

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, April 20, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 5)

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) *FCPF REDD Country Participant R-PPs will be reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body, taking TAP comments into account. External (Technical Advisory Panel or other) and Bank reviewers may provide recommendations on how a draft R-PP could be enhanced, using this template on a pilot basis until a process is approved by the PC.*
- 2) *One set of criteria should be used for review: specific standards each of the current 6 components of an R-PP should be met.*
- 3) *Your comments will be merged with other reviewer comments (without individual attribution) into a synthesis document that will be made public, in general, so bear this in mind when commenting.*
- 4) *Please provide thoughtful, fair assessment of the draft R-PP, in the form of actionable recommendations for the potential enhancement of the R-PP by the submitting country. A REDD Country Participant would be allowed three submissions of an R-PP to the PC for consideration.*

Objectives of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (condensed directly from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

The purpose of the R-PP is to build and elaborate on the previous Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) or a country's relevant comparable work, to assist a country in laying out and organizing the steps needed to achieve 'Readiness' to undertake activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), in the specific country context. The R-PP provides a framework for a country to set a clear roadmap, budget, and schedule to achieve REDD Readiness. The FCPF does not expect that the activities identified in the R-PP and its Terms of Reference (ToR) would actually occur at the R-PP stage, although countries may decide to begin pilot activities for which they have capacity and stakeholder support. Instead, the R-PP consists of a summary of the current policy and governance context, what study and other preparatory activities would occur under each major R-PP component, how they would be undertaken in the R-PP execution phase, and then a ToR or work plan for each component. The activities would generally be performed in the next, R-PP execution phase, not as part of the R-PP formulation process.

Review of R-PP of SUDAN

Reviewer: Harrison O. Kojwang and TAP Team

Date of review: November 14th 2013

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)

Sudan: Summary of Assessment

Component	October 2013 review	November 2013 review
<i>1 a</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>
<i>1 b</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>1 c</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>2 a</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>
<i>2 b</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>2 c</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>
<i>2 d</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Does not meet the standard</i>	<i>Partially meets the standard</i>
<i>4 a</i>	<i>Does not meet the standard</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>
<i>4 b</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>	<i>Meets the standard</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>	<i>Largely meets the standard</i>

Strengths of the Document

1. The document, which has been prepared in a relatively short time, is generally well researched, and has provided useful references. *Against a backdrop of demanding problems and urgent needs for response from the forest sector, the document, particularly in components 1 and 2, presents a rich body of information not only in the main text, but also in the annexes.*
2. The consultative process in Sudan is well described in component 1 and appears to have been executed well, despite the fact that state level consultations were done in only 5 out of the 15 states
3. Sudan's consultative process seems to have benefited from its own history of conflict resolution in the forest sector which dates back to colonial times when forest reserves were being proclaimed
4. In the strategy options, impressive analyses of the economic feasibility of each option has been presented and a number of studies to support each option have been suggested

Areas and Issues of Concern and Recommendations

1. Under national level management arrangements, the composition of a National REDD+ Steering Committee which should be the official policy making body reporting to the High Council on Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) needs to be further rationalized to reflect that role, in relation to the Advisory Body on REDD+. The chairs of each committee should also be stated.
2. Given the Federal Governance Structure in Sudan, it is still not quite clear how Federal Bodies will liaise with State Level Bodies to effectively implement REDD+ Programmes and also coordinate and implement MRV Programmes. This is a critical in the sense that, given the current levels of forest degradation and loss of forests to the South Sudan, some pundits have suggested that more emphasis should be put on conservation and that the remaining forests be put under federal authority to ensure full protection. At the same time, it would not be surprising that some state governments may need some exploitation of forests and even worse, the conversion of forest lands to other uses.
3. The development of reference levels, while the component has been improved, still needs more work to bring more context from Sudan

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements:

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process, and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations:

The TAP Team has taken note of the following from the current version of the RPP:

- The Higher National Council on Environment and Natural Resources, while it has policy making functions on environmental and natural resource matters, is also represented in the National REDD+ Committee.
- The National REDD+ Committee still appears to be the equivalent of a REDD+ Secretariat, and is composed of a coordinator and two assistants. In the main text, it is not clear who chairs this committee
- The Sudan National REDD+ Programme Steering Committee is composed of donor organizations such as FAO, UNDP and UNEP, the World Bank, HCENR and the FNC. This is a rather unique arrangement since in most countries, steering committees are composed of

policy makers representing various sectors in government. In this regard, some TAP members had earlier noted and recommended that donor organizations act in an advisory capacity, rather than in a steering one.

- Other sectors of government which are likely to influence REDD+ Programmes in Sudan are represented in the Task Force II - composed of the Steering Committee, Representatives of FNC, HCENR, Agriculture & Irrigation, Range and Pastures, Sudan Forestry Society, Sudan Environment Conservation Society, Sudan Community Forestry Society and Academia. While this body has the appearance of a Technical Committee for REDD+ and should play that role during the life of the National REDD+ Programme, it is stated in sub-component 1a, that it will be disbanded once the REDD+ Programme has been approved and its duties taken over by the Sudan REDD+ Implementation Body.
- In the current state it appears that the proposed Grievances Management & Conflicts Resolution Plan for Sudan National REDD+ puts the final settlement of the reported conflict, will be in the hands of the Director General of the (FNC) or a similar top official at State level. This has the appearance of ‘conflict of interest’ situation, because the FNC will often be party to such conflicts. .
- Field consultations seemed to have been restricted to states which are nearest to, or contiguous with the Capital State of Khartoum (Gadaref, Gezira, Khartoum, Sennar and White Nile)

Key Recommendations:

- To improve clarity on the proposed governance structure for REDD+, Sudan could show, by way of a flow chart or organigram, the relationships between the REDD+ governance bodies (National Steering Committee, Technical Committee, Secretariat / Coordination). In addition, the chair of each committee or body should be explicitly stated in the main text.
- In the interest of consistency with other RPPs, Sudan should consider renaming the National REDD+ Committee as either a Coordination Office or Secretariat for the National REDD+ Programme.
- The structure and composition of a National REDD+ Steering Committee should also be reviewed to make it a policy making body for REDD+ and to give it the needed “political clout” to influence the activities of the other sectors.
- As was in the preceding version of the RPP, one of the TAP members has recommended that the RNC becomes the core management unit for REDD+ and be renamed as such, while the external partners (FAO, UNDP & UNEP, and WB) could be included in an Advisory Committee. The TAP still feels that this recommendation should be given serious consideration;
- The RPP should consider transforming the Task Force II into a National REDD+ Technical Committee composed of relevant government bodies, professional societies, NGOs and

academia as is currently the case. This would call for a review of the structure and functions of the current National Implementation Body

- The TAP had also recommended that the REDD+ Steering Committee be chaired by an Office higher than the FNC. Specifically, the office of the Minister in charge of the FNC was recommended. The rationale was that current policy proposals are reportedly formulated in a participatory manner by different representatives of stakeholders including HCENR representative and thereafter vetted by the FNC Board of Directors and presented to the Minister awaiting sanction by the Parliament and President. The minister, would then review such a policy before forwarding it for further sanction and defend it at the Council of Ministers and Parliament.

The sub-component in its current form, partially meets the standard

Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at national and local level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations:

- The consultation process seems to have concentrated on awareness creation rather than to produce negotiated points for collaboration among potential partners in REDD+. In other words it was not clear if there clear objectives, besides sharing information
- It would also appear that the use of the radio which is heard in all parts of the country, was not done, when it has been used effectively in the past on special forestry days such as, Arbor Day and others.
- While there is mention of the involvement of different groups such as the farmers, pastoralists, local people and women groups whose remarks and endorsed recommendations were factored into the R-PP write-up, there is however no clear indication that the forest dwellers and dependents, indigenous peoples and/or other vulnerable groups were involved and if their views are reflected in the R-PP.
- The REDD+ Preparedness Strategy is actually a 'Road Map' to reaching Readiness by Sudan and that The preparation of the R-PP started in August 2012 till September 2013

Key Recommendations

- There should be a clear statement on how information on REDD+ will be handled in a future REDD+ Programme, so that it builds upon the awareness that has so far, been created in the last 12 months of preparing the RPP
- Since REDD is expected to have overarching effects on all forestry development and management aspects efforts Sudan should consider declaring REDD+ Theme of the Year to publicize its objectives. Practically this would entail, a wide communications program to be staged including celebrations in all capitals of States and crowned in a given week which could be labelled "REDD ZAYED YOAM". To facilitate this and if acceptable, an appropriate budget allocation should be proposed
- In the document, it should be explicit that all the stakeholders especially the forest dwellers and dependents, are involved in all the relevant stages of the REDD+ program. In that regard, it should be clear that concerns expressed by stakeholders such as the pastoralist, farmers, women, indigenous peoples and forest dwellers have been recorded and how those views have been incorporated in the R-PP, is evident.

The sub-component, largely meets the standard

Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³ (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) and concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations:

- The section highlights the fact that Sudan has a formal Communications Policy and public participation policies regarding environment and natural resources. In this regard reference has been made to the Forest Policy of 1996 and the new Draft Policy of 2006 - which caters for community and private sector participation in forest management

³Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

- There is a plan on the consultation and participation provided in the text that outlines the activities to be carried out, stakeholder analysis and mapping, the different issues to be addressed during these consultations, but with no clarity on procedures to select stakeholders.
- There is the intention of inclusion, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, forest dwellers and other local groups as per the requirements of the FCPF and UN-REDD. There is however no mention as to whether the right to FPIC will be upheld especially as pertaining to the forest dwellers and dependents and indigenous peoples
- It also recognizes the emphasis that international agreements and partners put on consultation processes
- However, it is not clear what issues or objectives were being, or will be addressed in the consultation process, particularly given the Federal Nature of the Sudan
- .An example of issues that were resolved or highlighted during the process have not been provided

Key Recommendations

- Any outstanding issues that require further dialogue at both national and federal levels also need to be stated. A consultation plan during the implementation of a future REDD+ programme is necessary.
- A mechanism used to reach out to and consult with the other 10 states, that were not visited during the preparation of the R-PPP should be clarified
- The R-PP should also consider collapsing activities that address the same outcome, to avoid repetition in component 1 and others, and help focus in key REDD+ outcomes to be achieved.

The sub-component in its current form, meets the standard

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD; and sets the stage for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The TAP has noted the following from the sub-component:

- Describes a decree from the Council of Ministers which calls for special management and protection status of Inter-State Water, watersheds, federal structures and forests and combating desertification by the FNC
- The sub-component has been enriched with information on land cover classes, increases in the area under forest reserves (from 1.25 million ha in 1993 to 12.3 million ha by 2012, Section 5.2.3)
- Has pointed out areas where legislation needs to be reviewed, revised and promulgated afresh. These are in range, livestock and water, NFP and Forest Policy, Mining and Oil, management plans of riverine ecosystems and mountains (Section 5.2.5, Page 57)
- The sub-section on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation has now been improved with the inclusion of suggested areas of intervention. In addition some data on population changes over time has now been provided. In addition, an account of the status of forest management has been provided.
- The cessation of Southern Sudan has greatly affected the forestry sector and as a result the Sudan lost two thirds of its forest cover (the R-PP assumes 50% loss) and is downgraded from a moderately forested country to a low forest cover country, (29% to 10% cover).

Key Recommendations

- Despite a good effort in the sub-component, Sudan's potential contributions to REDD+, in other words, a strong business case for its contributions to REDD+ is still not quite clear and could still be strengthened. - Examples of issues that were suggested were: expansion of gum arabic plantations to provide products and services, afforestation in appropriate sites, conservation of woodlands to improve tree cover, controlled use of fire in land management, combatting desertification through agro-forestry, intensively managed plantation. Others could be sustainable range management and energy efficiency.

The sub-component in its current form, largely meets the standard

Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations

- While a list of afforestation/reforestation projects has now been provided, there is still no information on the key lessons learnt that a future National REDD+ can draw from neither is there any mention of the impacts on those projects on forest cover and forest practice in general.
- On strategy options there is an excellent demonstration on the economic considerations that need to be made in the identification, choice and design of mitigation options - hence the opportunity costs and other economic aspects of strategies are stated in a number of studies recommended
- The intention to directly address the identified drivers of D&D in mitigation and to use incentives is clear and quite strong. The 9 strategy options are well described and well argued in the current version of the RPP and a number of pilot projects have been recommended to test the options. Out of the 9 options, the first four are devoted to energy issues, since biomass energy is a major driver for deforestation and forest degradation. The 9th and new option is on institutional arrangements to reduce inter-sector conflicts and sustain any gains made under REDD+
- The options have not been described in terms of their expected mitigation benefits under REDD+

Key Recommendations:

- A clear description of the impacts and lessons learnt on past efforts at curbing deforestation and land degradation in general is still needed and should inform the strategy options that have been provided
- The expected mitigation benefits of each strategy option, particularly the first 8 options could improve the section.

The sub-component in its current form, meets the standard

Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work

plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations

The section has provided the governance structures for REDD+, representation in steering committees on REDD+ and also a table of stakeholders for implementation of REDD+ Programmes

It has now included aspects such as benefit sharing, carbon rights, establishment of a carbon registry under the sub-heading; Issues Important in REDD+ Implementation

The sub-component has also recommended the Integration of environmental concerns in Development Policy, which is relevant to both 1a, 2a and 2b.

Key Recommendations

The section could be improved a stronger focus on collaborative partnerships for REDD+ and a proposal to provide guidelines for REDD+ Projects - including reporting obligations which would be linked to the proposed carbon registry Benefit sharing mechanisms

The sub-component in its current form, largely meets the standard

Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, and for preparing the ESMF.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations:

- The structure of the section provides a clear link between suggested options and possible social and environmental impacts that could be generated through implementation

- The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), being the SESA implementing entity, is prepared as a key output of the SESA process in a manner consistent with the applicable WB safeguards. At the early stages of implementation emerging impacts as a result of policies adopted should be assessed and catered for. Steps followed in the preparation of both SESA and ESMF are satisfactory.
- Recognizes requirements of the World Bank on safeguards and SESA
- Does not give any information or data on past safeguard issues in Sudan, even those arising out of its huge irrigation projects

Recommendation:

The sub-component meets the standards

Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Standard 3:a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level:

Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observation:

- Highlights of Sudan's experience in the collection of historic data several resource assessment studies were documented including:
 - NEA forest resource survey to assess the country energy requirements.
 - In 1982 the WB undertook assessment of the issues and options in the country's energy sector
 - In 1983-1984 CIDA conducted an aerial photography covering Blue Nile Provinces using randomly selected plots to determine the tree standing volume.
 - In 1987 Lund University conducted a survey of 0.58 million km² areas in central Sudan.
 - The National forest inventory (1995-1997.)
 - The Africover Project in 1997 which was the first survey effort to cover the whole area of current Sudan. This was followed by the recent Africover update by the Sudan Institutional Capacity Program: Food Security Information for Action (SIFSIA).

- Some data on carbon stock estimates (Table III-1, 1982) under different cover types has been provided
- The component has presented detailed functions of various institutions of government that will be involved in the development of reference levels and scenarios. While the detailed institutional descriptions (Activity 1, pages 117-123) are interesting, they have no direct bearing on the component and are better placed in the Annexes or under Sub-components 1 a, 2a and 2c.
- Although the document states that (roles and responsibilities of different related institutions shall be clearly defined) it is felt that the approach adopted does not pin specific tasks for which the participant is held accountable but assumes “loose” verbatim general inputs as gained in meetings.
- A clear set of steps specific to Reference Levels and Reference Emission Levels is only clear under Activity 7, which provides a generic but much clearer picture of what the key methodological steps, needed to develop reference levels will be.
- In general the component has far too much information that is not specific to the objectives of the component.
- There is still insufficient clarity on; forest definitions, proposed inventory programme, reference period, data gaps and general capacity needs.

Key Recommendations

- The section should make only a short reference to IPCC guidelines on RE/REL and dwell much more on data on carbon stocks and digital data for mapping, and institutional and individual capacity requirements to meet the objectives of the component. A clear review of the quality of available data on biomass stocks and forest cover maps is still needed, as are additional data
- In addition to a review of existing data the component should concentrate on the framework described under Activity 7 and give an indication on Sudan’s ability to achieve the results implied by the items under Activity 7. In essence, it is like a self-assessment which forms the basis of request for fund to collect data, build capacity for data collection, analysis and interpretation
- The specific tasks of the relevant institutions that have been identified to develop RL/REL should also be made clear.
- The component needs to recognize that determining incremental change in forest and the very low levels of canopy cover in Sudan, using satellite imagery will be rather hard and because of that should consider a sampling strategy with high resolution imagery with automatic detection of individual trees shrubs, using a program like eCognition. That way it would be possible to extrapolate these samples to a wider region, and repeat it objectively later on.

Lower resolution approaches are likely to be quite challenging

The sub-component in its current form, partially meets the standard

Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:

The R-PP provides a proposal and work plan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. The R-PP should also address the potential for independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations

- The current version covers the key steps and the back ground data on forest cover classification, carbon stocks and the latest land cover maps (Africover Update) are provided in component 3 on reference levels
- Existing capacity for monitoring for carbon (Forest National Corporation)) and forest cover changes (National Remote Sensing Authority) has been provided but and gaps in capacity particularly at the state levels is not quite clear

- There is little on whether new biomass equations will be developed and whether attempts will be made to estimate underground biomass instead of relying on default values. However the RPP suggests that Sudan will strive to obtain Tier II level data.

Key Recommendations:

- The section still needs to indicate institutional strengths and weaknesses in monitoring and areas, at both federal and individual state levels, and also propose an institutional collaborative structure that will be used to coordinate a National MRV Programme.
- A clear capacity building is still needed at all levels

The sub-component in its current form, largely meets the standard

Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a work plan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, rural livelihoods enhancement, conservation of biodiversity, and/or key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations and Recommendations:

- The section seems to understand what is required but remains rather theoretical. There is no attempt to list and describe the key safeguard issues relevant to Sudan and the development of indicators.

The sub-component now meets the standard

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD-plus readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations and Recommendations

- In addition to the budgets for readiness arranged according to each of the main components, an outcome based budget specific to the strategy options has been provided.
- For all other components, activity based budgets have been provided.

The component meets the standard

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6:

The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Observations and recommendations

A satisfactory M and E framework has been provided in Annex 6.1 and is a considerable improvement over the earlier version.

The component largely meets the standard