



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Independent TAP Expert Review of the Readiness-Package of the Republic of Congo

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Purpose and modalities of TAP review

“Assess whether a due process and approach was followed while performing the self-assessment of REDD+ Readiness”:

- Part A: Review of the **self-assessment process** the R-Package
- Part B: Review of the **results of the multi-stakeholder R-Package self-assessment**, based on the multi-stakeholder consultation workshop
- Part C: Assess **what still needs to be done** to complete the Readiness Process

→ TAP Conclusion and Recommendation

Part A: Self-assessment process & approach

- FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework was used thoroughly;
- Self-assessment reports (2 reports, one by the coordination unit and one conducted with the use of independent facilitator) provide good summary of the REDD+ Preparation and Readiness process since 2008 and includes links to all reference documents;
- Self-assessment process conducted only one year after mid-term review. Thus not all planned activities in the readiness process defined in mid-term review could have been completed.

Part B: REDD+ Process: Results (I)

Summary of scoring of the 34 assessment criteria by stakeholder group meeting and in the validation workshop

Group [number of attendees]	Meeting	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED	N.A.
Civil Society (CACO-REDD) [24]	May 18	03	06	13	06	06
Focal points of Ministries [19]	May 20	02	17	07	02	06
Technical and financial partners [09]	May 24	00	09	14	06	05
Decentralized representatives [08]	May 26	05	13	07	02	07
Average scoring stakeholder meeting		3	11	10	4	6
National Validation Workshop [47]	July 05	12	16	06	0	0

Not all aspects of the REDD+ readiness approach are sufficiently known by all stakeholders so that they were able to make a clear „scoring/rating“ in a number of criteria in their respective stakeholder meeting. National workshop provided clarification on many of the issues.

Part B: REDD+ Process: Results (II)

Readiness Organisation and Consultation (criteria 1-10)

- Knowledge and thus ownership on the readiness process very uneven (e.g. civil society, private sector);
→ *need for better information sharing when implementing the work plan for completion of readiness phase*
- Coordination between the various institutions involved in REDD+
→ *should get renewed attention in Work Plan*
- Define particular measures for communication and knowledge exchange in the work-plan to include those stakeholders who feel not sufficiently informed.

Part B: REDD+ Process: Results (III)

REDD+ Strategy Preparation (Criteria 11-25)

- Analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and their prioritization is generally completed;
- REDD+ strategy developed, but since the SESA process is still under way, further updates and adjustments needed.
- Policies and measures: changes needed in the country's (already advanced) legal and regulatory framework requires more effort, but is progressing well.
- Initial study on benefit sharing mechanism conducted, will be subject to further consultations over the coming months.
- Development of a National REDD+ registry is still in progress ;
- Important work is still to be done to complete the SESA process and to finalize the safeguards instruments

Part B: REDD+ Process: Results (IV)

Reference Emissions Levels/Reference levels (criteria 26-28)

- Overall, the country has well advanced on the technical issues relating to carbon accounting, including reference levels and MRV.
- A full conceptual approach on the MRV system has been completed
- Limited technical capacity thus far in the country to assess REL/RL adequately. RL and MRV measures could not be assessed by many stakeholders in the self-assessment process.
- Include an activity in the Work Plan on the completion of the Readiness phase to technically inform interested stakeholders on RL and MRV approaches for REDD+ approaches in the country.

Part C: What still needs to be done

- An **improved information basis** for stakeholders
- A **consolidated work plan**, based on MTR and open issues from the self-assessment of the R-Package, including:
 - Render the REDD+ implementation platforms operational, incl. nationally coordinated REDD+ Registry, grievance mechanism, SESA,...
 - Finalize the national REDD+ strategy, align RL and MRV
 - Develop policies and measures, including land use aspects
 - Improve information sharing platforms and access to information;
- Define **clear milestones/timelines** in the work plan on the completion of the Readiness process → see proposed WP

TAP conclusion on the RoC R-Package

- Results and problems of REDD+ Readiness process are honestly presented in R-Package, e.g. also those that are important for presenting the jurisdictional ER-PD (Sangha/Likouala);
- Need for a targeted work plan to address the outstanding issues in the readiness phase;
- Focus on a improved communication and information sharing process as “learning-by-doing” when implementing the Work Program for finalizing the Readiness process;
- Focus efforts on the readiness process over the coming 9-12 months and to continue as it had been outlined in the MTR and the subsequent R-Package assessment.

TAP recommendation on the RoC R-Package

- TAP expert recommends that PC accept R-Package as being of sufficient quality in conjunction with the work implementation.
- WP implementation can be conducted in parallel to the further preparation of a jurisdictional ER-PD preparation process.

Thank you for your attention

