



IPACC REDD WORKSHOP, LIBREVILLE, GABON

29 – 30 September 2009

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Introduction

This workshop, held in Libreville, Gabon on 29th and 30th September 2009 was a follow-up to the REDD Training of Trainers workshop conducted by IPACC in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2009. It was attended by some 21 people, made up of representatives from five community based organisations, three government agencies, and members of the national media (see Appendix A for details).

The Gabonese National Focal Point for the Forest Carbon Participation Facility supported the workshop. Thanks go to M. Bernard Panzou, National Coordinator in the office of the Director General of Environment and Nature Protection (DGEPN), Mlle. Leatitia Magoulou also of the DGEPN, and M. Benoit Nziengui, Conservator of Waka National Park for their commitment in making this a successful workshop. The workshop report will be made available as a record of one of the consultations for Gabon's RPLAN.

The workshop took place over two days, commencing with a summary presentation by IPACC on the REDD programme, its objectives and planned mode of operation. IPACC's REDD Training Manual, translated into French, was used in the workshop, and a copy of the Gabon RPIN was distributed to participants. The REDD presentation was followed by a statement from the Focal Point, which noted that Gabon had submitted its RPIN successfully and that the RPLAN was still being developed.

After tea the workshop moved to an Open Space format for the remainder of Day One. The theme of the workshop was "IMPLEMENTING THE RPP IN GABON". The workshop broke into working groups for the rest of Day One and a 'Book of Proceedings' was assembled.

On Day Two it was agreed that more time be spent on the carbon cycle, and Dr Nigel Crawhall of IPACC made a detailed presentation and ran a 'question and answer' session. The workshop then returned to the Open Space format, and using the proceedings from Day One, developed a set of recommendations and mini-projects, which are recorded in the second 'Book of Proceedings'.

The workshop was conducted in French, and all proceedings were recorded in French. In this document the original reports are attached as Appendix B, and the English translations appear in the main body of the report.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

JP Sturgeon
Workshop Facilitator
5th October 2009

Workshop Agenda

DAY 1 Tuesday 29 September 2009

- 09.00 ■ Introductions and rules of engagement
- 09.30 Setting the context
 - What is the REDD program?
 - How does it work? RPINS & RPLANS
 - Questions and answers
- 10.30 Gabon and climate change: policies and practice
 - Presentation: Status of Gabon REDD program
 - Questions and answers
- 12.00 OPEN SPACE Workshop: Theme: "IMPLEMENTING THE RPP IN GABON – PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS"
- 12.15 ■ Bulletin Board created
 - Issues for working groups agreed
- 1.30 ■ Group Sessions
- 4.00 ■ Book of Proceedings distributed
 - Reflection
 - CLOSE DAY 1

DAY 2 Wednesday 30 September 2009

- 09.00 ■ Presentation on the Carbon Cycle
 - Questions and answers
- 11.00 OPEN SPACE ACTION PLANNING
 - Book of Proceedings read
 - Prioritization of Issues
 - Working Groups assembled
- 11.30 ■ Group Sessions
- 3.00 ■ Second Book of Proceedings distributed
 - Presentations by working groups
- 4.00 ■ Reflection
 - CLOSE WORKSHOP

Day One: Setting the Context

The workshop began with a presentation in French on the REDD program and the Forest Carbon Participation Facility. The presentation is summarised in Appendix C.

The REDD program

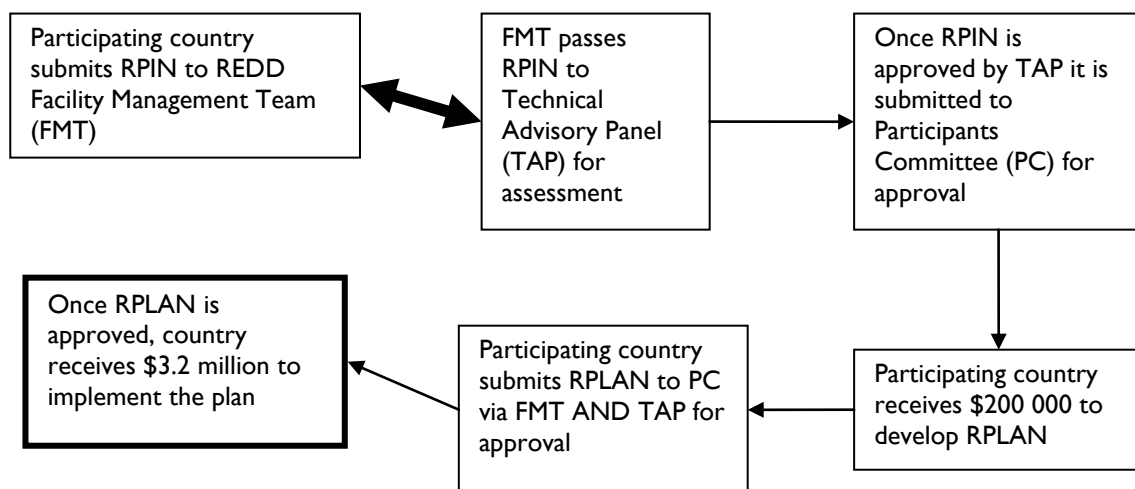
REDD stands for: **R**educing **E**missions from **D**eforestation and forest **D**egradation, and is designed to reduce emissions by reducing forest degradation. The **REDD program** has been put in place as a way of **reducing emissions**, because it is the most efficient and cost-effective way of fighting climate change. The thinking behind the REDD program is as follows:

1. Deforestation contributes to greenhouse gases, and therefore if we stop burning forests we reduce greenhouse gas emissions
2. Forests absorb carbon dioxide. They are the best system available for pumping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. If we stop using or burning forests we can remove more carbon dioxide from the air.
3. Forests provide food and shelter for almost 1 billion people, and also for thousands of animal species, and they are an important source of medicines.

So REDD is a plan to protect protecting forests because they are a powerful tool in the fight against climate change. However, there are some very difficult problems in implementing REDD. Forests are a source of timber, charcoal, and are also burnt in order to provide land for agriculture. Forests are an important economic asset, especially for poorer countries. If deforestation is to be stopped, how are poor countries going to be compensated for not using their forests?

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

The presentation described the process set up by the Forest Carbon Participatory Facility (FCPF) to prepare a participating country for access to the REDD process and REDD funding. This is summarised in the diagram below.



The role of Indigenous Peoples in REDD

This was followed by a presentation on Indigenous Peoples, the importance of their traditional ecological knowledge, and the roles that they might play in terms of forest management in a REDD project. The role of Indigenous Peoples in REDD was a central theme of the workshop and MINAPYGA, one of the NGOs participating in the workshop responded to the presentation with a statement saying that the Gabon government ministry had not consulted them appropriately in preparing the RPIN. The representative from the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection also responded to the presentation and noted that the RPIN had been produced, submitted and approved, and that the RPLAN still needed to be prepared. The September deadline was not going to be met. Consultation with forest-based communities in preparing the RPLAN would take place.

Day One: Open Space

The workshop moved into an Open Space format in order to discuss the REDD program in Gabon, and the roles of the various stakeholders. The theme originally proposed was “Implementing the RPP in Gabon – practical demonstration activities and projects”. This was changed to a generalised theme of the REDD program in Gabon, its potentialities and challenges.

The workshop selected three issues for discussion and then separated into working groups, and spent the remainder of the day in discussion. The workshop re-convened at 4pm in order, to collect working group reports and to reflect upon the proceedings of the day.

Working Group Reports: Implementing the RPP in Gabon

These session reports were produced in French by the participants themselves, and have been translated into English for this report. The original reports are appended as Appendix C.

SESSION I: Tuesday 29 September 2009

Group 1: ISSUE: The role of the State

Overall goals

- Capacity building for the training of key players in the environmental field and in the administrative and NGO sectors.
- Local stakeholders must contribute to foster a greater protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development.

Recommendation to the State: The Gabonese State must take the law into account and set up a communication and awareness raising programme in rural and urban areas.

Team leader: Mr Jonas Koumba

Participants: Ms Bella France Coule

Group 2: ISSUE: Training and funding

Following the training session leading to the forming of the work groups, our group focused on the general theme of training and funding with regards to REDD. Following this participatory exercise, group 2 brought forward four themes connected to the general theme. These themes are as follow:

Theme 1: Local training

- Training at a local level on the consequences of climate change on local and indigenous communities;
- Suggested solutions, national level workshop to be organised within the local and indigenous communities using local vernacular languages if possible;

Theme 2: National training

- Training at a national level of local and indigenous communities on what REDD implies;

Theme 3: International training:

- Preliminary training of indigenous and local leaders through the organizing of forums on climate change

Theme 4: Funding

- Training on how to secure funding – creating the link between a good idea and a financially viable project

Team leader: Mr Leonard Odambo

Participants: Mr Herve Nziengui-Nzahou; Mr Blanchard Miloma; Mr Norbert Mekoi; Mr Franck Lepemanoye

Group 3: ISSUE: Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities

The Administration is responsible for:

- Setting up a structure and processes to facilitate the integration of the various stakeholders
- Organizing local consultation forums

Civil Society is responsible for:

- Enabling a specialization of civil society within various environmental fields
- Launching development projects
- Contributing to awareness raising within local communities

The Private sector is responsible for:

- Respecting environmental management standards
- Facilitating access to information

Local Populations are responsible for:

- Becoming involved in developmental projects
- Valorising their patrimony and traditional know-how

Team leader: Mr Ladislas Ndembet

Participants: Mr Estimé Rosaire Mbithe; Mr Benoît Nziengui; Mr Bernard Landry Panzou

SESSION 2: Tuesday 29 September 2009

Group 3: ISSUE: Required resources and means

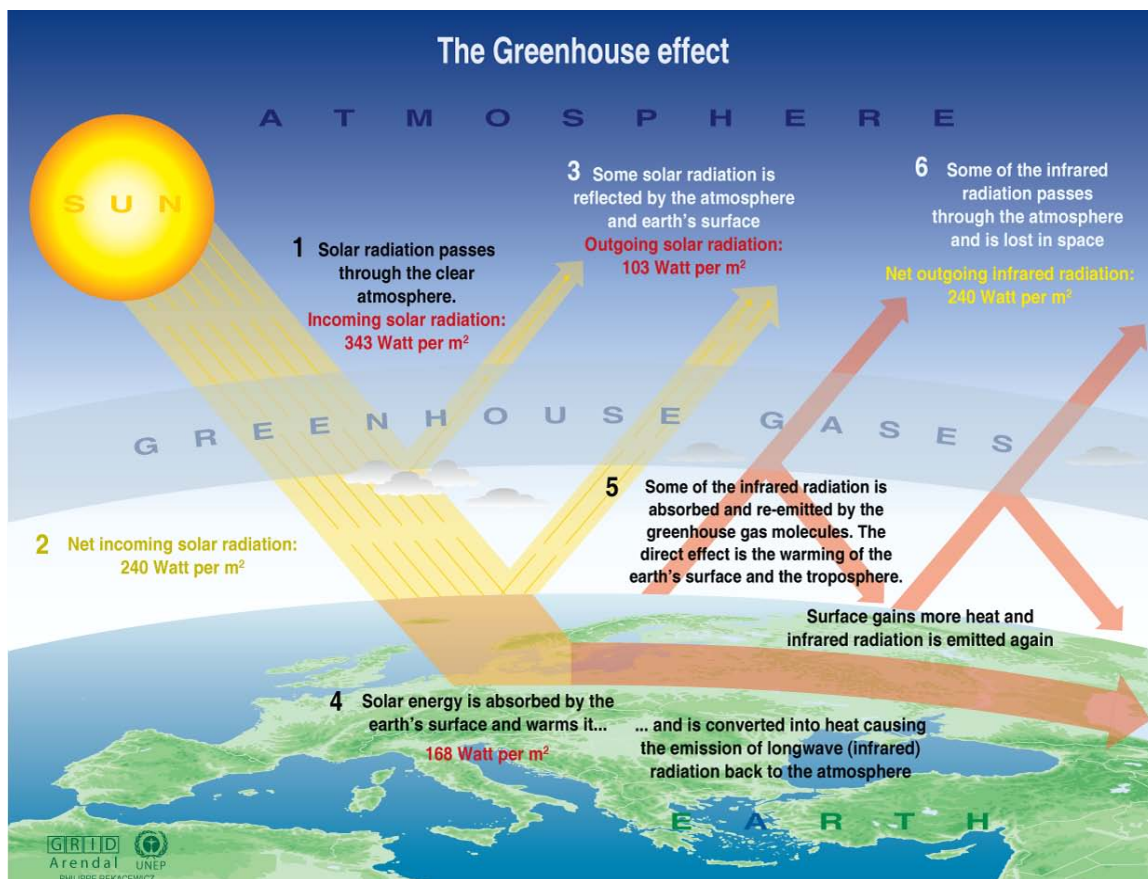
- Training of trainers (members of NGOs) and facilitators (within local communities)
- Technical and logistical assistance to the local communities to ensure that projects are implemented;
- Financial support to local projects;
- Developing of awareness raising programmes on topics related to climate change.

Team leader: Mr Ladislas Ndembet

Participants: Mr Estimé Rosaire Mbithe; Mr Benoît Nziengui; Mr Bernard Landry Panzou

Day Two: Presentation on the Carbon Cycle

Based on the reflections on Day One, the workshop decided to spend time exploring the carbon cycle. Dr Crawhall therefore made a presentation and took questions. Below is a summary of the presentation.



Sources: Okanagan university college in Canada, Department of geography, University of Oxford, school of geography; United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington; Climate change 1995, The science of climate change, contribution of working group 1 to the second assessment report of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, UNEP and WMO, Cambridge university press, 1996.

Summary: The Greenhouse Effect

1. Heat from the sun hits the earth's atmosphere.
2. Some heat is reflected by the atmosphere into space. The rest of the heat passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the earth and warms it.
3. Some of this heat is also radiated by the earth back into space.
4. Not all of this heat escapes into space. Instead it is trapped by a layer of Greenhouse Gases in our atmosphere and it warms up the atmosphere.
5. The overall effect is that the surface of the earth gets hotter.
6. Climate change is mainly caused by the emission of so-called 'Greenhouse Gases' which cause the earth to warm up. Carbon dioxide is the most important Greenhouse Gas or GHG.

The Greenhouse Gases are like a blanket covering the earth, and they trap heat from the sun so that our planet gets steadily warmer.

Summary: The Carbon Cycle

1. Carbon dioxide is produced by burning carbon in the form of coal, oil, petroleum, diesel, jet fuel and others. It is also produced by the burning of forests.
2. Climate change became a serious problem when we put a lot more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This started over 200 years ago when we started burning coal to make power for factories and later to generate electricity.
3. Carbon dioxide is part of our atmosphere and is part of the carbon cycle. Animals use oxygen to breathe, and they produce carbon dioxide. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. They also store carbon in this way.
4. Forests are very important because they absorb carbon dioxide. They are also important because when they are burnt down or degraded, they put carbon dioxide into the air.
5. Forests are important for other reasons: they provide many useful things including timber, food and medicines. They are home to millions of people and thousands of animal species.
6. Forests are now very valuable because of climate change. If forests are looked after and kept intact they can make a big difference in the fight to slow climate change down.

Day Two: Open Space

Following the discussion on the carbon cycle the workshop moved back into the Open Space format. Based on the issues developed on Day One the workshop broke into new groups and developed new issues and projects, which are summarised below. The original documents are attached as Appendix C.

SESSION 3: Wednesday 30 September 2009

Group A: ISSUE: Survey on environmental education in schools in rural areas

Summary: The survey on environmental education in schools will assist with identifying the various stakeholders who are involved in one given activity. Our survey will involve pupils who, although they are not directly responsible for deforestation related activities, will enable us to make use of the principles of family sociology. This survey will enable us to indicate whether their family members take part in deforestation activities. The survey will thus involve:

- The children' households, through the organization of semi directed workshops between teachers and pupils ;
- And then their parents.

This will assist us in identifying the activities that attract families and that are related to their daily lives – this will thus enable us to answer the following questions: are they girls or boys? Why do so many leave school?

Recommendation: we request the Gabonese State, together with donors, to integrate a training module on the concept of biodiversity conservation within the national primary school curriculum.

Team leader: Mr Jonas Koumba

PROJECT SUMMARY Group A

Name of project: Survey on environmental education in schools in rural areas

Team leader: Mr Jonas Koumba, President of the NGO "AGROFED"

Project duration Several months

Scope of the project

Setting up a national programme in rural schools (with a pilot in the Duigny district, in the vicinity of the Moukaba Doudou National Park, Moabi municipality and its surroundings), in the Nyanga Province.

Expected outcomes

The biodiversity conservation actors will be known and trained and will be the next custodians of biodiversity conservation.

Key challenges

Non governmental organisations do not have the required means to carry out their projects in the short term and in the long term.

First steps

- Organisation of a programme of activities
- Drawing up a budget (material means required)

Budget

25.000.000 Francs CFA

Targeted donors: EU, GEF, WB

PROJECT SUMMARY Group B

Name of project: Mapping of medicinal plants around local communities

Team leader: Mr Leonard Odambo

With the participation of: Mr Bernard Panzou, Ms Laetitia Magoulou, Ms Bella France Carole, Mr Estimé Rosaire Mbithé, Mr Blanchard Mekowa, Mr Herve Afoumane Nziengui, Mr Rodrigue Madambi.

Project duration

24 months

Scope of the project

Nation wide

Expected outcomes

- Mastering and valorisation of traditional know how
- identification, location and knowledge of the benefits of plants
- Mapping of medicinal plants according to local communities

Key challenges

- Access problem to the various sites
- Funding coordination
- Integration of "traditional patricians"

First steps

- Identification of resource people
- Defining of project activities and project implementation time frames
- Drawing up a budget

Group B: ISSUE: Organizing Indigenous People Associations (IPA)

1. The State should facilitate the judicial and administrative aspects of the various IPAs, such as reducing the cost of setting up an association;
2. The State should also assist IPAs in defining solid projects which can easily be funded by donors.
3. The State and the donors should promote the training of IPAs in their fields of activity.
4. Donors should alleviate the funding access processes, such as the problem pertaining to the type and nature of institutions which can receive funding; this constitutes a significant hindrance to IPAs.
5. Structured NGOs such as the WCS, the WWF, etc. need to support and help the emerging associations in setting up these new structures.
6. Training on the applicable creation and fundraising processes is required.

Team leader: Mr Leonard Odambo

Participants: Mr Bernard Panzou, Ms Laetitia Magoulou, Ms Bella France Carole, Mr Estimé Rosaire Mbithé, Mr Blanchard Mekowa, Mr Hervé Afoumane Nziengui, Mr Rodrigue Madambi.

PROJECT SUMMARY Group C

Name of project: Mobilizing local communities

Team leader: Mr Ladislav Ndembet – NGO MUYISI Environment

With the participation of: Mr Juste Parfait Ziangonga (Figet), Mr Guillaume Ngoonda, Mr Christian Ndongobadi.

Project duration

12 months

Scope of the project

The scope of the project is to call on local populations to organize themselves into cooperatives, associations or NGOs. This will assist in resolving the unemployment and wealth creation challenges through the decrease of poverty.

Expected outcomes

It is about helping local communities to:

- become aware of the environment related problems
- become the actors and interlocutors of the State and the donors.

Key challenges

- Setting up the legal status, completing the administrative work required
- Setting up projects and then rolling out those projects
- Making contact with donors and winning their trust

First steps

- Awareness raising, information, training and education.
- Such a project requires an off road vehicle, IT tools (laptops, printers, etc...)

Budget

Fifteen million Francs CFA over a year. This will enable the project to have a national reach, by relying on the antennas of the 9 provinces.

SESSION 4: Wednesday 30 September 2009

Group A: ISSUE: Communal resources conservation project

It is about recognizing and valuing the BAKA communal structures, signing agreements with donors and finding support for the rehabilitation of Baka and Bantu hunters.

Communities need to develop their own eco-tourism projects.

Material means required:

- machetes
- files
- combirition (illegible)
- boots
- spades

Team leader: Mr Wowo Paul

Participants: Ms Marion Viano; Mr Oke Minso Alex

PROJECT SUMMARY: Group B

Name of project: Creation of the Gabonese Federation of Indigenous People Environmental organisations (GFIPEO)

Team leader: Mr Léonard Odambo

With the participation of: Mr Norbert Mekouha, Mr Rodrique Mahambi, Mr Guillaume Ngonda, Mr Christian Ndongobadi, Mr Miloma Blanchard, Mr Ladislas Ndembet.

Project duration

24 months

Scope of the project

Nation wide

Expected outcomes

The expected outcome is to reunite all Indigenous People Environmental organisations along an ideal underpinned by the protection of ecosystems and the fight against climate change.

Key challenges

- To gather and create local associations
- To embark on a country visit in order to make an inventory of all NGOs
- Fundraising
- Sourcing the required logistical and material means

First steps

- Setting up the legal status of the structure
- Headquarters of the structure
- Furnishing and equipping the headquarters
- Allocation of an operational budget
- Defining a programme of activities

Budget

25 million CFA Francs

PROJECT SUMMARY: Group C

Name of project: Spreading the knowledge of law in the rural areas around the Waka Park, Ngoumé Province, Gabon

Team leader Hervé Nziengui-Nzadhou

With the participation of: Estimé Mbithe, Benoit Nziengui, Léonard Odambo, Jonas Mkoumba, Blanchard Miloma.

Project duration

12 months

Scope of the project

Nation wide

Expected outcomes

This project is about:

- promoting a good knowledge of laws ;
- Communities will thus take ownership of the relevant laws;
- Promoting law abiding behaviours

Key challenges

- Acquiring/getting familiar with the laws relevant to the institutions;
- Translation of the laws into vernacular languages.

First steps

This will require an experiment on a first sample, for instance one of the villages in the vicinity of the Waka Park, in the Ngouinié Province.

Budget

Three millions CFA Francs

Group C: ISSUE: Training to promote the knowledge of Gabonese legislation

Aims:

- Raising the awareness and promoting the knowledge of several laws by of local communalities ;
- Communities are to take ownership of the relevant laws;

Beneficiaries:

- Local NGOs;
- Local Administration (village chief, canton chief, district prefect, district sub prefect, governor, local municipalities, elected officials: deputies, senators, politicians, etc.)

Methodology:

- Extensive meetings of beneficiaries (NGOs, chiefs and communities, etc.)
- One on one meetings;
- Provision of learning materials;
- Identification and training of focal points;
- Providing the required knowledge to the people affected by the different laws (law on national parks and other protected areas), forest code, mining code, environmental code, etc...

Team leader: Mr Hervé Nziengui-Nzahou

Participants Mr Estimé Mbithe, Mr Benoit Nziengui, Mr Léonard Odambo, Mr Jonas Mkoumba, Mr Blanchard Miloma.

Appendix A: List of Participants

DAY ONE		
Name	Organisation	Address
Sasha Lagrange	IPACC – consultant	sasha@sashaconsulting.com
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Norbert Mekouwa	MINAPYGA	Tel: 07 89 2590
Blanchard Miloma	MINAPYGA	Tel: 07 50 0149
Leatitia Magoulou	DGEPN	Tel: 07 92 2010
Bernard Landry Panzou	Coordonateur National sur SC	panberland2000@yahoo.fr
Benoit Nziengui	Parc National Waka	Tel: 07 37 0535
Jonas Koumba	Agrofed (president)	Tel: 04 12 2523
Nigel Crawhall	IPACC	lpacc.africa@gmail.com
Estimé Mbithe	Cameraman Autochtone	Tel: 05 27 8669
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Ladislav Ndembet	Muyissi Environment (NGO)	ladislavdemaison@gmail.com
Arno Mounombi	IP Hametua herlier national	Tel : 05 72 6505
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Norbert Mekouwa	MINAPYGA	Tel: 07 89 2590
Blanchard Miloma	MINAPYGA	Tel: 07 50 0149
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Benoit Nziengui	Parc National Waka	Tel: 07 37 0535
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Guillaume Ngounda	Makokou	Tel: 07 99 2986
JP Dangonga	Figet/Makokou	Tel: 07 36 3130
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Wowo Paul	Edzengui (NGO)	Tel : 07 51 8690
Marion Viano	WWF/Edzengui	marion.viano@yahoo.fr
Eric Chehoski	US Embassy	ChehoskiE@state.gov

Appendix B: Book of Proceedings, Day One and Two

Appendix C: The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (summary)

What is the FCPF?

- One of the REDD financial mechanisms
- It is a World Bank program managed by the Carbon Finance Unit
- Launched in Bali, Indonesia during UNFCCC COP 13 in Dec, 2008
- 300 Million fund
- Target 20 countries increased to 30 and going up..

What is the FCPF?

- The FCPF aims to assist developing countries in their efforts to REDD by
- Building Capacity for REDD activities
- Testing a program for performance-based payments in certain pilot countries
- It will have 2 funds – a **Readiness Fund** and a **Carbon Fund**.

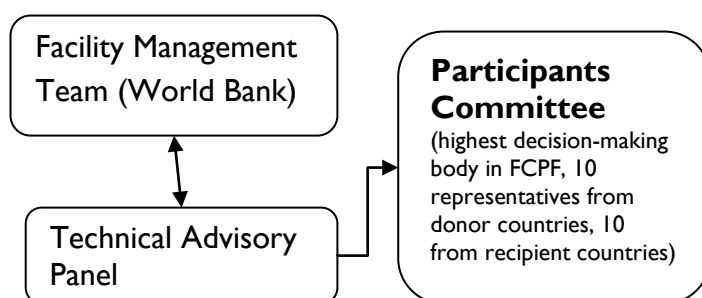
The Readiness Fund

- **The Readiness Fund is \$100 million and increasing....**
- It is the capacity building fund to help REDD countries develop:
- 00National reference scenarios for REDD from past Degradation and Deforestation estimates
- A National REDD strategy
- A National system for monitoring, reporting and verifying emissions from DD

The Carbon Fund

- **The Carbon Fund is worth US\$200 Million – will increase...**
- It is for countries to benefit from carbon storage
- Payment is based on performance

FCPF Structure and Decision Making process (for RPIN, RPLAN)



R-PINS – What are they?

- RPIN = Readiness Plan Information Notes
- Interested countries present country situation via Government FCPF focal point
- RPINS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
- Institutions responsible for forest governance, enforcement and monitoring
- Drivers and estimates of Degradation and Deforestation (DD)
- Estimates of Greenhouse Gases

- Data on Indigenous Peoples
- Current strategies in place to address DD
- Current thinking on what would be needed to control DD
- Have any consultations on REDD been done so far?
- Key challenges expected in developing and implementing a REDD strategy?
- How would REDD activities and programmes be monitored?
- Would REDD be an incentive? What impact on rural livelihoods? Biodiversity?
- How is cross-sectoral collaboration achieved? With REDD and other sectors?
- Who are your current /potential REDD partners?
- What would you do first?

TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

- Independent Panel of Experts that reviews the R-PINS
- Ranks them
- Present to the Participants Committee for approval

Africa Countries and REDD

- 17 have so far expressed interest
- July 08 - Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, DRC, Gabon, Ghana
- October 08 – Cameroon, Uganda, Ethiopia and Republic of Congo
- 4-5 March 09 – CAR, EG, Tanzania and Mozambique

RPINS to RPLANS

- Once the RPIN is accepted the country receives US\$200 000 to develop a Readiness Plan (**R-PLAN**)
- An R-PLAN is intended to lay out and organize the steps needed for the country to achieve “Readiness” to undertake activities REDD in the specific country context
- An R-PLAN defines a set of minimum requirements for Readiness, and requires a country to draw a roadmap toward achieving REDD Readiness.

THE ROADMAP

- Should indicate how REDD activities will be done (i.e., the approach or methods)
- What capacity building and resources are needed and who would provide them (e.g., domestic agencies, NGOs, private sector; international donors, etc.)
- How REDD will be organized, managed, and evaluated in the country
- Draft Terms of Reference for each of these activities

TIME FRAME

- Submit R-PLAN – March, June OR September 2009
- Review process – March, June, September 09
- Acceptance probably October 2009
- Accepted countries to receive US\$ 3.2 million to implement the R-PLAN

THE FCPF AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Bali discussions
- March Meeting – Bujumbura
- Involvement in Technical Advisory Panel

- A US\$ 5 million grant for 5 years for the global IP community to organize and participate
- Insistence on involvement, participation at the national level

HOT ISSUES

- Who drives the process at the national level?
- What about land rights now that there is increased government interest in land?
- Whose carbon will it be and how will benefits reach the poorest of the poor?
- Where will Indigenous Peoples find the resources to follow up the FCPF process?
- What role do Indigenous Peoples want to play in the whole REDD process?
- Do IP's have the skills? If yes, why are they not using them now?
- What is the best strategy for our engagement?