

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, September 10, 2009, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

of R-PP of : GHANA

Review Synthesis : Harrison Kojwang

Date of review : February 20, 2010

FINAL DRAFT

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) *FCPF REDD Country Participant R-PPs will be reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body, taking TAP comments into account. External (Technical Advisory Panel or other) and Bank reviewers may provide recommendations on how a draft R-PP could be enhanced, using this template on a pilot basis until a process is approved by the PC.*
- 2) *One set of criteria should be used for review: specific standards each of the current 6 components of an R-PP should be met.*
- 3) *Your comments will be merged with other reviewer comments (without individual attribution) into a synthesis document that will be made public, in general, so bear this in mind when commenting.*
- 4) *Please provide thoughtful, fair assessment of the draft R-PP, in the form of actionable recommendations for the potential enhancement of the R-PP by the submitting country. A REDD Country Participant would be allowed three submissions of an R-PP to the PC for consideration.*

Objectives of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (condensed directly from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

The purpose of the R-PP is to build and elaborate on the previous Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) or a country's relevant comparable work, to assist a country in laying out and organizing the steps needed to achieve 'Readiness' to undertake activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), in the specific country context. The R-PP provides a framework for a country to set a clear roadmap, budget, and schedule to achieve REDD Readiness. The FCPF does not expect that the activities identified in the R-PP and its Terms of Reference (ToR) would actually occur at the R-PP stage, although countries may decide to begin pilot activities for which they have capacity and stakeholder support. Instead, the R-PP consists of a summary of the current policy and governance context, what study and other preparatory activities would occur under each major R-PP component, how they would be undertaken in the R-PP execution phase, and then a ToR or work plan for each component. The activities would generally be performed in the next, R-PP execution phase, not as part of the R-PP formulation process.

Summary of Review and Recommendations

The TAP is generally pleased with the quality of the RPP and commends the effort which has been put to improve the key components dealing with Consultations, Preparing the REDD Strategy, Developing a Reference Scenario and a Monitoring System.

Strengths of the RPP Document:

In general the document is well written and the flow of ideas is fairly logical

The proposed process of consultation involving policy makers at the national level and other stakeholders down to local levels is sensible, even though in the first instance Traditional Leaders were not explicitly involved in the process.

The main drivers of Deforestation and Degradation have been clearly identified and well described in the document

The proposed REDD strategy options have been identified even if the section could still be reorganized to recognize forest management objectives along the lines of protection, production and participation

The basic technical processes of setting reference scenarios are clear

Issues of concern from the TAP

In general, it is not easy to see how some of the main recommendations from the first TAP Review under each component were taken on board in producing the current version. The TAP expected the RPP to clearly show how the key recommendations had been taken up to revise the original version of the RPP.

For example consultations with traditional authorities, despite reports that they have been consulted; is not explicit in the document.

The TAP had also recommended that the roles and responsibilities of key committees be clarified and demarcated in order to minimize future possible inter-institutional conflicts. In this regard, the TAP had recommended that the proposal to maintain the National REDD Coordinating Authority under the Forestry Commission, be re-considered, with a view to giving it the necessary 'political clout' to coordinate and guide other government and non-government institutions. In view of that, recommendation, the TAP expected a clear and reasoned response.

In preparing for readiness, the document should ideally show an overall 'grand vision' of a REDD Ready State.

Major recommendations

- i. The roles and mandates of the National Resources and Environmental Council (NREAC) and that of the National REDD Steering Committee (NRSC) should be clearly stated and demarcated. In fact, the RPP merely states that the "remit of the NRSC will be finalized and opportunities to strengthen the committees through a revision of its membership and/or its amalgamation with other steering committees ..,will be considered"
- ii. The NREAC should consider including the Ministry of Energy in view of the heavy dependence on wood fuels in the country. In addition a Financial Management Entity for REDD Funds should be seriously considered.
- iii. Given the complex relationships between institutions that is already apparent in the document and to guide the implementation of a National REDD Strategy, a compilation of

'lessons learnt' from recent Natural Resource Management Programmes should be included.

- iv. For purposes of monitoring and assessment of carbon stocks in Component 3, the TAP feels that an Apex Body is still needed. While NREAC is nonetheless well placed to guide policy development and direction of REDD. As such the issue of an Apex Institution with the correct position to coordinate other Government and Non-Government institutions should be addressed
- v. While component 4 is sufficient from a carbon stock assessment or monitoring standpoint, there is need to include other sustainable development factors, such as water use and flow, changes in biodiversity, health and socioeconomic indicators (e.g. benefit flows to local communities) in the monitoring framework. In addition, the drivers of deforestation and degradation are critical elements that need to be explicitly factored in as separate pieces of assessment.

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3:)

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;

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Based on the first draft of the R-PP of Ghana it was noted that the country subscribes to the REDD-**plus** agenda that includes not only reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; but also the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. This would suit the country based on an extensive system of forests and wooded patches outside the gazette forest estate, the cocoa plantations in the High Forest Zone, the woodlands in the Transition Zone and also the savanna's. The expectation is that under REDD plus, is that despite the challenges associated with REDD plus discussions, the enhancement of carbon stocks in all the landscapes could yield useful carbon credits.

It was also noted, the proposed complex institutional set-up, as outlined in the document, with unclear roles and responsibilities among REDD related bodies might create conflicts in respect to competency and authority, hence the observation that the process to achieve readiness will be difficult to steer without a clear assignment of authority for REDD-plus at the appropriate level.

The complexities cited were:

- o The National Climate Change Committee, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST), which reports to Parliament
- o The Ministry in charge for REDD-plus is however the Ministry of Lands and Natural

Resources (MLNR), which houses the Climate Change Unit , closely linked to the Forestry Commission

- The role of other government institutions with links to REDD such as ; the Lands Commission, the Survey Department, the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, the Land Valuation Board and the Land Title Registry Department.
- Other Ministries besides MEST and MLNR, e.g. Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP), the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLG) and, as proposed by some TAP members, the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture (MCC) and the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs (WWCA) also have their stake in the development of national mitigation strategy in REDD-plus.

In view of the above, the placement of the Climate Change Unit under the Forestry Commission and whether it would have the right level of authority to coordinate its counter-part institutions (some of whom may be politically more powerful than itself) was seen as a potential problem by the TAP.

In view of the above the TAP recommendations made in the first round were:

- Consider strengthening of the management arrangements by better defining the role of the Natural Resource and Environmental Advisory Council (NREAC), its technical committee, the role of MLNR as a whole and the Forestry Commission in particular. Simplify the relationships between the bodies. Consider if the NREAC could take a more responsible role for clarifying the role of the many institutions and mandates involved and on reporting requirements.
- Explain the role/include or explicitly exclude in the management arrangements other Ministries that are not mentioned in the R-PP (e.g. the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture; the Ministry for Women and Children’s Affairs) as well as other technical services that are working under the MLNR. Reflect on the role of the National Development Planning Commission that to some extent is responsible for integration all development initiatives to promote poverty reduction. Reflect on the role of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) that has major influence through cocoa production over almost the entire high forest zone and Shea-nuts production in the savanna zone.
- Argue and justify the role of the National REDD-plus Secretariat within the FC as the main implementation body. Develop the pros and cons of positioning the main implementation body at such low convening power level in the National Readiness Management Arrangement. There is also a need to define what functions and legal mandates all proposed bodies (listed in Figure 2) should have with respect to REDD-plus.

In the revised document the TAP has made the following observations:

The proposed arrangements; the inclusion of MLG, MNLR, MoFEP, MEST and MoFA in the Natural Resource and Environment Advisory Council at the cabinet level and the National REDDplus Steering Committee at the ministerial level would seem adequate to ensure effective coordination.

Though it is not explicit, it is assumed that the Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and the National Development Planning both of which are under the MoFEP, will facilitate

coordination to ensure that they play their roles effectively to enhance the goals of the REDDplus programmes.

As such, the TAP feels that there is room for improvements using the points below :

The roles of the National Resources and Environmental Council (NREAC) and that of the National REDD Steering Committee (NRSC) are still not clearly demarcated. In fact, the RPP merely states that the “remit of the NRSC will be finalized and opportunities to strengthen the committees through a revision of its membership and/or its amalgamation with other steering committees ..will be considered”

NREAC should consider including the Ministry of Energy in view of the heavy dependence on wood fuels in the country. In addition a Financial Management Entity for REDD Funds should be seriously considered.

While it is recognized that cross-sectoral issues will still need to be discussed and decided upon, the level at which they will be discussed and decided upon (which committee or office) also needs more clarity.

The TAP feels that while the section has been improved, the standard will only be fully met if the roles of the Key Committees has been clarified and when the placement of the Climate Change Unit under the Forestry Commission and not in a higher office, has been explained. In the clarification, it would also be useful to further state or propose the functions and the likely legal mandates of the committees.

The subsection has partially met the Standard.

Standard 1b: Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders: Inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, assessed in the following ways:

- i. the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³, the extent of ownership within government and REDD coordinating body, as well as in the broader national stakeholder community; and

the Consultation and Participation Plan included in the R-PP (which looks forward in time); and the inclusion of elements in the R-PP that adequately document the expressed concerns and

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).

recommendations of relevant stakeholders and propose 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:

In general terms, the consultation and participation process proposed was considered satisfactory and improvements were proposed through a few recommendations which were:

- Actively include the Cocoa Research Institute and the national Cocoa Board in the consultations in view of their activities within the High Forest Zone,
- Consult and seek agreement or opinions on the roles of the various proposed coordination committees.
- Make a special effort to hold a separate and in-depth consultation process with the National House of Chiefs, the Regional Houses of Chiefs and a selection of forest communities and adapt the R-PP according to the main recommendations received from this process.
- In the consultation, discuss further roles and responsibilities and possible policy and legal implications of stakeholder involvement in a future REDD-plus implementation scheme.

While the sub-component is much more improved and well reasoned, there is no reference to the special consultations with the 'House of Chiefs' and also to the Cocoa Board (though the Board has been referred to in Component 2)

The standard has been largely met

Component 2. Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2.a: Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy, and Governance: A completed assessment is presented that identifies major land use trends, direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD, and major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues. It documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD. The assessment 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:

In the first round reviews in 2009, the TAP had noted that this section sufficiently described the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (over capacity, policy/market failures, population pressure, wood energy consumption, high demand for timber/chainsaw logging, slash and burn agriculture, poor agricultural technology). It had also identified disincentives to custodianship of trees off-reserves and introduction of new 'full sun' cocoa-varieties that are not consistent with REDD Principles. It highlights the main issues that need to be tackled and in this regard, the matrix provided in Table 1 is quite useful.

The TAP also noted that areas which needed mention or strengthening included :

Clear proposals on how to rehabilitate degraded cocoa growing lands and promotion of shade tolerant cocoa varieties

- The formal recognition of fallow forest mosaics (secondary forest management) as a form of land-use practices from which non-timber forest products such as allanblackia nut, bushmeat, snails and mushrooms and medicinal plants are harvested. In such areas the possibility of payment for ecosystem services should also be further explored from a REDD-plus angle.
- The reinforcement of protection of 50m riparian strips
- The possibility of Cashew Farming operating under CDM arrangement
- A clear account of the achievement and failures of several past government and donor funded Natural Resource / Forest Management Programmes.

The recommendations were that Ghana,

- Address the above in particular, the lessons learnt from major sector initiatives implemented over the past 3 decades (what worked, what did not work and if so, why did it not work).
- Consider to include an Expert Working Group to assess the potential benefits from emerging piloted innovative land use labeled under Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)
- Consider changing the text under: *Low Carbon Agro Industrial Development* (page 41 of the Annex) as follows: “The aim is to identify policy options that will *reduce* the carbon footprint and *improve* pro-poor benefits of these innovations” (also in the TORs on page 52 of the annexes and on page 44 of R-PP document).

The TAP has noted the clear recognition of the causes of deforestation and degradation, identification of research gaps and the incorporation of the recommendations of the first review comments of the TAP into the current version of the RPP. However, a comprehensive review of past programmes, lessons learnt and applicable Traditional Knowledge Systems has not been addressed.

The current version largely meets the standard.

Standard 2.b: REDD strategy Options: Alignment of the proposed REDD strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies: the R-PP includes a summary of the emerging REDD strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD strategy options. This summary states:

- i. how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD strategy;
- ii. early estimates of cost and benefits of the emerging REDD strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental benefits;
- iii. socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD strategy;
- iv. major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD strategy; and
- v. 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 strategy over time.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well the R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The TAP noted that the REDD Strategy Options are clearly laid out, using an approach that

includes (i) two national expert consultations, one on timber supply and the other one on carbon rights; (ii) four expert working groups (ecosystem friendly cocoa production; local market timber supply; charcoal and fuelwood and los carbon agro-industry development); and (iii) a challenge fund that allows civil society to participate with experimental actions to develop the REDD-plus strategy. While (i) and (ii) have been described in more detail with TORs in the Annex, the proposal on the challenge fund (iii) is not further described.

A number of specific observations have been made by TAP members, as follows:

- One of the expert working groups should also look at the Community Resource Management Areas concept being implemented by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, particularly the monitoring reporting and verification system, legal framework, permanence and benefit –sharing schemes which has the potential to enhance carbon stocks.
- Explore traditional land use practices which maintain or enhance carbon stocks
- The working group on ecosystem friendly cocoa production should also look at the possibility of putting in place an intersectoral coordination mechanism or stakeholder platform involving the Cocoa Board, Forestry Commission, MLNR and Civil Society and farmers so as to ensure the adoption of recommended best practices that have the potential to enhance carbon stocks in cocoa production landscapes.
- In addition, one of the expert working groups should also look at reducing impact of logging in forest reserves as well as a system of assessing management effectiveness in on-reserve areas. This will contribute to reduce leakages.
- On fire, the issue is not just control but the judicious use of fire as a land management tool and this time within a REDD context. This is of particular importance in the transition and savanna zones.
- On charcoal it should be noted that charcoal making and its use emits carbon. The issues are therefore minimizing the use of charcoal, improving efficiency in carbonization of raw wood, conversion of saw dust to briquettes and sustainable wood supplies from managed sources.

It was also the opinion of those TAP members that are very familiar with the developmental context of the Ghana Forest Sector, that the R-PP could be improved by acknowledging a number of on-going pilots in the country. These include the cocoa sector, charcoal production, recovered wood in Volta Lake, Community Resource Management Areas, and reforestation. The document was silent on all of these pilots.

The earlier recommendations were for Ghana to:

- Address the various suggestions made above for improving the work of the expert groups
- Consider the various pilot projects ongoing in the country that could inform the REDD strategy options
- Describe further (through e.g. TORs) the proposed challenge fund. It is the understanding of the TAP that the challenge fund has not only been designed for projects on fire control.

With respect to the recommended changes, it has been noted that:

- The text under *Low Carbon Agro-Industrial Development*, “reduce the carbon footprints and

improve the pro-poor benefits", has been changed in the main document as recommended by the TAP,(Ghana R-PP, on page 48), but not corrected in the Annex .

- Furthermore (on page 48) commitment has been made to take notice of past experience and on-going pilots initiatives including institutional innovation such as CREMAs but this has not been followed up. Possibly this should be incorporated into the proposed actions in CANDIDATE STRATEGIES of Table 2a under Sub-component G3: Support scaling up of innovative initiatives successfully piloted in the CREMAs by NGOs, national agencies and local communities, included on page 51 of Ghana R-PP.
- A major gap that has not been addressed is the issues of buffer zone or river bank planting, which has enormous potential for increasing carbon stock in the savannah in particular. This should be given serious consideration as it appears to be a potent tool for addressing stock depletion in the northern sector of the country.
- Judging from Ghana's complex array of deforestation drivers, success of the proposed strategies will depend on appropriate production and supply mechanisms to current harvesters particularly in the timber supply sector, to avoid potentially harmful leakage from neighboring countries.
- With respect to charcoal and fuelwood, the RPP could explore the use of propane (LPG), which has been tested successfully in other African countries.
- An overall grand vision of what the Forest Sector could look like, under a REDD Ready State could be a useful input in rallying the country around REDD.

The standard 2b has been largely met, and the TAP recommends that the above observations be considered to improve this sub-component of the RPP.

Standard 2.c: REDD implementation framework: Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD in the country setting that identifies key issues, explores potential arrangements to address them, and offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The earlier observations from the TAP were:

That in general terms, the key requirements for implementation and ensuring accountability were rightly described and the priorities for the readiness preparation are logical and relevant. Nonetheless, what is lacking is the link to the policy direction and the clarification of roles among existing and potential entities. This is equally important but not sufficiently described in the current version of the R-PP.

Attempts to operate REDD which is extremely cross-cutting, at a low executive level, is likely to be fraught with extreme territorialism and competition between ministries and agencies and should be avoided.

Furthermore there was insufficient inclusion of cross sectoral expertise and key stakeholders outside the national government structures in place, e.g. traditional leadership institutions and civil society.

The need for concrete examples falling under “Priorities of the REDD Readiness Preparation Phase”; namely, (1) Analysis, preparation and consultations; (2) Piloting and Testing; and (3) Becoming Ready. For example, the TAP expected reasonably clear concrete examples of possible pilots and where they could be situated (examples are protection forests, off-reserve forests, reserves with fringe communities, fire management pilots etc). .

In view of the above specific recommendations were:

- The RPP seriously examine the creation of an apex institution (a REDD secretariat at high level) in the R-PP stage, e.g. in the Office of the President for the purpose of directing and guiding the entire REDD process.
- Describe possible TORs of such a high level secretariat and other related committees and ensure a balance of cross sectoral expertise and reflect on the need of an overall multi-stakeholder policy making body that steers the overall REDD agenda.
- In general the Component of the R-PP should take into account the realities of Ghana at this stage and suggest some minimum implementation framework even if they would be interim pending refinement after COP 15.

In the current version of the RPP the TAP has observed that:

While the Natural Resources and Environmental Advisory Council is well placed to guide policy development and direction of REDD, it does not sufficiently play the role of a devoted Apex body. As such the issue of an Apex Institution with the correct position to coordinate other Government and Non-Government institutions has not been adequately addressed.

More specific candidate initiatives, such as the positive influence of honey harvesting or farming on Fire Management around Mole National Park should be included

Financial arrangements for REDD should also be included in this sub-section

Without addressing the issue of an Apex Body, the R-PP submission does not yet meet the standard 2c in terms of the functionality and inclusiveness of the institutional arrangements. It should also be more precise in its set of activities according to the three-step approach proposed.

Standard 2.d: Assessment of social and environmental impacts: The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence for strategic environmental and social impact assessment in compliance with the Bank’s safeguard policies, including methods to evaluate how to address those impacts via studies, consultations, and specific mitigation measures aimed at preventing or minimizing adverse effects.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The first set of recommendations were to improve the subcomponent were

- more precision or clarity on the work that is intended to be conducted under this work program item of the R-PP. Specify in particular the consultative (field-based analysis) and indicate in which region of the country and under which circumstances this work will be conducted.
- Reformulate the chapter in a way that the ownership of the process is linked with the relevant Ghanaian authority that takes responsibility and leadership. Do not give the impression that “the consultant” is the main driver of the process.
- Make sure that the social and environmental impact assessments undertaken in the R-PP process are also subjected to the SEA procedures developed by the EPA of Ghana.
- Avoid unnecessary repetition of text between the main R-PP document and the annexes (this is in particular obvious in respect to item 2d, but can be found throughout the document).
- SESA Procedures should include impacts on Forest Dependent Communities

The TAP has observed that reference has now been made to Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments which are consistent with World Bank Standards in addition to Ghana’s own requirements

The standard 2d has now been met.

Component 3. Develop a Reference Scenario

Standard 3 Reference scenario: Present work plan for how the reference scenario for deforestation, and for forest degradation (if desired), will be developed, including early ideas on feasibility of which methods to use (e.g., scenario of forest cover change and emissions based on historical trends in emissions and/or based on projections into the future of historical trend data), major data requirements and capacity needs, and linkages to the monitoring system design.

(The FCPF recognizes 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-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The earlier comments from round one reviews included the following observations

The requirement for this component was both, the quantification of historic carbon stock changes for REDD relevant processes as well as for the development of future trajectories based on anticipated social and economic scenarios.

In general, the ideas for the development of a reference scenario were well presented. However a specific plan and a designated methodology for each of the steps necessary to build the essential capacities is required. The link to the IPCC-GPG is established but the MRV implications in terms of national policy priorities and opportunities are not further elaborated.

The need for Ghana to invest significant resources for REDD readiness, based on identified data and capacity gaps were clearly outlined and justified.

The identification of key IPCC categories, defined as major sources of carbon stock change, will

at least require basic data on forest carbon stocks that is not yet assessed for Ghana. That is because the impact of different drivers and processes on carbon losses and gains has to be quantified in order to set up an adequate national policy that provides the framework to target these key causes, and to ultimately establish a reference level. Ghana is aware of the drivers leading to forest degradation and deforestation (as presented in Component 2 of the R-PP), but is not yet able to quantify their impact on forest carbon stocks. This ought to be well understood and the needed capacities built in. In addition it would also be useful to assess not only the drivers that decrease carbon stocks, but also the drivers that lead to an increase of forest carbon stocks, given that they may be encouraged in future through incentive policies as part of the national REDD-plus strategy.

A wall-to-wall stratification of forest carbon stocks for the entire country should be considered. Ghana's proposal under Step 3-3.2 is to estimate carbon stocks and not only for those areas undergoing major change. This makes sense as accuracy is needed for the core areas of REDD-plus implementation on the sub-national level. Nonetheless, this needs to be embedded in a systematic national forest monitoring system.

The Specific **Recommendations** were:

- Better link the assessment of drivers, current MRV capacities and related capacity gaps to obtain key historical data
- Develop some principles on what type and detail of data would be anticipated to finalize the formulation of policies, specify priorities and provide the foundation for the development of a reference level
- Better specify what approaches would be anticipated in case of uncertain or missing data (i.e. emission factors for forest degradation)
- Provide better understanding on how the national strategy could be implemented through a systematic national MRV system and a sub-national measurement plan to capture the key carbon stock changes
- Consider to broaden the capacity building activities (under activity 3.1) to extension officers and take into account capacities in existing institutions (those with Mapping, GIS and Forest Inventory Capacities)

The TAP makes the following observations on the current version of Component 3.

- Attempts have been made to link the assessment of the drivers with the capacity needs. The principle on what types and details of data and their respective sources have also been outlined.
- In comparison with the R-PP draft version from 09/22/2009 Ghana added some information regarding the quantification of activity data. The Katoomba Group will develop a forest carbon map for the country that will also support the verification of remote sensing data and the stratification of forests taking into account forest degradation. Certainly, this project could contribute to close existing data gaps and to grant access to important information regarding the development and implementation of Ghana's REDD and MRV strategies and should be used to improve the programming in this section as Ghana moves into REDD readiness.

- The Copenhagen decision laid out definitions of both gross and net emissions, and also provided information about the characteristics of a reference scenario. The Ghana proposal was probably written prior to the COP-15 meeting but it would be useful to show how the decision description matches the proposed set of activities.
- No attempt has been made to broaden the capacity building needs to include the extension officers who could act as trainer of trainers and also to revise the curricula of the colleges and agriculture, wildlife and forestry, to include the carbon stock assessment.
- A key institution; The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, has been left out, despite the fact that it already trains university students in land cover/forest cover assessment.
- The accounting in the budget Table 3b on p. 90 needs to be checked since the numbers do not seem to add up

The standards for component 3 has now been largely met, but can still be improved

Component 4. Design a Monitoring System

Standard 4: Design a monitoring system: The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation. The system design should include early ideas on including capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor other benefits and impacts, for example rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD implementation in the country, and to assess the impacts of the REDD 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 implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD monitoring system with this full set of capabilities.

(The FCPF recognizes 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 the first round reviews in 2009, the TAP noted that the first version of the RPP gave good overview on a monitoring system as a whole and on existing capacities and problems encountered when assessing implementation.

- From a carbon stock assessment or monitoring standpoint, the component is considerably clear. However, other sustainable development factors, such as water use and flow, changes in biodiversity, health and socioeconomic considerations should be considered as additional indicators for monitoring
- In addition, for a REDD+ program, monitoring of the drivers of deforestation is a critical element and this needs to be explicitly factored in as a separate piece of assessment.

- However, it fell short of recommending a national sampling grid, institutional roles including the roles of non-technical staff in MRV and clear capacity requirements.

It was recommended that the above be considered in revising the document and to:

- Specify in more detail the steps for a national process to evolve an MRV system as part of a national strategy.
- Define the role for civil society, local government authorities, forest communities and land owners in the MRV system.
- Consider to use some of the suggestions made in the recent UNFCCC technical paper on this issue,

On the current version of the RPP, the TAP has made a few observations:

- Based on the revised draft and the country call, Ghana did reflect on recommendations provided with the review of the R-PP draft version and the TAP welcomes the intent to incorporate local communities and the private sector into the national MRV work group and into training activities for forest monitoring to enable a meaningful participation of these stakeholders. The above recommendations are however still valid, as is the appropriateness of a multi-tier monitoring system to enable such a stakeholder participation.

The standard for component 4 has largely been met but the above recommendations should be included.

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, as well as from other international sources (e.g., UN-REDD or 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 readiness activities identified in the R-PP, or gaps in funding are clearly noted.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The observations from the TAP are that, the component has been improved and the work schedule is fine, though considering the timing for step 2 and 3, overly optimistic. Some of the step 1 activities, in particular capacity building, might need more time (e.g. The aspect on training for monitoring carbon stocks should be an on-going activity and not limited to only 2010).

The budget (which is presented at the end of each component) should be summarized in component 5. More details needs to be given in the budget of each component.

The standard for component 5 has been met.

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: 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:

The TAP has observed that the component has been improved and indicators to monitor performance and R-PP activities implementation and progress in the readiness process have been well-outlined and well placed within the NREG framework.

It also outlines how the M&E will be harmonized with other Development Partner programs in the sector which is very good. It provides broad annual indicators to be monitored but this should be further detailed and improved.

The standard for component 6 has largely been met.

In Summary,

Component 1 a) Partially meets (recommendations to be taken into account)

Component 1 b) Largely meets the standard (but recommendations to be taken into account)

Component 2 a) Largely meets the standard

Component 2 b) Largely meets the standard

Component 2 c) Does not meet the standard

Component 2 d) Meets the standard

Component 3 Largely meets the standard (but recommendations to be taken into account)

Component 4 Largely meets the standard (but with recommendations to be taken into account)

Component 5 Meets the standard

Component 6 Largely meets the standard