

Please find below the comments from the European Commission concerning the RoC R-PP evaluation.

- The European Commission has taken note of the revised version of the RPP. It welcomes progress made by the Republic of Congo in their revised R-PP and congratulates the Republic of Congo for their efforts.

- It takes note positively of the progress made in stakeholder consultations. These stakeholder consultations have taken place after the recommendations from the PC in June 2010, both at national and departmental levels, associating a broad range of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and representatives of the civil society. It will be important to continue associating stakeholders in the RPP implementation phase.

- The Commission welcomes the improvements made on MRV, in particular the elaboration of co-benefits and impacts, as it is essential for sustainable implementation. Articulation of MRV with existing local and international frameworks, particularly on forest governance, would be an added value.

- It encourages the Republic of Congo to pursue further analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Envisaged studies on that subject (section 5, p 48) will be crucial for designing a sound REDD+ strategy.

- The Commission congratulates the Republic of Congo for its engagement in a FLEGT VPA and for tackling the governance challenges, which are one of the drivers of deforestation. A swift implementation of the VPA will contribute positively and significantly to some of the key components of the REDD strategy (notably a timber legality assurance system, a tracking system, capacity building of the forestry administration, reinforcing the adoption of management plans, independent observation - see option 2, pages 56 to 60).

- The links between REDD+ and FLEGT could be further explored, elaborated and translated into concrete actions in the Republic of Congo;

- The European Commission supports the adoption of the revised R-PP and looks forward to receiving further information on these elements in due course of RPP implementation.