



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Independent TAP Expert Review of Ethiopia's REDD+ Readiness-Package

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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 of Ethiopia’s R-Package
- Part B: Review of the results of the multi-stakeholder R-Package self-assessment
- Part C: Assess what still needs to be done to complete the Readiness Process
- -> TAP Conclusion and Recommendation

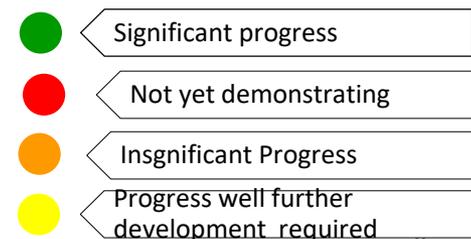
Part A: Self-Assessment Process

- Self-Assessment process was conducted according to FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, and the R Package Report provides adequate documentation on the actual status of REDD+ Readiness and on work remaining;
- The multi-stakeholder consultation was conducted through a highly participatory process involving a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop held June 9th - 11th 2017, which included participants from five stakeholder groups i.e. Federal Government (18); Federal REDD+ Technical Working Group -TWG (11); Regional Governments and Regional REDD+ TWG (33); NGOs/CSOs (13) and the National REDD+ Secretariat (7). This was followed by a consolidation workshop with elected representatives of the above groups held June 18th - 24th;
- The R-Package report provides the color scores of each of the five stakeholder groups separately, giving added transparency to the process and demonstrating a high level of consensus on REDD+ Readiness among the five stakeholder groups.

Part B: REDD+ Readiness: Results (1)

Table 1 Progress summary at subcomponent level at MTR and R-Package

COMPONENTS	SUB-COMPONENTS	Progress Status at MTR	Progress Status at R-Package
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation			
	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Green	Green
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yellow	Green
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation			
	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Green	Green
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Green	Green
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yellow	Yellow
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yellow	Green
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		Yellow	Green
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards			
	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Yellow	Green
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Yellow	Green



Part B: REDD+ Readiness: Results (2)

Component 1. Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)

- National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) moved from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in 2015. It has a full staff complement of 14 people, and the 7 Regional REDD+ Coordination Units (RCU) have a further 29 staff. Lack of sustainable and predictable funding for REDD+ Strategy implementation is a concern;
- The National REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) includes key federal land use institutions such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Water, Irrigation and Electricity and the Wildlife Conservation Agency, as well as Regional Agriculture Bureaus, but political buy-in for REDD+ from other sectors is still limited;
- Extensive consultations were held at national, regional, woreda (district) and kebele (community) level, particularly on safeguards (26 woredas, 52 kebeles), drivers of deforestation (13 woredas), and for the design of the Oromia Forested Landscape Program (reaching out to 343,000 local community members, experts and government officials). Nevertheless, community consultations need to be intensified, with a special emphasis on reaching women;
- The public consultation materials are currently not easily accessible, and minutes of task forces are not made public. All the relevant information should be disclosed in an organized manner to enhance public participation.

Part B: REDD+ Readiness: Results (3)

Component 2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation (Criteria 11-25)

- REDD+ strategy options were prioritized in two stages: first on the basis of (i) GHG ER potential; (ii) abatement cost efficiency; (iii) priorities under Ethiopia's 2011 Climate-Resilient Green Economy paper; and second on the basis of (iv) poverty alleviation; (v) potential social impact at scale; (vi) institutional readiness;
- It will be important to clarify how and when the REDD+ strategy will be approved;
- Policy and legal reforms necessary for REDD+ implementation were addressed in a thorough May 2015 study - these include reforms to ensure that forest-related priorities are reflected in agricultural investment decisions, that authority over Environmental Impact Assessments is returned to the Ministry of Environment, and that community forest ownership is legally recognized and benefit sharing improved;
- The adoption of many of these reforms is outside the control of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and will require action by the Council of Ministers and by Parliament;
- Key elements of the REDD+ Implementation Framework, such as the Benefit Sharing Mechanism and the National REDD+ Registry, still require significant work.

Part B: REDD+ Readiness: Results (4)

Component 3. Forest Reference Emissions Levels/Forest Reference levels (criteria 26-28)

- Ethiopia has made excellent progress. It submitted its first national FREL/FRL, based on an IPCC Tier 3 approach, to UNFCCC in 2016, which approved it in 2017 after two revisions. It is also working on four regional FREL/FRLs;
- Ethiopia FREL/FRL is based on a step-wise approach, currently including the REDD+ activities Deforestation and Enhancement of Carbon Stocks, and the carbon pools Above Ground Biomass, Below Ground Biomass, and Dead Wood. Ethiopia aims to add the REDD+ activity Degradation at a later stage;
- For determining its reference level, the country is using the averages of historical deforestation and removals data, currently with 2001-2013 as the reference period, and without any adjustment for national circumstances.

Part B: REDD+ Readiness: Results (5)

Component 4. Monitoring system for forests and safeguards (Criteria 29-34)

- Development of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is highly advanced and national MRV Unit is fully operational, with a National Forest Inventory Facility and a Remote Sensing/Geographical Information System in place;
- The relevant non-carbon benefits have been identified through the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and are emphasized in safeguard instruments and REDD+ Strategy;
- Development of the Safeguard Information System has not yet started, nor has it been decided how it will be linked to NFMS - this has been recognized as an urgent action point;
- Currently no “space” has been defined for participatory MRV in the institutional architecture of the NFMS.

Part C: What still needs to be done

The areas where additional work will be needed on REDD+ in Ethiopia include:

- Increasing political buy-in of other sector ministries (especially Agriculture) for REDD+;
- Formally adopting the REDD+ Strategy;
- Addressing a considerable number of outstanding policy, legal and institutional reforms (many of which are outside the control of the Ministry of the Environment);
- Clarify function and form for the proposed National REDD+ Registry: will it be a program/project registry, an ER transaction registry, or both?
- Completing the rest of the REDD+ implementation framework (Benefit Sharing Mechanism, institutional architecture for participatory MRV and Safeguards Information System).

TAP Conclusions and recommendations

- The TAP reviewer is of the opinion that the R-Package report provides a reasonably accurate picture of REDD+ Readiness progress achieved in Ethiopia and of the work that remains to be done, though some sections (e.g. sub-component 2b on REDD+ Strategy Options and component 3 on FREL/FRL) did not do justice to the progress achieved. Most of the necessary data, however, is easily accessed through the hyperlinks in the R-package report;
- There are a number of outstanding policy, legal and institutional reforms necessary for REDD+ implementation that require action by the Council of Ministers and by Parliament, such as ensuring that forest-related priorities are reflected in agricultural investment decisions, that authority over Environmental Impact Assessments is returned to the Ministry of Environment, and that community forest ownership is legally recognized and benefit sharing improved;
- Key elements of implementation framework, such as Benefit Sharing Mechanism, National REDD+ Registry are also incomplete;
- Ethiopia's stated objective of addressing all remaining REDD+ Readiness gaps substantially by June 30th, 2018, is highly ambitious

TAP presentation on Ethiopia R-package

THANK YOU!

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