



Cameroon Civil Society REDD+ and Climate Change
Platform (PF-REDD+&CC)

Strengthening the Capacities of Civil Society
For the Implementation of the 'Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)
Within the Framework of Cameroon's preparation for the REDD+ Mechanism

**Workshop for Information & Analysis of Midterm Progress
Report submitted by the Government of Cameroon,
for Additional Financing from FCPF**

Civil Society Platform Position Paper

The National Platform Coordination
March 2017

Created on July 23, 2011 in Yaoundé, the Civil society REDD+&CC Platform of Cameroon has been operational since July 2012. The Platform has been participating actively in the REDD+ process in Cameroon at different levels, with financial and technical supports from partners, including IUCN, MINEPDED, CARPE, WRI and the World Bank.

Following the validation of the R-PP in February 2013, Cameroon has launched the formulation of the national REDD+ Strategy in June 2014. In parallel with this process, in order to benefit from the FCPF carbon funding, Cameroon has committed the country to an Emission Reduction Program and its Emission Reduction Program Idea Note (ER-PIN) was approved in June 2016 in Paris, after its second examination by the Committee of Participants of the Carbon Fund of FCPF.

In October 2016, the mid-term evaluation mission of the REDD+ process was organized in Cameroon. The Progress Report of the Process was deposited at FCPF in January 2017. It will be examined during the 23rd Session of the Committee of Participants of the FCPF that will hold in Washington DC from the 27th – 29th March 2017.

The Platform took part in the Mid-Term Review and elaborated a subsequent Position Paper, highlighting key elements to be seriously considered by the TS/REDD+. The Mid-Term Progress Report, if approved, should enable Cameroon to secure additional funding that will help to complete the preparation phase of the REDD+ process

It was thought important that the Platform analyses the submitted Midterm Progress Report, ascertain if the concerns expressed in the Position Paper of 16th October 2016 had been taken into account; thus clarifies its position at this very important phase of the REDD+ process in Cameroon.

It is for the above reasons that the Civil Society Platform organized a workshop in Yaounde on the 22nd of March 2017, at which about 50 persons took part. Participants included members of (1) National Coordination and (2) Regional Coordinators of the PF-REDD+&CC, (3) Representatives of CCSPM, CNCTC, AIWO-CAN, RRI Coalition, CAIWOE, RAFM and CEFDHAC

Prior to the national REDD+&CC workshop, the Regional Coordinations held meetings in the Regions to have the first step analysis of the mid-term report, bringing together communal and community coordinations.

The Regional workshops included municipal and community representatives for them to be acquainted with the Midterm Progress Report and to provide feedback for inclusion in the National workshop. Their observations were then presented during the national platform workshop. In the light of the analyses done by the participants on the REDD+ Mid-term progress Report, a position paper was written highlighting the following:

1. The REDD+&CC National Platform acknowledges the important progress made in the REDD+ process in Cameroon and seizes this opportunity to congratulate the Government for its commitment to involve the Platform and CSOs in the entire process.
2. The Platform acknowledges the accomplishment of the Midterm Progress Report and the encouraging significant achievements attained.
3. The Platform encourages the PCPF to adopt this Midterm Progress Report and take appropriate measures to enable Cameroon to catch up with the REDD+ process that has been delayed.

However, despite the position above, the Platform would like to draw the attention of Government to the following observations, whose consideration if taken into account would facilitate harmony, effectiveness and efficiency in the REDD+&CC Process in Cameroon:

4. The Civil Society Platform requests REDD+/TS to publish all documents specific on REDD+ in the two official languages of Cameroon – English & French - in order to facilitate the comprehension and appropriation of the REDD+ mechanism by all national stakeholders.
5. The National Platform of REDD+&CC highlights the great need of putting in place a protocol of collaboration between the ST-REDD+ and the Platform. It should clearly define roles, responsibilities and tasks assigned to each party, in order to avoid the frustrations the Platform experiences at National, Regional, Municipal and Community levels.

6. The Civil Society Platform cannot effectively play its recognised and assigned role towards attaining the objectives of the REDD+&CC Process set by Government, without the required resources. In this light, the Platform solicits Government Support with the allocation of 30% of the REDD+&CC budget, directly to the Platform for the implementation of its activities as stated in its five year Strategic Plan detailed each year in an Operational Action Plan.
7. The Civil Society Platform wishes that, all activities within its domain of competences (Capacity building, information sharing, sensitization, consultations at community, municipal or regional level, pilot initiatives, etc.) be clearly allocated to the Platform with appropriate financial resources for their implementation, in order to avoid recurrent confusions in the implementation.
8. Within the framework of implementation of REDD+&CC initiatives on the ground, it happens that regional, municipal and community representatives of the Platform are ignored by certain administrations involved in REDD+ and they tend to be reduced to the instrumental role of 'validation' of documents and reports. The Platform denounces this attitude and requests Government, to render the presence and participation of REDD+&CC Platform Regional, Municipal and Community Coordinations in all initiatives and activities specific to REDD+&CC across the national territory, to be made mandatory through a **Ministerial regulatory Act**.
9. The Civil Society Platform requests Government to renew the contracts that have come to term of REDD+/TS staff so as to consolidate achievements and increase the effectiveness of the current team which has good expertise and mastery required for a successful completion of the ongoing REDD+ Process.
10. In order to improve working relationships and increase the potential for collaborative actions with the REDD+/TS, the Platform requests Government to appoint or recruit into the REDD+/TS team, an Expert responsible for Relations with Civil Society. The Platform would like to be involved in the elaboration of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for such a position.
11. The Civil Society Platform requests that in the ToRs of all studies linked to REDD+&CC, the methodology of the Consulting firms should include the costed involvement of the Platform and its membership in the Regions, Municipalities and Communities, in information & data collection activities. In the same vain, the Platform requests to take part in the validation of the ToRs of the Studies and the orientation meetings of specific ongoing studies.
12. The Civil Society Platform shall compile the list of tasks not undertaken on its 2016 Roadmap due to certain procedural delays at REDD+/TS, and include them in the 2017 Roadmap. The Platform encourages the REDD+/TS to be more proactive and attend to collaboration initiatives with the Platform with more celerity.
13. The Civil Society Platform mandates the National Coordinator, solely charged with Civil Society negotiations with Government, PCPF and other stakeholders in the REDD+&CC Process, **to ensure the association of the Platform** in the successes registered in the midterm report, of which she took active part.

Done at Yaounde, the 22nd March 2017

The Participants



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