forest Code and submitted the final version for adoption. Furthermore, it has actively been working to finalize the implementation decrees. The documentation of the consultations and the new Forest Code are available from the FMT upon request.</p> <p>Second, since the legislative elections in RoC in July 2017 the new Parliament held only one session, which ended on December 15, 2017, and which exclusively considered budgetary issues. That means even if the Forest Code package had been ready in its entirety, the only parliamentary session after the 16th Carbon Fund meeting would not have been able to consider it. In the FMT's view, it is beyond the control of the National REDD+ Coordination to influence the parliamentary schedule. The delay in passing the new Forest Code can therefore not be interpreted as a lack of political commitment, which was the intention of this condition.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Next step: The Forest Code and its accompanying regulatory texts are expected to be submitted to Parliament in April 2018.</p> |
| <p>v. The new Agriculture Law, including specifications for agricultural activities in forest areas related to forest carbon.</p> | <p>This element of the condition is not yet met.</p> <p>The new Agriculture Law is still a work in progress. A draft law exists and is currently being consulted at various levels. The World Bank has contributed technical advice related to REDD+ to the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>However, the intention of the condition (to orient commercial agriculture away from natural forests) is substantially addressed through the country’s significant progress on the TFA’s APOI process (see Condition c) below). The action plan developed under APOI will feed into the revision process of the Agriculture Law. Specifically, this concerns the following national principles of the action plan:</p> <p>Principle 1: Put in place a monitoring commission to ensure that the principles on sustainable palm oil development are respected in the relevant legislation and regulations.</p> <p>Principle 6: The development of the palm oil supply chain shall be oriented towards old plantation areas and savannah land based on technical feasibility studies.</p> <p>Principle 7: The development of the palm oil supply chain shall be consistent with RSPO requirements and social and environmental REDD+ standards for agribusiness.</p> <p>In sum, it seems that RoC overcommitted itself in June 2017 as regards a realistic timeframe for the finalization of the Agriculture Law under pressure from CFPs. It is beyond the control of the National REDD+ Coordination to influence the speed of a law development process. Through the TFA APOI process, however, it has been pursuing the spirit of the condition.</p> |

Conclusion: Condition b) is partially met. Two out of five elements of the condition are met, three are pending. All three pending issues relate to the adoption of laws / a decree, which is beyond the control of the National REDD+ Coordination. There are positive developments regarding the intentions of these three issues, which confirm the country’s political commitment in the FMT’s view.

Assessment of Condition c)

c) Conduct at least one workshop and prepare draft national principles on sustainable palm oil production, in accordance with the process for the Tropical Forest Alliance's (TFA) Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI);

The RoC has significantly advanced the work under the TFA APOI. A first national workshop took place on August 22-23, 2017, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture. It resulted in the definition of 10 national principles for sustainable palm oil development and the validation of a national platform on palm oil bringing together all stakeholders involved in the palm oil supply chain in RoC. A second national workshop took place on December 14-15, 2017 and resulted in an action plan to operationalize the 10 national principles through actions in the short-, medium-, and long term. The documentation from both workshops is available upon request from the FMT.

Conclusion: Condition c) is met to the satisfaction of the Trustee, with the Government exceeding the set target.

Assessment of Condition d)

d) Formalize a governance matrix agreed upon by the Ministry of Planning, Statistics, and Regional Integration and the World Bank to monitor progress on REDD+ related policy developments, including items a) - c) above, and the organization of sessions of the two bodies mentioned under b) i. above, as needed;

A governance matrix related to REDD+ was formalized between the World Bank and the Ministry of Planning in August 2017. Its objective is to facilitate the implementation of REDD+ by strengthening the enabling policy environment, among others, for the ER Program in Sangha and Likouala. Carbon Fund conditions a) – c) are included in the governance matrix. The Minister of Planning and the World Bank Country Director, together with their respective delegations, met on October 13, 2017 at the margins of the World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, and re-confirmed the use the governance matrix as a tool for dialogue and monitoring of progress on policy developments related to REDD+. On March 13, 2018, the Minister of Planning submitted the governance matrix (as of February 1, 2018) formally to the World Bank Country Director (see Annex 2). Monitoring takes place through the World Bank Country Office in Brazzaville and the Ministry of Planning on a monthly basis.

Conclusion: Condition d) is met to the satisfaction of the Trustee.

Assessment of Condition e)

e) Revise the adjustment to the reference level by: i) removing the projected emissions associated with palm oil development in the agriculture macro-zone of Sembe; and ii) taking into consideration converted forest areas and forest areas to be converted annually under the existing palm oil concessions.

RoC has undertaken substantial efforts to improve the reference level, which go beyond the two issues listed under Condition e). The revised reference level fulfills the two conditions: i) projected emissions from the Sembe macro-zone were removed, and ii) conversions of forest areas in existing palm oil concessions were analyzed and projected emissions updated (i.e. reduced).

The additional revisions take into account CFPs' and the [Technical Advisory Panel's \(TAP\)](#) feedback and recommendations. They mainly concern simplifications of the calculations and methodology as well as alignment of the program and national level reference levels. The calculations are now reduced to one simple spreadsheet, which is available upon request from the FMT. In the FMT's view, the revisions improve the transparency of the calculations and robustness of the estimations significantly and are therefore commendable, even though they add to the changes to the reference level.

To facilitate the understanding of the revisions, this chapter is structured in three sections: i) changes directly related to Condition e); ii) additional revisions to the reference level; and iii) summary of the revised reference level.

i) Changes directly related to Condition e)

To fulfill the condition, RoC collected additional annual data from 2013 to 2016 to identify forest areas converted to palm oil plantations in the three designated agricultural areas that are part of the adjustment. This was done through manual interpretation and digitization of Landsat imagery available in CNIAF's archives. More information about this process can be provided by the FMT upon request.

Table 4 summarizes the results. They show that no conversion occurred in the Sembe zone since 2013, while a total of 1,469 ha and 356 ha were converted in the ATAMA and Eco-Oil concessions, respectively. The peaks of forest conversion were 650 ha/year for ATAMA and 152 ha/year for Eco-Oil, both in 2016.

Table 4: Actual annual forest area converted in the concessions of ATAMA, Eco-Oil and Sembe

| Year | Forest area converted per concession [ha] | | |
|--------------|---|------------|----------|
| | ATAMA | Eco-Oil | Sembe |
| 2013 | 632 | 35 | 0 |
| 2014 | 32 | 99 | 0 |
| 2015 | 156 | 70 | 0 |
| 2016 | 650 | 152 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,470 | 356 | 0 |

The additional data collection reveals that the forest area converted into palm oil plantations in the 2013-2016 period (Table 4) is much lower than the targets set in the companies' business plans until 2020 for ATAMA and 2025 for Eco-Oil and Sembe (see **Error! Reference source not found.**), which served as a documented reference for the estimations in the ERPD (April 2017 version). In that version, RoC assumed that ATAMA would convert forest area at a rate of 3,129 ha/year, Eco-Oil at a rate of 2.228 ha/year and Sembe at a rate of 3,887 ha/year.

Table 5: Target area to be planted, area of natural forest to be converted and rate of implementation in the ERPD (April 2017 version)

| | ATAMA | Eco-Oil | Sembe |
|--|--------|---------|--------|
| Area to be planted [ha] | 12,888 | 24,000 | 50,000 |
| Area of natural forest to be converted [ha] | 9,332 | 13,834 | 47,406 |
| Rate of implementation [ha/year] | 3,129 | 2,228 | 3,887 |

In line with the conditions of the Resolution, RoC has revised the areas, as shown in Table 6, assuming zero conversion in the Sembe zone (point i under Condition e) and reducing the targeted areas in the ATAMA and Eco-Oil concessions (point ii under Condition e), assuming the peak of implementation rates to reflect a realistic threat level. ATAMA and Eco-Oil were consulted to confirm the numbers presented in Table 6. These numbers are on the conservative end of assumptions about documented changes in national circumstances since they represent only the historical rates of conversion and are significantly lower than the potential for conversion based on development / business plans.

Table 6: Target area to be planted, area of natural forest to be converted and rate of implementation in the revised ERPD (version December 2017)

| | ATAMA | Eco-Oil | Sembe |
|--|--------|---------|--------|
| Area to be planted [ha] | 12,888 | 15,000 | 50,000 |
| Area of natural forest to be converted [ha] | 12,888 | 14,500 | 0 |
| Rate of implementation [ha/year] | 650 | 150 | 0 |

This has a substantial impact on the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions forecasts in the revised ERPD (December 2017 version): The expected average GHG emissions in palm oil concessions during the ER Program period are now 13% of what was assumed in the April 2017 version of the ERPD (Table 7).

Table 7: Comparison of expected annual GHG emissions from palm oil concessions in the April 2017 and December 2017 version of the ERPD

| Year | GHG emissions in April 2017 version of ERPD [tCO ₂ /year] | GHG emissions in December 2017 version of ERPD [tCO ₂ /year] |
|----------------|--|---|
| 2018 | 1,260,080 | 317,304 |
| 2019 | 3,341,980 | 317,304 |
| 2020 | 3,212,148 | 390,528 |
| 2021 | 3,212,148 | 390,528 |
| 2022 | 3,212,148 | 390,528 |
| 2023 | 3,212,148 | 390,528 |
| Annual average | 2,908,442 | 366,120 |

Conclusion: Condition e) is met to the satisfaction of the Trustee.

ii) Additional revisions to the reference level

Reference period: CFPs requested clarification on the length of the reference period and encouraged a reference period more compliant with the Methodological Framework. The TAP also raised concerns as the adjustment did not use as a basis the GHG emissions trends observed during the reference period. Therefore, RoC changed the reference period from 2003-2012 to 2005-2014. Deforestation and forest degradation in this period were estimated through interpolation considering the estimates in the periods 2003-2012 and 2013-2016. Table 8 provides an excerpt of the calculation spreadsheet showing the calculation of the interpolation. More detailed information can be found in Chapter 8.1 of the revised ERPD.

Table 8: Interpolation using data from 2003-2012 and 2013-2016 to estimate deforestation and degradation in the reference period 2005-2014

| | 2003-2012 | 2013-2016 | Years in 2003-2012 | Years in 2013-2016 | 2005-2014 (ha/year) | Relative error at 95% of confidence |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| DF Foret terre ferme | 8,357.1 | 14,445.4 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 9,574.8 | 37% |
| DF Foret marécageuse | 301.9 | 0.0 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 241.5 | 117% |
| DG Foret terre ferme | 11,652.1 | 21,668.4 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 13,655.4 | 19% |
| DG Foret marécageuse | 289.4 | 1,766.2 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 584.8 | 109% |

Forest types: To reduce complexity, improve transparency and improve the accuracy, RoC simplified the land use land cover classification system to a technically feasible system which is aligned to the national system. The national system distinguishes between *Terra firma* Forest, Wetland Forest and Non-Forest.

That means that the classification legend was reduced from 7 to 3 classes, namely ***Terra firma* Forest, Wetland Forest and Non-Forest**.

With this new classification, deforestation is the conversion of the two forest types to non-forest and forest degradation is a partial loss in canopy in *Terra firma* Forest and Wetland Forests. Emission factors were also updated accordingly (using the same source data like in the April 2017 version of the ERPD, i.e. biomass map). The implication of this change is a 5% increase in GHG emissions in the period 2003-2012 (Table 9). The FMT considers the new data to be a more accurate estimate (see next point) and that this simplification does not have a major impact on expected emission reductions. More detailed information can be found in Chapters 8.2 and 8.3 of the revised ERPD.

Estimates for forest degradation are based on the currently available data. According to CN-REDD and FAO, RoC will gain access to the whole SPOT archive in 2018 through OSFACO, which will help to further improve the estimates for forest degradation. Moreover, RoC is working with the EU Joint Research Center (JRC) regarding a methodology to detect forest degradation.

Table 9: Comparison of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the period 2003-2012 between the April 2017 and December 2017 versions of the ERPD

| | Emissions from deforestation (tCO₂/yr) 2003-2012 | Emissions from degradation (tCO₂/yr) 2003-2012 | Total Reference Level (tCO₂/yr) |
|---|--|--|---|
| ERPD (April 2017) | 3,666,847 | 2,460,368 | 6,127,215 |
| Revised ERPD (December 2017) | 4,165,579 | 2,324,797 | 6,490,376 |

Activity Data: The estimates of activity data for the 2003-2012 and 2012-2015 periods in the April 2017 version of the ERPD were calculated through proxies for different forest types for two reasons. First, the accuracy assessment for the 2003-2012 period was conducted only for change in forest/non-forest. It did not distinguish between different forest types. Second, no accuracy assessment was conducted for 2012-2015, i.e. only map estimates based on pixel counts were available. Since no real estimate of activity data was available per forest type for both periods, a proxy derived from a two-step process was used in the revised ERPD:

- a) A map “correction factor” was calculated using the map pixel counts and the estimate for deforestation and degradation from the 2003-2012 accuracy assessment.
- b) This correction factor was applied to all transitions from the pixel counts of the maps, i.e. deforestation of all 4 forest types to the 2 non-forest types and degradation of all 4 forest types.

This method is not accurate enough since the bias of activity data is not the same across all land cover classes and periods (e.g. wetland forest is overestimated in the maps). To correct this in the revised ERPD, RoC estimated directly the activity data for deforestation and degradation for *Terra firma* Forest and Wetland Forest i) in 2003-2012 using the same data of the accuracy assessment but reclassifying manually the points of deforestation and degradation on whether they occur on wetland or forestland, and ii) in the period 2013-2016 conducting a full new accuracy assessment following the guidance

provided by Olofsson et al. (2014). More information can be found in Chapter 8.3 of the revised ERPD. These two estimates showed an increase in deforestation and deforestation in all two forest types from the period 2003-2012 to 2013-2016 (Figure 1).

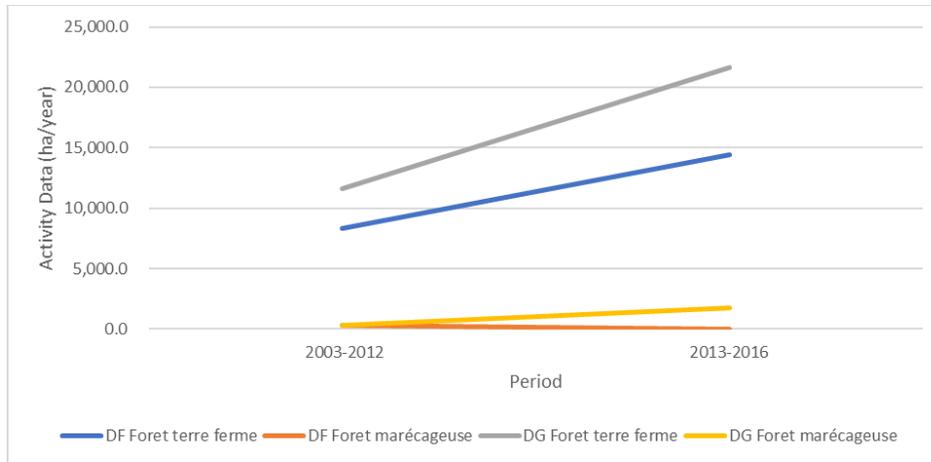


Figure 1. Deforestation and degradation in 2003-2012 and 2013-2016

Adjustment: The adjustment calculation was simplified. In addition to the revisions related to Condition e) (see above), the adjustment for roads was eliminated since there were some indications of double counting with other types of adjustments as discussed at the Carbon Fund meeting. Moreover, the April 2017 version of the ERPD estimated the first adjustment (acceleration of drivers), assuming deforestation and degradation would increase from a rate of 2003-2012 to the average of the rates of 2003-2012 and 2012-2015. This was not accurate as in reality rates increased from 2003-2012 to 2012-2015. In the revised ERPD, it is assumed that deforestation and degradation will increase to the level of 2013-2016 instead, which increases the adjustment significantly. In sum, the following four types of adjustments are included in the revised ERPD:

- Acceleration of deforestation and degradation (increased from 2003-2012 to 2013-2016);
- Increase in population (only applicable to deforestation and degradation outside of forest production areas);
- New forest concessions (3 new forest concessions entering into operation);
- Designated agricultural areas (palm oil, see above).

The cap or allowable adjustment, calculated as 0.1% by the total forest carbon stocks, was also revised (lowered) considering the new forest area estimates for *Terra firma* Forest and Wetland Forest (map pixel counts were replaced by stratified estimates).

Uncertainty: The revised ERPD applies a full Tier 1 approach and presents it in a transparent way.

iii) Summary of the revised reference level

The entirety of updates resulted in a revised estimate of the reference level from **12,857,563 tCO₂/year to 12,903,797 tCO₂/year**. While the adjustment was reduced by more than 1 million tCO₂/year, the average historical GHG emissions in the reference period increased because of the new reference period (Table 10).

Table 10: Comparison of the reference levels in the April 2017 and December 2017 versions of the ERPD

| | Emissions from deforestation (tCO ₂ /yr) reference period | Emissions from degradation (tCO ₂ /yr) reference period | Adjustment (tCO ₂ /year) | Total Reference Level (tCO ₂ /yr) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| ERPD (April 2017) | 3,666,847 | 2,460,368 | 6,730,348 | 12,857,563 |
| Revised ERPD (December 2017) | 4,742,795 | 2,764,933 | 5,396,069 | 12,903,797 |

Figure 2 shows the revised reference level based on the new reference period and modifications to the adjustments. The change in the reference period led to an increase of historical emissions of around 1.3 million tCO₂/year.

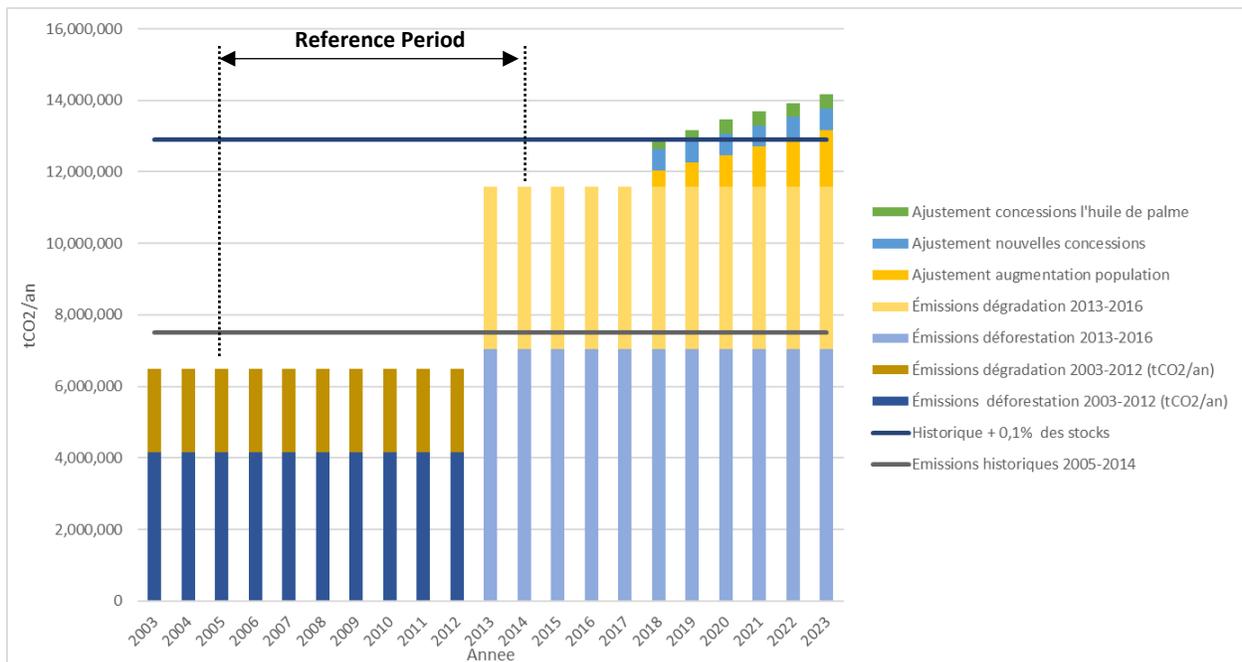


Figure 2: Summary of historical emissions, projected GHG emissions and reference level in the revised ERPD (December 2017)

The main difference in the revised ERPD is the contribution of the adjustment to the reference level (Table 11). With the revised reference level, and considering the GHG emissions in the period 2013-2016, RoC today is at 75% of the capped adjustment. In the April 2017 version of the ERPD, the contribution was much lower, 64% considering also the additional adjustments for population growth

and roads. In other words, the contribution of the adjustment, e.g. projected emissions, is significantly lower in the revised ERPD.

Table 11: Comparison of the contribution of different adjustments to the reference level in 2018.

** The April 2017 number includes the adjustment for roads*

| | Adjustment 2013-2016 | Adjustment for population growth* | Adjustment for additional forestry concessions | Adjustment for palm oil plantations |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| ERPD (April 2017) | 64% | | 12% | 24% |
| Revised ERPD (December 2017) | 75% | 8% | 11% | 6% |

Annex 1: Further modifications to the ERPD taking into consideration recommendations from Chair’s Summary of the 16th Carbon Fund meeting

| Recommendations | Technical corrections in the revised ERPD | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---|-----|
| <p>Elaborate on the management of risks related to potential GHG emissions from peatlands by monitoring soil organic carbon and non-CO₂</p> | <p>The April 2017 version of the ERPD used activity data in an incorrect way. The accuracy assessment didn’t distinguish between forest types, so the deforestation and degradation estimates for forest were allocated to each forest type using the proportion of deforestation per forest type given the pixel counts of the maps. This proxy is not correct since the classification of forest types has very substantial errors, mainly concerning Wetland Forest. Therefore, the classification legend has been reduced to Wetland Forest and <i>Terra firma</i> Forest.</p> <p>Chapter 9.1 now includes specific provisions for the monitoring of deforestation in Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) pool and non-CO₂ emissions in peatlands (Wetland Forest). It also includes an estimate of historical GHG emissions in peatlands that could be set as a benchmark to assess specific emissions in peatlands.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Improve uncertainty analysis related to the use of the Monte Carlo method (Indicator 9.1).</p> | <p>Chapter 12 was revised. A Tier 1 method of propagation of uncertainty is used instead of Tier 2, since RoC does not have the capacity today for the implementation of Monte Carlo simulations. Tier 1 was applied adequately as most of the sources were considered, including in the adjustment.</p> <p>Uncertainty in the April 2017 version was around 36%-39% because the uncertainty of the predicted GHG emissions was considered. In the December 2017 version this is reduced to 22% because the uncertainty of historical GHG emissions + the cap is used instead.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="594 1453 1360 1619"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="594 1453 1003 1520"></th> <th data-bbox="1003 1453 1360 1520">Relative margin of error at 95%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="594 1520 1003 1556">Uncertainty of adjusted emissions</td> <td data-bbox="1003 1520 1360 1556">36-39%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="594 1556 1003 1619">Uncertainty of historical emissions + the cap</td> <td data-bbox="1003 1556 1360 1619">22%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Relative margin of error at 95% | Uncertainty of adjusted emissions | 36-39% | Uncertainty of historical emissions + the cap | 22% |
| | Relative margin of error at 95% | | | | | | |
| Uncertainty of adjusted emissions | 36-39% | | | | | | |
| Uncertainty of historical emissions + the cap | 22% | | | | | | |
| <p>Clarify that no threshold will be applied to account for reversals (Indicator 21.1).</p> | <p>This is corrected in the revised ERPD. No threshold is applied.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Elaborate on the mitigation of reversal risks to address the sustainability of ERs beyond</p> | <p>ER Program design features to prevent and mitigate reversals were added in Chapter 11.2.</p> | | | | | | |

| Recommendations | Technical corrections in the revised ERPD |
|---|---|
| the term of the ERPA (Indicator 18.2). | |
| Explain the steps intended to achieve consistency with the country's GHG inventory (Indicator 10.3). | RoC added respective information about the steps. This is one of the activities pending for 2018, which will seek to integrate the data to establish the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) into the national GHG inventory (upcoming National Communication) and use the data of the reference level where possible. |
| Clarify the reference period for the historical emissions. | This has been one of the main changes. The reference period has been changed from 2003-2012 to 2005-2014. This addresses the CFPs question on why the country did not use a MF compliant reference period, as well as addressing the issue raised by the TAP on why the data of the reference period was not used for setting the adjustment. |
| Clarify that mining concessions are not part of the quantification of the adjustment | The confusing references have been deleted to confirm that mining concessions are not part of the adjustment. |
| Outline the financing strategy for MRV | The financing strategy is included in the revised ERPD (Chapter 6.2). |
| Explain the steps to develop the transaction registry | The steps are explained in Chapter 18.2. |
| Review the assumptions for carbon accounting of the conversion of open natural forest to degraded forest | This has been corrected. Any conversion of forest to plantations will be measured as deforestation if there is a clear-cut prior to planting. Conversion to agroforestry systems with maintenance of the canopy will be reflected as degradation. The revised ERPD provides requirements to take this into consideration for monitoring to ensure consistency with the reference level. |
| Provide the plan to build capacities for ER Program implementation | Chapter 6.1 outlines activities to build capacities are outlined. |
| Provide information on the areas planted and to be planted annually under the existing palm oil concessions | Chapter 8.6 provides this information. |

CABINET

N° 161.18 // /MPSIR/CAB.

Brazzaville, le 13 MARS 2018

*Le Ministre
Gouverneur de la Banque Mondiale
pour la République du Congo*

A

Monsieur le Représentant résident
de la Banque Mondiale au Congo

-Brazzaville-

Objet : Transmission de la matrice de gouvernance du processus REDD+, relative aux actions à mener pour aboutir au ER-Programme Sangha Likouala

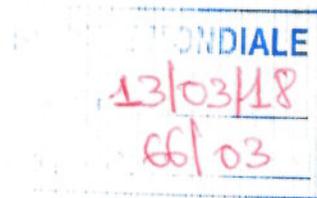
Monsieur le Représentant Résident,

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, pour suivi conjoint, la version finale de la matrice de gouvernance du processus REDD+.

Recevez, monsieur le Représentant Résident, l'expression de ma parfaite considération.



Ingrid Olga Ghislaine EBOUKA-BABACKAS



REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO
Unité * Travail * Progrès



MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE FORESTIERE

**PROGRAMME DE GOUVERNANCE DU PROCESSUS DE RÉDUCTION DES ÉMISSIONS
ISSUES DE LA DÉFORESTATION ET DE LA DÉGRADATION FORESTIÈRE (REDD+)**

Matrice des actions à mener conjointement par le Gouvernement de la République du Congo et la Banque mondiale

Objectifs :

- Créer les préalables nécessaires pour faire aboutir le Programme de réduction des émissions Sangha-Likouala suite à l'approbation provisoire par les membres Fonds de Partenariat pour le Carbone Forestier (FCPF),
- Augmenter les chances de faire accepter des futures propositions financières REDD+ (CAFI, FIP, FVC) et
- Faciliter la mise en œuvre de la REDD+

Fréquence du suivi :

Tous les mois à compter du 1 août 2017.

Le document sera mis à jour lors de chaque séance de suivi, avec l'option de rajouter des mesures politiques au besoin.

(Version actualisée du 1^{er} Février 2018)

| N° | Mesures | Échéance | Indicateurs | Responsable | Progrès à jour |
|----|--|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1. | Publier les décrets créant le Conseil national d'aménagement du territoire et le Comité interministériel en cas de superposition des usages dans les écosystèmes naturels | 31 juillet 2017 | Publication des décrets dans le journal officiel | Secrétaire Général de la Présidence | Les décrets ont été approuvés en Conseil des Ministres en juin 2017 et publiés au journal officiel le 20 juillet 2017. |
| 2. | Publier, suite à la décision prise par le Comité interministériel en cas de superposition des usages dans les écosystèmes naturels, l'arrêté annulant les permis miniers chevauchant avec le Parc National Odzala-Kokoua | 31 juillet 2017 | Publication de l'arrêté sur le site web du gouvernement | Point focal REDD+ au Ministère des mines | L'arrêté a été signé par le Ministre des Mines le 18 août 2017. Il a été publié dans les canaux officiels. |
| 3. | Analyser les concessions minières octroyées en 2016 dans la Sangha et la Likouala en chevauchement avec les concessions de conservation des concessions forestières | 31 août 2017 | Publication des décisions du Conseil | CONA-REDD / Conseil national d'aménagement du territoire | Le CONA-REDD a examiné cette question lors de sa session d'octobre 2017. Le Conseil National analysera la situation en fonction des plaintesportées à sa diligence. |
| 4. | Organiser d'autres réunions du Conseil national d'aménagement du territoire et le Comité interministériel en cas de superposition des usages dans les écosystèmes naturels au besoin | Au besoin | Publication des décisions | Cabinet du Premier Ministre | Les Comité/Conseil National tiendra des sessions au fur et à la mesure que des soumissions lui seront faites. |

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| 5. | Créer une chambre ministérielle du CONA-REDD présidée par le Premier Ministre | 31 juillet 2017 | Publication du décret dans le journal officiel | MEF | La rédaction des textes d'application du Code forestier a intégré ce volet. Les procédures de validation ont eu lieu en Janvier 2017, pour une soumission au conseil des Ministres. L'avant projet de loi portant code forestier sera adopté par le parlement. Il est actuellement à la Cours Suprême pour examen. |
| 6. | Publier le nouveau code forestier et ses textes d'application, après consultation avec l'ensemble des parties prenantes | 31 octobre 2017 | Publication du code et des décrets dans le journal officiel | MEF | L'avant projet de loi portant régime forestier (Code forestier) a été soumis au Secrétariat général du Gouvernement le 11 septembre 2017. Celui-ci l'a transmis à Cours Suprême pour validation. Il sera promulgué à la suite de l'examen par la Cours Suprême et le Parlement. Les textes d'application seront promulgués à la suite de la promulgation de la loi portant code forestier. |

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| 7. | Publier la nouvelle loi d'agriculture, y compris des spécifications en matière de conservation du carbone forestier pour les activités agricoles dans les zones forestières | 31 octobre 2017 | Publication du code et des décrets dans le journal officiel | MAEP | Le draft de la loi est en cours d'examen par les instances compétentes de la République. Les dispositions seront prises pour veiller à ce que les aspects REDD+ soient intégrées dans la loi. |
| 8. | Organiser au moins un atelier et préparer un draft de principes nationaux pour la production durable d'huile de palme, au travers de l'initiative Huile de Palme en Afrique (APOI) | 30 novembre 2017 | Le draft des principes nationaux pour la production durable du palmier à huile a connu la participation des parties prenantes | MAEP | Un atelier de la Tropical Forest Alliance a eu lieu les 22 et 23 août 2017. Un draft de normes de palmier durable a été élaboré. |
| 9. | Finaliser les principes nationaux pour la production durable d'huile de palme et les formaliser | 31 janvier 2018 | Publication des principes et du plan d'action | MAEP | Un deuxième atelier sera organisé pour finaliser les principes qui seront intégrés dans un texte d'application de la loi agricole. |
| 10. | Assurer l'exhaustivité de la Stratégie Nationale REDD+ et assurer sa cohérence avec le Plan d'investissement | 4 septembre 2017 | Publication de la mouture finale sur le site web du MEF | MEF/ CN-REDD | Le CONA-REDD a siégé en Octobre 2017 pour adopter la version finale de la Stratégie. Celle-ci a été transmise au Conseil des ministres en novembre, avant la séance du Sous- |

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| | | | | | Comité du Programme pour l'investissement forestier (PIF) en décembre. |
| 11. | Finaliser le Plan d'investissement de la Stratégie Nationale REDD+ exhaustif et ambitieux pour soumission au PIF et au CAFI | 31 Octobre 2017 | Le Plan a été soumis | Primature / MEF / CN-REDD | Le draft avancé sera soumis au CAFI le 2 octobre, et au PIF le 31 octobre. |

Fait à Brazzaville, le **14 FEV. 2018**

La Ministre de l'Economie Forestière,



Rosalie MATONDO