

REDD+ Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GHANA

February, 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- REDD Readiness Preparation Note (R-PIN) received FCPF approval in July, 2008
- \$200K FCPF Preparation Grant Agreement for R-PP signed on 1 April, 2009 and disbursed as of November, 2010
- REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) submitted to FCPF in December, 2009
- R-PP assessed and approved subject to revision by FCPF PC at PC5 in Gabon as per Resolution PC/5/2010/3 of March, 2010
- Revised R-PP submitted to the FCPF in accordance with the PC 5 resolution in December, 2010
- FCPF Readiness Grant in preparation (fiduciary arrangements to be finalized, WB due diligence ongoing, preparation of R-PP Assessment Note ongoing)

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The Government has established structures related to climate change, including national cross-sectoral committees for climate change, REDD+ etc.
- The apex body at the Cabinet level for providing oversight on national climate change issues including REDD+ initiatives is the Natural Resources Advisory Council (ENRAC). The ENRAC is chaired by H.E. Vice President. The Terms of Reference have been developed and the body launched on 7 May, 2010.
- The NREG Technical Coordination Committee (TCC+) will be responsible for coordinating Ghana's FIP, FCPF (REDD+), VPA, National Forest Forum and Non-Legally Binding Instruments (NLBI).
- The National REDD+ Technical Working Group which is a multi-stakeholder body within the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources provides advice and guidance on all REDD+ processes.
- The Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission serves as the REDD+ secretariat of the National REDD+ Technical Working Group.
- Technical Sub-Working Groups have been established to provide expertise and oversight on specific REDD+ strategy options and REDD+ methodological issues.
- A Carbon Credit Policy Committee has been set up in Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology (MEST) to clearly define rules and procedures for carrying out carbon credit generating activities, allocation of carbon rights and participation in sub-national activities.
- These institutional structures will be supported by legislation to implement the National Climate Change Policy which is in the consultation phase.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Consultations at national, sub-national and local levels in collaboration with relevant civil society groups who have interest and experience in VPA and REDD+ issues began in earnest in 2008 to formulate Ghana's R-PP.
- Civil society platforms such as Forest Forums are existing structures used for dissemination of REDD+ information to grassroot forest communities.
- A contact group with Forest Watch as the hub was established during the VPA negotiating phase. This contact which is made up of representatives of identifiable stakeholders like the Trade Union, People with Disability, Women's groups etc. will be reactivated for REDD+ consultation and participation process.
- A multi-stakeholder Sub-Working Group on Consultation and Participation of the National REDD+ Technical Working Group is in place to develop a comprehensive Stakeholder Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan and Communication Strategy outlining how local institutions and communities should be engaged in the REDD+ process.

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- The stakeholder consultation structures used in the VPA process have been earmarked for use under the REDD+ process.
- Collaborative mechanisms between VPA and REDD+ will be set up to enhance effective collaboration of efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Further consultation and sensitization workshops were organized for Traditional Authorities (16 Chiefs) in Kumasi and forest communities in Ho District (15 communities), Sunyani (5 communities) to enhance their understanding of REDD+ and Ghana's R-PP.
- A national validation workshop was held in October, 2009.
- The Climate Change Unit within the Forestry Commission has developed a REDD+ web page on the organization's website to facilitate information dissemination on REDD+ activities.
- Communication material (REDD+ brochures and posters) have been prepared and circulated to all stakeholders.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Developing the REDD+ Strategy is through a highly participatory approach which is ongoing, with an extensive program of applied research, as well as research and policy syntheses; commissioned expert reviews; inter-ministerial policy coordination and harmonization; and public consultation.
- A Policy, Legislation and Governance sub-Working Group is in place to facilitate the ongoing policy and legal reforms in the forest, mining, energy and agriculture sectors to identify gaps and strategies for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation under REDD+.
- 14 candidate strategies have been identified in the R-PP. These will be subjected to social and environmental impact assessment during the consultation process and testing during the REDD+ piloting phase.
- The REDD+ Strategy will fall into two broad thematic areas: a) Timber policy and supply b) Wider aspects of forest policy including agro-forestry and other carbon conserving activities.

5. Implementation Framework

- A phased approach is proposed up to 2013 and beyond as follows:
 - Phase 1 (2009 – 2011): REDD+ Readiness – Development of national plan or strategy, policies and measures and capacity building are ongoing
 - Phase 2 (2011 – 2012): Implementation of REDD+ Strategy - Implementation of national plan, policies and measures and further capacity building, technology development and transfer, and results-based demonstration activities or pilots
 - Phase 3 (2012 – 2013): Implementation of Performance-based actions - Results-based actions with full measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)

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6. SESA

- ToRs for SESA were prepared and included in the R-PP to promote due diligence; identify the institutional arrangements and governance needed for the implementation of REDD+ Readiness strategy; to identify the likely socio-economic and environmental risks associated with REDD strategies/policies; and to outline possible mitigation options; assess the potential additional benefits of REDD+ (especially biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation); and to inform the design of the national REDD+ strategy so that it avoids or mitigates negative social/environmental impacts and encourages positive ones.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- ToRs for developing Reference Scenario prepared.
- Carbon baseline map has been produced as a collaborative effort between Forestry Commission, Katoomba group, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) and Oxford University. The ongoing carbon map project is supported by the Moore and Rockefeller Foundations.
- Sub-national carbon accounting approach will be pursued as a first step to manage the national carbon accounting and actions related to crediting.
- Institutional capacity building and strengthening are being planned with the support of consultants

8. MRV

- Assessment of existing monitoring systems for tracking carbon stocks, livelihoods, governance reforms, biodiversity indicators is ongoing.
- The existing National GHG Inventory database of the National Communication program within EPA for estimating the historic emissions will be used for developing the MRV and carbon accounting system. The Remote Sensing & Forest Inventory Unit of the Forestry Commission and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (CERSGIS) at the University of Ghana will be key collaborators in the design of the MRV and carbon accounting system.
- Discussions by the MRV Sub-Working Group are ongoing on how best to develop an effective MRV system.

9. Other

- Due to the high level of donor coordination with the natural resources sector in Ghana there is a multi-donor sector budget program (NREG), an effective government-donor-civil society group mechanism to oversee a high number of initiatives in the forest and natural resources sector to ensure a cohesion in policy and coordination of REDD+ activities with other initiatives for a full and effective implementation.
- Bilateral discussions are ongoing with development partners who wish to support implementation of specific components and activities within the R-PP.

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