

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
(FCPF READINESS FUND)
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.:

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: December 22, 2011

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Republic of Congo	Project ID: P124292	
	Additional Project ID (if any):	
Project Name: CG - FCPF REDD Readiness		
Task Team Leader: Simon Rietbergen		
Estimated Appraisal Date: N/A	FCPF Grant signed on December 12, 2011	
Managing Unit: AFTEN	Lending Instrument: TF Grant	
Sector: Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry		
Theme: Climate Change and Forestry		
FCPF Amount (US\$m.): US \$ 3.4 million		
Other financing amounts by source:		
Environmental Category: B		
Simplified Processing	Simple <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repeater <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this a transferred project	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. Project Objectives [from section 2 of R-PP Assessment Note]:

The Project Development Objective is to reinforce the Republic of Congo's capacities to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and to inform the development of a national reference emissions level for REDD+.

Key Results

1. A National REDD+ Strategy (including its implementation framework) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders;
2. The prospective elements to build a National Reference Emission Level for REDD+ are available;
3. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders.

C. Project Description [from section 3 of R-PP Assessment Note]:

The activities to be financed by the FCPF in the Republic of Congo will allow the country to implement some of the key elements of the REDD+ Readiness process identified in the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) prepared by the country and approved by the FCPF Participants Committee, in June 2010. FCPF support will ensure the continuation of the Readiness process in the country, by financing the management of the Readiness process and multi-stakeholders consultations. In addition, FCPF financing will support the preparation of key analytical pieces such as the REDD+ strategy and its legal and institutional implementation framework, and the incorporation social and environmental sustainability issues of importance to various stakeholders into the REDD+ Strategy through the strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) process. Finally, FCPF support will allow the country to achieve some key methodological results for participating in a REDD+ mechanism, mainly informing the preparation of a national reference emission level for REDD+.

The overall budget envelope for REDD+ Readiness in the Republic of Congo adds up to USD15.5 million, including USD8 million for the implementation of pilot REDD+ projects. The country has identified other partners to finance other activities identified in R-PP, including the UN-REDD Program (up to USD4 million), and the Government of the Republic of Congo (USD0.6 million). The *Agence Française de Développement* and USAID, through Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), has also expressed interest in supporting the process. Annex 4 presents the overall budget for the REDD+ Readiness process in the Republic of Congo. It should be noted that the support from these organizations is not considered co-financing to the FCPF-financed activities; they will rather finance a series of independent activities that directly contribute to the overall goal of supporting the Republic of Congo in becoming ready for REDD+.

The table below summarizes the activities to be financed by the FCPF.¹ These activities have been selected in discussion with the government, taking into account: (i) comparative advantage of the World Bank as delivery Partner and coordination with other donors, (ii) priority/urgency, (iii) eligibility. The establishment of a MRV system is a key pillar of REDD+ Readiness, and will be supported by the UN-REDD Program, drawing on the expertise of, and already-ongoing activities at the regional level by FAO. Coordination with the UN-REDD program will be ensured through: i) joint supervision missions; ii) intense communication between the programs; iii) use of the R-PP by the two programs as the overall document providing guidance for support to the national REDD+ readiness process; iv) having the same interlocutor at the government level (the National REDD+ Coordination at the Ministry of Environment).

It should be noted that the activities to be financed by the FCPF in support of the REDD+ Readiness process in the Republic of Congo do not include the implementation of REDD+ programs on the ground. The FCPF support is limited to analytical studies, capacity building, and consultation processes at the national and sub-national levels. Republic of Congo expects to leverage resources from other donors to pilot a limited number of REDD+ projects. The FCPF support will run for three years.

¹ The components listed in this Assessment Note does not adhere to the same categorization as used in the R-PP.

Activity	Budget (in USD million)
Component 1: Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-stakeholder Consultations	\$2.1
<i>1.1 – Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process</i>	<i>\$1.6</i>
Recruitment of staff for the National REDD Coordination	
Capacity building for National Coordination	
Functioning of the REDD Coordination	
Equipment for National REDD Coordination	
Fiduciary management of the FCPF funds and annual audits	
<i>1.2 – Promotion of Multi-stakeholder Consultations</i>	<i>\$0.5</i>
Technical workshops at national and department levels	
Awareness raising on REDD+	
Component 2: Contribution to the design of a national REDD+ Strategy	\$1.1
<i>2.1 - Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy</i>	<i>\$0.5</i>
In-depth analysis of causes of deforestation and degradation	
Analysis of strategic options to address causes of deforestation and degradation	
<i>2.2 – Preparation of the REDD+ Implementation Framework</i>	<i>\$0.3</i>
Analysis of the main elements for a national implementation framework for REDD+ in the Republic of Congo	
<i>2.3 – Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment</i>	<i>\$0.3</i>
Conduct a SESA in the Republic of Congo	
Component 3 – Informing the National Reference Emissions Level for REDD+	\$0.2
Analysis of future pressure on forests	
Support to national household survey	
TOTAL	\$3.4

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known):

It should be noted that the activities to be financed by the FCPF in support of the REDD+ Readiness process in the Republic of Congo do not include the implementation of REDD+ programs on the ground. The FCPF support is limited to analytical studies, capacity building, and consultation processes at the national and sub-national levels.

E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

National institutional capacity for the monitoring and implementation of safeguards is weak in the Republic of Congo. The General Environment Directorate (*Direction Générale de l'Environnement*) at the MDDEFE has overall responsibility for assessing and validating environmental impact assessments. However, their institutional and human capacity is still rather limited. A National Environment Agency (*Agence Nationale de l'Environnement*) is expected to be created under the new Framework Environment Law currently under discussion. The UNDP is supporting the government in working out the institutional contours, work plan and budget for the agency. The WB Forest and Economic Diversification Project will also support the strengthening of the country's capacity to implement environmental and social safeguards policies. The FCPF grant will finance the recruitment of an Expert on Social and Environmental Impact for the National REDD Coordination at the MDDEFE.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team:

Paul Martin	Sr. Environmental Specialist, AFTEN (CO)
Antoine Lema	Sr. Social Development Specialist, AFTCS (CO)
Marc Rodriguez	Social Specialist, Consultant

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
<p>It is envisioned that the safeguards policies mentioned below may be triggered in the REDD+ Readiness process.</p> <p>The readiness preparation phase is meant primarily for technical assistance and capacity building activities. The grant will not finance any implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground (investments, pilot activities). In order to identify risks and potential consequences (both negative and positive) from the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, the country will carry out a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, which should ensure: i) the integration of social and environmental considerations into the final REDD+ Strategy; ii) a participatory process for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy; and iii) the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to support the country in managing and mitigating potential future negative consequences and enhancing opportunities from the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to be carried out under the project will serve to identify, avoid, and mitigate the potential negative environmental and social impacts associated with the final REDD+ Strategy. It will also serve to identify and promote potentially positive impacts and benefit sharing opportunities in connection with the Strategy. The SESA will influence the final national REDD+ Strategy, by ensuring that the consideration of social and environmental risks and potential impacts is a factor in its preparation. It will also provide guidance and key elements for the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).</p>			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
<p>The application of this policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy take into account the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the numerous environmental services and products that natural habitats provide to human society. Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on natural habitats, as the country puts in place an effective strategy to reduce loss of natural forests. The SESA will address issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts of the National REDD+ Strategy, which will later be included in the ESMF.</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities. Potential impact of the National REDD+ Strategy on natural forests will be assessed through the SESA and included in the ESMF. The SESA and associated ESMF will reflect the requirements of the Bank's Operational Policy regarding forest management, in particular as these relate to the establishment of plantations.			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)			X
This policy could be triggered depending on the final scope of the National REDD+ Strategy. Agricultural intensification and reforestation activities, for instance, could trigger the policy, depending on the methods employed by concrete activities on the ground to manage pests. The SESA will address critical issues related to pest management, as necessary, and these will also be included in the key elements for the ESMF.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)			X
This policy could be triggered if REDD+ activities promote actions in areas containing sites deemed physical cultural resources by the Indigenous Peoples living there (e.g. holy sites such as sacred groves, sacred forests, etc.). Though it is not anticipated that the project will have negative impacts on any such sites, the existence of any such sites and the corresponding need to trigger this policy will be determined once the National REDD+ Strategy is completed.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
It is likely that some of the activities to be implemented as part of the National REDD+ Strategy would take place in areas inhabited by Indigenous Peoples (pygmies). This policy underscores the need for the government of the Republic of Congo to identify Indigenous Peoples, consult with them properly, and ensure that they participate in, and benefit from, REDD+ activities. Adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be avoided. Drawing on the SESA, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be prepared, and integrated into the ESMF.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
REDD+ activities will trigger Involuntary Resettlement in situations involving involuntary land acquisition and/or involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks, protected areas, or forest management / reforestation areas. The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent feasible, or to minimize and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts in cases where resettlement or other involuntary restrictions cannot be avoided. Through the SESA process, any issues related to land acquisition or restriction of access will be identified, and a Resettlement Policy Framework will be prepared as part of the ESMF. To help identify and mitigate restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas, a Process Framework will be prepared as part of the ESMF.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

- A. Target date for review meeting of REDD Country's mid-term progress report, at which time the ISDS may be updated as needed: N/A

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing² should be specified in the initial ISDS and/or updated ISDS: The SESA should be launched four months after Grant Signature.

The Project will not finance at this stage any concrete investment activities on the ground and is thus not expected to have any direct environmental and social impact on the ground. However, it is considered that the Project might have indirect impacts in the sense that the findings from analytical work carried out under the Project may influence the design of the national REDD+ Strategy.

In order to influence the national REDD+ strategy by considering the potential environmental and social risks associated with the National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework, as well as to consider potential alternatives and mitigation actions, the Republic of Congo will conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). This will entail a participatory analysis of the emerging strategic options to achieve REDD+, seeking to identify social and environmental risks and benefit sharing opportunities so as to influence the final REDD+ strategy. The SESA exercise also entails the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to manage the potential social and environmental impacts from the implementation of the strategic options, including the identification of potential impact mitigation activities in case of negative impacts, and the inclusion of an Environmental Management Framework, and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and a Process Framework. In this manner SESA and the ESMF can ensure compliance with World Bank's environmental and social safeguards.

Draft Terms of Reference of the SESA have been prepared by the National REDD+ Coordination as part of the R-PP. These will be finetuned during implementation of the R-PP and prior to the launch of the full-fledged SESA exercise, and should be validated by the stakeholders.

The SESA exercise requires that the selection of REDD+ strategy options should take into account the country's institutional and capacity constraints for managing environmental and social risks, and the potential environmental and social impacts associated with these strategy

² Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in-country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

options. Any identified gaps to manage these risks and potential impacts in relation to relevant World Bank's safeguard policies should be identified along with the strategy options to feed into the preparation of the ESMF. The ESMF will provide a framework to manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts related to specific projects and activities (including investments and carbon finance transactions), in the context of the future implementation of REDD+.

The ESMF will be structured to contain subject-specific frameworks addressing the relevant requirements of the applicable environmental and social safeguard policies including, but not necessarily limited to, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Process Framework (PF) and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF). The ESMF will be updated as the Republic of Congo gets closer to the submission of its Readiness Package.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Name: Simon Rietbergen	22 Nov 2011
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name Alexandra C. Bezeredi	22 Dec 2011
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Name: Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough	
Comments:		