

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, December 13, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)

Review of R-PP of Côte d'Ivoire

Reviewer : European Commission, Germany (Lead), France (AFD)

Date of review : 20 November 2013

Overview

A couple of years after the return to peace in most of parts of the country, Côte d'Ivoire strives to restore sound management in the forest sector, with a combined start in 2012/2013 of their FLEGT and REDD+ processes. Although reflecting initial stage of development of REDD+ as any R-PP, it provides a roadmap for a growing group of committed stakeholders to develop new approaches to change the way forests are managed. The R-PP lists more than 1500 people who have attended seminars and workshops to discuss the elaboration of this roadmap, including representatives from sectors driving deforestation, which is already significant for the pre-R-PP phase. The consultation process seems thus to be efficient (in a short period of time) and inclusive and able to ground a real national commitment towards REDD+ process.

The duration of the R-PP is quite reasonable (mid 2014 to end 2017). The national strategy is expected to be delivered within 2.5 years (2016) while the implementation of pilot projects will continue. 2017 can constitute a sort of transition year between the finalisation of the national strategy and the implementation phase. The AFD support will enable a quick start of the readiness phase in 2014 and the start of one pilot project early in the process (also in 2014), while other pilot projects foreseen are still imprecise (and this part of the R-PP budget remains theoretical). The support from FCPF and UN-REDD, if effectively granted, would also help to build the infrastructure to ensure that pilot projects develop in a constructive manner for the national process.

While numerous parts of the R-PP are fairly standard (e.g. study on the causes of deforestation, social and environmental strategic assessment, national REDD+ registry, etc.), this R-PP provides a good analysis of the commodity drivers of deforestation which continue to deforest at a rapid rate (2a), and the related strategic option (in 2b) to engage with specific commodity supply chains, through existing institutions representing producers and traders' interests. This focus on agricultural drivers of deforestation is especially relevant in Côte d'Ivoire and could provide insights relevant for other contexts facing similar pressures. Interactions with the ongoing FLEGT process are also well described and captured throughout the document.

The ambitious roadmap laid out by Côte d'Ivoire is based on a frank assessment of its direct and indirect drivers of deforestation. In the same manner, the need for improvements in data and institutional arrangements is clearly established and acknowledged. This fair assessment of where the Côte d'Ivoire stands today, makes its proposal credible and highlights how crucial it is for Côte d'Ivoire to be involved in FCPF and UN REDD processes.

It is obvious that a **paradigm change in the agriculture sector** is needed in very short time and that high level political commitment for the REDD process is essential for success. This paradigm change will not be possible without strong commitment from the Agriculture Ministry which is also responsible for the land tenure reform

process, the second major challenge in the REDD process in Côte d'Ivoire. This will require progressive engagement of the national and decentralized structures of the Agriculture Ministry soon enough in the process, building on the first advances of the REDD+ process. The consultative process therefore has to be strong in the long run in order to foster such an essential commitment.

For the National Commission to effectively steer the process it would be useful, in addition to the challenges mentioned above and the subjects mentioned in the M&E framework, to closely follow already ongoing REDD-relevant reforms and political processes. In this sense the SEP may wish to discuss early in the process the possible duration and milestones of the **institutional** (including sustainable finance for activities of involved institutions) and **legal** (including forest definition and code as well as carbon rights) **reforms necessary** in the framework of REDD+ so as to better be able to deal with resulting implications for the overall R-PP workplan and timeline (see components 2b and 2c).

For the success of the overall REDD effort it also seems crucial to early identify private sector institutions that would have an essential role to play during the REDD+ strategy implementation phase, especially organizations representing farmers and traders involved in the main agricultural supply chains.

The R-PP recognizes that domestic support for this process remains to be strengthened (the Government's contribution to the R-PP is not yet substantial). The contribution requested to the FCPF (3,77 million USD) would certainly be catalytic to consolidate this process.

An impressive work has been done in a short period of time and under difficult circumstances, to provide this RPP and a lot of improvements have occurred between the first version and this final version of the RPP. This reactivity and capacity of improvement of Côte d'Ivoire makes confident about its ability to achieve the implementation of its RPP.

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

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

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:

This section provides a comprehensive assessment of the three legally constituted institutions that will be central to the REDD+ process: the national REDD+ committee - CN, the interministerial technical committee - CTI and the permanent executive secretariat - SEP. All together, these are referred to as the national REDD+ commission (CN-REDD+). The SEP is in charge of the day to day coordination and stimulation of the process and will increase its capacity to about 20 professionals (including a couple of international experts).

From the previous version of the R-PP, an important addition to the composition of the SEP will come with two representatives from the private agricultural sector (one representing farmers' cooperatives and the other from the federation of industrial companies). This is a positive addition to ensure that REDD+ engages directly with the main agricultural supply chains which are unavoidable to seriously address deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Decentralization of the REDD+ process will start with three regions, following TAP recommendations.

The description of the feedback and grievances mechanism is provided in section 2c.

Assessment: standard met (same as TAP)

Recommendations:

- The national REDD+ committee should only meet twice a year. Quarterly meetings for the CTI are also probably too frequent at least for the first two years of the readiness phase. Experiences in other countries have shown that these institutions struggle to find their role during the initial phase of studies and capacity building, but that they progressively play a more active role when the national REDD+ strategy is coming together and the process moves towards actual policy reforms and implementation.
- The secretariats of the regional committees of the CTI should also have representatives of the agriculture ministry.
- Provide information on who will be members of the seven thematic working groups
- It might be interesting to provide some information on already ongoing or finalized activities of the CNR and CTI,
- As already mentioned by the TAP, information dissemination by website is not sufficient : specific tools should be designed.

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:

The last version of the R-PP shows that information sharing and consultations have accelerated in the second part of the year, with targeted support from key partners like AFD, UNDP and EU-REDD. More than 1500 people, from all parts of the society, have attended the different seminars and workshops organized. A specific effort to inform about the complementarity at national level between REDD+ and other processes like FLEGT has been made.

Even if the real impact is difficult to judge, it seems that these efforts could increase the level of information on REDD+ of stakeholders in country, but the information provided in the R-PP is quite detailed and comprehensive for this component.

- **Assessment: standard met (same as TAP review)**

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) 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:

The consultation and participation process will build in part on the civil society platform established in the FLEGT process, which is a good thing to avoid duplicating structures and strengthen civil society's ability to influence both processes in a strategic manner. A significant budget is foreseen in the R-PP to support this platform (700 000 USD for the entire readiness phase) at national and subnational level. It will be important to ensure that these financial resources are released on the basis of robust workplans and do not trigger negative competition dynamics within civil society, or artificially divert some civil society mobilization away from the FLEGT process towards REDD+.

Very good description of the different stakeholders and their roles, academia however is not mentioned; communication strategy makes good use of the various media and tools.

The chapter seems to build on the basic belief that consultation and participation - as long as it is enough and all important stakeholder take part - will bring up solutions.

Beyond this, our assessment is in line with the latest TAP review:

1. During R-PP implementation, stakeholder engagement and capacity building will be through (a) local experts from CIRES, ENSEA or INADES; and (b) contractual arrangement between SEP and the ongoing UNDP led project termed "Targeted Support", which is part of the UN-REDD endeavor in Cote d'Ivoire running from 2011 to 2015. A stakeholder engagement plan is also being drawn, and it is highlighted in Table 2. Mapping of stakeholders and ways to engage them to bring about ownership of the REDD+ process appear in Figure 7.
2. Meeting frequencies for stakeholders as they appear in the consultation and participatory timeline (Fig 8) and the budget table for this section seem to be now feasible.
3. Civil society and traditional leaders are now targeted as Group 4 of stakeholders and will be reinforced specifically following their capacity needs and role to play in the REDD+ process as depicted in the stakeholder mapping.
4. A work plan for the stakeholders' engagement through the FLEGT national platform is depicted in Fig. 8, and the civil society will intervene to sensitize local communities and serve as a communication link with the SEP and REDD+ management team.
5. Media representation is increased in the mix of stakeholders, and they constitute now a special group 6 along with other opinion leaders.
6. REDD+ process is now piggy-backing with the ongoing FLEGT process in Cote d'Ivoire to involve NGOs at the regional level.
7. With the FLEGT process, the R-PP plan to divulge information in a transparent way, and the methodology to be used stresses how the R-PP process will rely on a free, prior and informed consent by stakeholders, especially by focusing on informing the people dependent on forests about their rights.

³ Did 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).

Assessment: standard met (same as TAP review)

Recommendation:

- The SEP (REDD+) should systematically include the CTN (FLEGT) in decisions regarding the allocation of budget related to the REDD+/FLEGT civil society platform. This is to counter the risk that some mobilization be artificially diverted from one process to another given the significance of this budget.
- Establish a link to the feedback and grievance mechanism dealt with in 2c) so as to show approaches to dealing with conflict resolution and final decision making as well as overall responsibility in case of unresolvable conflicts

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, 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:

This is the longest component in the R-PP (40 pages) and is quite informative on all aspects that needed to be covered here: assessment of land use, land use change drivers (direct and indirect), forest law, policy and governance.

The section shows quite a deep understanding of the different causes of deforestation for an R-PP, including some early discussion on the future deforestation that can be expected from these causes, especially from the agricultural sector, which is well identified as the leading engine of deforestation.

This contrasts with the remaining high uncertainties around forest cover data (and some inconsistencies between different sources of data), with estimates ranging from below 10% to almost 30% of the territory. Such levels of uncertainty seem excessive at this stage of a REDD+ process and highlight the pressing need for a national update of land use data based on a forest inventory and interpretation of remote sensing data. With such uncertainties, some bias may affect some of the strategic orientations in the readiness phase going forward. The budget for the assessment of the various forest types seems quite low and should be checked with finance from AFD C2D

This component would also benefit from:

- a reference to any national definition of forests, or lack of (this is discussed only in component 3).
- a discussion about the ongoing revision of the forest code, especially whether the revision would trigger any substantial changes to the way forests are managed (e.g., strengthened rights over trees planted in the Domaine foncier rural).

Assessment: a few improvements can be made but the standard for this component is met

Recommendations:

- Extend the assessment of forests foreseen in the Domaine Forestier Permanent (Permanent forest domain) to forests in the Domaine Foncier Rural in order to get a comprehensive assessment of national forest cover (a two step approach can be adopted in order not to slow down the analysis on the permanent forest domain). Conduct this analysis on the basis of clear definition(s) of forests, and increase, if necessary, the budget planned for these activities (could for example be

taken from the pilot projects).

- Include a discussion about the ongoing revision of the forest code and the ongoing process of National Assembly on Forests and Water (“Etats généraux des forêts et des ressources en eau”) lead by the Ministry of Forests and its likely impact on other drivers of forest cover change (both deforestation and reforestation) (a short note on that topic could be added in Appendix).

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:

This component has been substantially improved in the last version of the R-PP taking into consideration various earlier TAP comments. Making these improvements with continuing national consultations may explain some uneven quality between the different strategic options.

The preliminary strategic options (which represent a first direction for the future strategic pillars of the REDD+ national strategy) are the following:

1. Strengthening inter-sectoral coordination and good governance for a new development paradigm;
2. Land use planning and land tenure security;
3. Decoupling agricultural production and deforestation (through ecological intensification of cropping systems and agroforestry);
4. Developing a national biomass-energy strategy;
5. Encouraging sustainable forest management and improved land use governance through FLEGT;
6. Encouraging reforestation efforts in savannah areas with commercially viable tree crops (teck and cashew nut tree);
7. Strengthening capacities to manage existing protected areas and remaining forests.

The first two strategic options are understood as cross-cutting options that serve as a basis for the effective roll-out of the five sectoral strategic options. These seven strategic options effectively mirror the most important direct and indirect drivers of forest loss identified in component 2a (some drivers identified in 2a like demography, infrastructure development, climate change, cattle raising and mining are not picked up in this component but arguably these factors are either secondary or considered beyond the influence of the REDD+ process - e.g. climate change as an “exogenous” driver).

Given the need to avoid too much dispersion of efforts, we find that this selection of options provides quite a good frame to start with for the readiness phase.

These seven options together represent an ambitious scope of work. It is a good thing to recognize in at least two options (2 and 5) that the REDD+ process will limit its role and rely on other processes to address the specific issues (option 2 on land tenure, a national reform process is already underway with non-REDD+

support; and option 5 relies mainly on FLEGT to address this issue).

While some of the strategic options would deserve more concrete details about activities and methods that are envisioned to respond to the strategic issue (e.g. option 1 would benefit from some sort of plan to set up a high level political dialogue on forest/land use issues towards the end of the readiness phase to achieve the objective of improved cross-sectoral coordination and broader policy changes), strategic option 3 stands out as quite an innovative and important strategic line of work, related to the engine of deforestation identified in 2a (deforestation driven by agricultural commodity production).

The strategy to engage with specific commodity supply chains, through existing institutions representing producers and traders' interests, is quite interesting and could help to overcome the usual limitations of REDD+ processes in reaching out to the private sector. This commodity approach should not lose sight however of the importance of multi-specie cropping systems for social and environmental aspects.

Assessment: standard met (same as TAP review)

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:

The expected scope in this component is covered: identification of institutions that will play an important role in the implementation phase of REDD+ and institutional collaboration with complementary processes (FLEGT), legal reforms needs (forest code, land tenure regulations, etc.), financial and benefit-sharing mechanisms (national REDD+ fund, PES mechanism, guidelines for benefits-sharing plans, carbon rights), national REDD+ registry, feedback and grievance mechanism.

At the R-PP stage, the discussion on the interactions between the REDD+ and FLEGT processes is quite sophisticated, and this is not the only component where these interactions are foreseen. Beyond the traditional synergies between the two processes (coordinated legal reform process, joint participation mechanisms, etc.), sub-section 3.4.4 very briefly touches upon using the FLEGT legality approach to agricultural commodities.

Most parts of this component are nonetheless too descriptive:

- Description of the roles of different public institutions in general based on their official mandate: it would be more useful to see a more discussion about what elements of the REDD+ process would fall into their mandate and which arrangements can be made to avoid overlaps or foster collaboration.
- The description of the different Codes (forest code, mining code, etc.) is interesting but the R-PP should more clearly stress the issue of harmonization between the different codes. As stated p.140 it seems that just getting REDD+ language into the codes (starting with the Forest code) is what matters, but this could be of limited impact.
- The discussion on carbon rights is quite academic and no information on its implementation especially with regards to the implementation of the other different codes is provided.

A PES mechanism is foreseen as one of the main financial instruments for the implementation of REDD+. This is probably a good provision in the R-PP as a well-thought PES mechanism can provide a simplified manner of rewarding performance (based on simple proxies) and bring more direct access to national REDD+ funds to local stakeholders (making the REDD+ process more tangible). In addition, a national or jurisdictional PES mechanism can address some of the constraints faced at project level (leakage). The R-PP

is quite light however on the role foreseen for this PES mechanism in the implementation phase, which is understandable, but a budget is missing in this component to develop this PES line of work.

The text of this component could be better organized:

- The reader can wonder why the discussion on the legal reforms needed - 3.6 - does not follow the discussion of relevant national legal texts.
- This component adds new intentions regarding work on land tenure compared to component 2b, which has a dedicated strategic option on land tenure (and land use planning). This kind of overlap between different parts of the document is however difficult to resolve in this kind of exercise (long R-PP template).

Regarding institutional and legal reforms, the text is very frank telling that (1) sustainable finance is needed for the activities of institutions and that (2) much needs to be done to adapt the legal framework of RCI to the REDD mechanism.

Assessment: standard largely met

Recommendation:

- The REDD+ process should clarify its role in addition to the FLEGT process in supporting sustainable forest management (strategic option 5). The role of fiscal incentives and simplified administrative procedures for instance can be considered to consolidate efforts engaged in the forest sector through the FLEGT process [this recommendation builds on the TAP recommendation for this component].
- Strategic option 5 would also benefit of more details on staff capacities in the Forestry Ministry and related agencies at national and decentralized level and on general capacity needs for SFM, this seems important as, besides political instability, most reforestation programs did not succeed due to lack of maintenance and protection.
- Discuss the relation (time and space) with the ongoing land tenure reform process: i) the relationship between the implementation of this reform and the definition and delimitation of forest and forest area, ii) the institutional and social arrangements to provide proper procedures of eviction and resettlement for evicted people.
- Clarify the budget - if it wasn't integrated, include a budget - for the development of an appropriate PES mechanism as foreseen in this component.
- Discuss the foreseeable duration of the development of the PES mechanism and of the new law on carbon rights and possible implications of the overall R-PP workplan and timeline
- Based on experiences with comparable legal reforms and institutional processes in the country elaborate on the possible duration and milestones of the institutional and legal reforms necessary in the framework of REDD+ and possible implications of the overall R-PP workplan and timeline
- Identify private sector institutions that could have a crucial role to play during the REDD+ strategy implementation phase, especially organizations representing farmers and traders involved in the main agricultural supply chains (only public institutions and organizations from the environmental civil society were identified here).
- Coordinate with the FLEGT process for a comparative analysis of all relevant legal codes (forest code, mining code, etc.) to identify where inconsistencies hindering good forest governance lie. Focusing the attention on the reform of the Forest code alone would be of limited impact if in parallel other sectors can convert forests for mining or agricultural operations in accordance with other codes.

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: This component refers quite extensively to the SESA framework used by the World Bank and proposes to follow the standard methodology leading to the implementation of an environmental and social management framework (ESMF). The consultation and participation processes foreseen in component 1c need to be remembered as forming the basis for the appropriate consideration of the relevant social and environmental impacts.

Assessment: standard met

Recommendation: less budget could be spent on expensive consulting firms contracts (400 000 USD) and more on dialogue with potentially affected communities (same comment as TAP here) and more on the actual implementation of the ESMF.

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:

A forest definition with measures for its monitoring is effectively identified as a priority activity for 2014. This will be a pre-requisite for the rest of the work in this component, which is explained as a step-wise approach following to a great extent the guidance from FAO (FAO experts have been involved in drafting this part). In a country with very high historical rates of deforestation, the issue of determination of the REL/RL should be relatively less controversial and we think it would not be necessary to devote too much resources on this (hence we differ with the TAP assessment here and consider the standard is met for this component).

In adjusting for national circumstances, it will be key to understand to what extent existing development policies (e.g. national forest policy, national plan for agricultural investment, etc.) can be considered realistic (i.e., to what extent would they actually be implemented).

The R-PP lays out an ambitious plan with a step-wise approach to develop a REL/RL. The link to the driver analysis and strategy options has also been well established. The development of a forest definition in 2014 will be of particular importance, especially regarding the treatment of cocoa, coffee and other plantations as well as the remaining forest areas. Given the relative dearth of primary data, a pragmatic and conservative approach should be emphasized in the establishment of a historical baseline as well as future projections.

Assessment: standard is met

Recommendation (same as TAP): add an organogram and workplan for the interlinkage and roles of the many institutions to be involved in data collection, mapping and modeling of REL and RL determination. A study related to the institutional arrangement of Côte d'Ivoire on Earth Observation from Space has been conducted in Fall and its results could be further analyzed.

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 workplan 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. It should also address 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:

In line with TAP assessment:

Between the earlier version and this November 8th' version, the text of this section of the RCI's R-PP has been revised completely. Indeed, Cote d'Ivoire revised thoroughly section 4a of the R-PP in an innovative, thorough and ambitious way. It sets out to put in place, following decisions 1/CP.16 and 4/CP.15, a comprehensive forest surveillance and MRV system termed SNSF-as a French acronym for "*Système National de Surveillance de Forêts*." The system will be built upon a C2D (Conversion de Dette) project (Euro1.5millions) and FFEM-IRD (GEOFORAFRI project with Euro250K for the development of the SNSF), and it will be implemented by Ivoirian institutions, namely MINESUDD in partnership with MINEF, CNF and BNEDD/CCT. SNSF will start with capacity building for several national institutions (ministries, technical institutions, universities, research centers, and civil society coupled with local communities) to undertake the forest surveillance countrywide, even if the first two years will start with only a couple of pilot areas (for the inventory of carbon stocks) that will be selected for initial REDD+ R-PP implementation.

Figure 32 depicts the SNSF with 3 components: (a) surveillance function; (b) MRV function; and (c) safeguards information system/REDD+ impacts function. All three components will be hinged on a geo-portal web interface. The surveillance function comprises (a) remote sensing; (b) community led monitoring system, and (c) other forest related surveillance systems. The MRV function will comprise respectively (a) a

satellite surveillance system of the earth, (b) a national forest inventory system, and (c) a GHG inventory system. Finally the safeguards information system will cover respectively (a) governance, (b) safeguards and (c) monitoring of other REDD+ impacts.

A plan of action will be drawn for the Ivorian SNSF upon completion of the R-PP preparation phase. Figure 31 depicts the methodology for measuring GHG emissions and absorption.

Implementation of the SNSF will follow seven steps that will culminate in testing and fine-tuning the SNSF system efficacy.

In addition to these general observations about the newly proposed MRV system, we have the following specific comments:

1. Tracking multiple benefits of REDD+ will no longer be handled by the Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP). The task is now given to several appropriate national institutions.
2. The new approach is no longer sampling by plots. It is rather to follow up historical trends of forested surfaces through satellite, maps, and ground proofing; and to follow carbon stocks and emissions through activity data multiplied by emissions factors.
3. Indicators are not presented in the text except for the national forest inventory.
4. LANDSAT imagery is no longer in the budget (this is correct). The budget is balanced and structured around major activities (a) capacity building; (b) activity data estimation; (c) emission factor estimation; (d) reporting, and (e) verification. Local communities even private sectors and civil society will be involved in forest monitoring.
5. Forest governance and information sharing are now developed in section 4b. A system to monitor governance and safeguards is incorporated in the new SNSF system, and it is further developed in section 4b.
6. Seven steps for the implementation of the SNSF are proposed.

Assessment: standard is largely met (same as TAP)

The laid out plan to develop a comprehensive national forest surveillance and MRV System (SNSF) seems sensible, if very ambitious. The reviewer agrees with the TAP review and with its recommendation, to evaluate the degree of accomplishment of each one of its seven implementation steps of the SNSF and to take corrective actions, before moving to the next step and - if necessary - to consider alternative approaches.

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 workplan, 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, e.g., rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, 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:

The monitoring methodologies, institutional arrangements, the link to the SESA process as well as SIS, and the insertion in the overall work plan have been specified in this version of the R-PP.

In line with TAP:

1. The monitoring methodology is now specified in the R-PP. A safeguards information system (SIS) is to be put in place during the preparatory phase of the SNSF. An institutional arrangement is to be put in place and will build upon existing institutions in Cote d'Ivoire along with their performance success and failure stories across different subject matters.

2. Collaboration is now assured with researchers on natural resources and their studies on carbon measurement in the REDD-plus process.
3. The work plan is not however provided in this section, but an overall work plan in component 5 depicts what will be done for each section of the R-PP. Indicators are said to come from the SESA process. Institutions to be in charge of monitoring the indicators, what data will be collected and when as well as how the comparison will be made over time across the multiple benefits and safeguards are not yet clearly identified.
4. The role of SEP will no longer be to monitor indicators; it will rather coordinate regional focal points and the institutions in charge of the management of natural resources.
5. Funding for training and capacity building is now scheduled from the start especially to cover surveillance and MRV through the SNSF system.
6. A time-sequenced work plan is now provided in the overall work plan component 5 of the R-PP. Also seven steps for the implementation

Assessment: standard is met (same as TAP)

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 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:

TAP assessment:

The budget has been revised and it covers the expansion of technical partners in components 3 and 4. There are more funding pledges to the overall budget, and it has now been increased from US \$ 21.277.000 in previous version of the RPP to US \$ 22.193.800 in this version.

- Pilot projects (US \$8million or 36% of the overall budget) are now planned to start from the beginning of the R-PP implementation phase, and they will build on ongoing AFD/C2D projects. With the extended timeframe for the R-PP, prospects are better for their implementation and to provide lessons learned from the pilot projects.
- Overall budget has been revised to take into account the costs of suggested new activities of the study (for example, on the costs and benefits of REDD+) to determine a sound set of strategic options to be developed for REDD+ readiness.
- The project has been extended to 3 and half years. This will allow consultation activities to bring about involvement of stakeholders and to implement pilot projects
- Priority actions are funded in the new budget and more and more funding pledges seem to be coming true.

The R-PP recognizes that domestic support for this process remains to be strengthened (the Government's contribution to the R-PP is not yet adopted). The contribution requested to the FCPF (3,77 million USD) would certainly be catalytic to consolidate this process. The overall cost is estimated at 22,246 million USD. As part of the contributions from other sources are not yet finally agreed upon, there is a major funding gap

of more than 12 million USD, long term sustainability of finance is not secured yet.

Assessment : standard met (same as TAP review)

Recommendation:

- Please elaborate briefly on the mid- and long term potential to increase RCI own contribution and to secure long term financial sustainability of the process
- Please clarify who will be the delivery partner and how the huge financing gap will be filled.
- Please elaborate on the risk for the REDD- process if no FCPF Funds will arrive and/or if the funding gap will not be filled

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:

Same as TAP assessment:

1. Details are now provided about how the management will be adapted to new circumstances if problems are identified. Quarterly syntheses of monitoring and evaluation self-made by each of the seven SEP cells will be done quarterly by the SEP team member in charge of monitoring and evaluation. A corrective plan of action would then be discussed among all SEP members under the leadership of the SEP manager. Also transparency of SEP management will be ascertained by supervision from CTI and two independent mid-term and final evaluations.
2. The R-PP has now provisions to make a manual for monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ readiness activities and for developing cheap, objectively verifiable indicators from the 34 criteria of evaluation given in the Côte d'Ivoire R-PP.
3. A logical framework for REDD+ readiness objectives, expected results and activities, and indicators are now incorporated in this component 6 of the R-PP revised document.

Assessment: standard met (same as TAP review)

Editorial aspects:

- Total budget page V should be divided by 1000
- Numbering of strategic options under 2b should be corrected
- "EU REDD+" should be "EU REDD" consistently throughout the document
- In financing synthetic table on p.205, the '0' in the line 'Apport UE' should be changed into 'tbd'