



# Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template

## Ghana

v. 2018



## FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

### About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

### Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

### Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15<sup>th</sup> July** every year.

## SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities delivered within your country during the last year?
  - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
  - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

The Additional Funding Phase of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness process started in 2015. It was for a period of 3 years until December, 2017 but it was extended to end of December, 2018. The major highlight of that phase was the development and submission of the Premier Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD) for the Cocoa-Forest Mosaic Landscape of the High Forest Zone (HFZ). Ghana's ERPD dubbed the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP) was selected into the portfolio of the Carbon Fund (CF) in June 2017 at the 16<sup>th</sup> CF meeting in Paris. The GCFRP aims to improve land-use and socio-economic development in the HFZ and Cocoa growing areas of Ghana by increasing Cocoa yield on farm lands through intensification with climate smart practices whilst preventing the expansion of Cocoa farms into forest lands. This selection which is a significant milestone in Ghana's REDD+ process initiated a number of events to prepare in earnest the necessary arrangements for implementation of readiness identified structures towards implementation of Results Based Actions. Key amongst them are Safeguards implementation including Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) and MRV implementation arrangements.

Ghana's Safeguards architecture towards REDD+ implementation begins with focal persons based at the district and regional levels of the Forestry Commission (FC) within the Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs). These Safeguards Focal

Persons (SFPs) will be responsible for ensuring REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards compliance as well as leading Institutional capacity building initiatives in the HIAs for key decentralized Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). Subsequently, Safeguards focal persons were trained according to the schedule below:

- Between the periods 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, 60 SFPs were sensitized and trained on key global, donor and national level Safeguards requirements for REDD+ implementation. Prominent among them were the World Bank (WB) Operational Policies and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Cancun Safeguards. The SFPs were also taken through project screening as part of national Safeguards requirements under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Act, 1994 (Act 490) and Environmental Assessment Regulations 1999, (LI 1652) to understand the classification of projects and sub-projects for Environmental Impact Assessment or otherwise. Overall the training consisted of 45 males and 15 females.
- Upon Completion of their initial sensitization and training on REDD+ Safeguards, the SFPs according to the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) developed for REDD+ implementation, led landscape level engagement of MDAs and MMDAs identified in Ghana's ESMF for Safeguards Implementation. These engagements occurred in 10 forest districts across all the six Hotpot Intervention Areas (HIAs) Identified for the GCFRP. The landscape level safeguards engagement was to build the capacity of decentralized institutions on REDD+ and REDD+ Safeguards requirements including FGSM. The districts are; Sefwi Wiawso, Cape Coast (Kakum National Park Area), Kade, Bechem, Juaso, Goaso, Nkawie, Ho, Begoro and Juaboso. Participants were made up of 580 males (about 70%) and 270 females (representing about 30%). These landscape activities were in active collaboration with Civil Society Organisations in Ghana comprising Civic Response, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and HATOF Foundation.
- As part of Ghana's education and sensitization program on REDD+, different platforms including Roadshows and the "Reddeye" Campaigns were developed. Prominent among them is the biennial National REDD+ Forum which was instituted as a High-level platform for Policy and decision makers to meet and deliberate on REDD+ going forward. Subsequently, the 2<sup>nd</sup> REDD+ Forum was organised on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, with the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as the Special Guest of Honour, delivering the Keynote address on the theme "Strengthening Law Enforcement for Effective REDD+ Implementation". The program was chaired by the former Chief Justice of Ghana, Justice Georgina Theodora Wood. The Current Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Justice Sophia Akuffo amongst a host of other stakeholders from the security agencies, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Traditional Authorities, Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs), local communities, MDAs, Students from secondary and Tertiary Cycle institutions, the Judiciary, Academia, Development Partners and Diplomats, Parliamentarians, the Media and the General public were all in attendance. About 1500 participants were at the Forum which also had the National REDD+ Working Group and Technical Sub-working groups in attendance. 903 males and 597 females were at the Forum.
- As part of preparations towards negotiating and signing an Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the Carbon Fund Participants, for Ghana's ERPD, in March 2018, Ghana inaugurated the ERPA Negotiating Team made up of legal practitioners and forest experts. The team consists of 2 females and 9 males.
- Ghana's National REDD+ Secretariat has also developed a zero draft Program Operational Manual (POM) for the implementation of the ERPD by all partners including private sector, government and local communities. Consultations on the draft are yet to kick start.

Acknowledging Ghana's progress in REDD+ Readiness activities towards implementation, three countries, Cameroon, Sudan and DR Congo, expressed interest in South-South Knowledge Exchanges (SSKE) with Ghana. Subsequently during the period under review, three countries have visited Ghana for exchanges over a period of a week each on the following topics:

- a) Private sector engagement on ERPD
- b) REDD+ Institutional Arrangements
- c) REDD+ Policy & Legislative Instrument for Implementation
- d) REDD+ strategy Formulation and Assessment of Drivers.

- e) Integration of the Forest Investment Program and REDD+
  - f) MRV & NFMS
  - g) Safeguards and FGRM
  - h) Carbon and Non-Carbon benefit sharing
- **Cameroon** - 9 participants from Cameroon led by the National REDD+ Coordinator and made up of 7 men and 2 women visited Ghana from 28<sup>th</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to engage particularly on REDD+ institutional arrangements, safeguards and benefit sharing.
  - **Sudan** - 13 participants from Sudan led by the World Bank Task Team Leader and the National REDD+ Coordinator and made up of 9 men, 4 women visited Ghana from 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to discuss particularly jurisdictional approaches to implementation of REDD+ Results Based Actions.
  - **DR Congo** - 8 participants made up of 5 men and 3 women from Democratic Republic of Congo and led by a team from the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) who were on a mission to Ghana as part of the project Reporting for Results Based REDD+ (RRR+) visited Ghana from 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This team was particularly interested in Ghana's MRV architecture for REDD+ implementation.
  - As part of the process of strengthening Safeguards capacity towards REDD+ implementation in countries, UNREDD and SNV, under the project "Operationalizing National Safeguards for REDD+ Implementation" (being undertaken in Ghana, Peru, Vietnam), an Africa Region SSKE was hosted in Ghana for 10 African countries, 2 countries from Asia, and Latin America from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The key focus of this SSKE was to deliberate more on how countries were meeting their Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) requirements and preparation of Summary of Information (SOI) and also build and enhance the needed capacity to respond to these instruments. Key resource persons from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and FCPF (Africa Region Safeguards Specialist) joined in remotely with their presentations. In all 36 persons consisting 12 women and 24 men from 4 Francophone and 8 Anglophone countries participated.

## 2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related achievements in your country during the last year?

- For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed

- The GCFRP is built around strong Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to galvanize enough resources to incentivize action at the Landscape level for large scale Emission Reductions. During the period under review, 3 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between Government and three Private Sector Cocoa entities (Touton SA, Mondelez, Nyonkopa; subsidiary of Barry Callebaut). These MOUs outline the intentions of the Private Sector entities to adopt Climate Smart Cocoa (CSC) practices outlined in the GCFRP document to achieve improved farm yields and emission reductions among others. Copies of the MOUs are attached.
- The Governance structure for the premier HIA (Bia-Juabeso), under piloting and demonstration for the GCFRP was launched in May 2018, also signalling a launch of activities in the HIA for the awareness of all stakeholders. The current consortium partners for implementation are Touton SA, Ghana Cocoa Board, Forestry Commission (FC), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, AgroEco and NCRC. Main implementation activities are:
  - a) Farmer training
  - b) Provision of Increased extension services.
  - c) Setup of rural service centers for easy access to farm inputs.

- d) Incorporation of shade Trees on Cocoa farms and law enforcement
- e) HIA management plan development (Small scale Land-use planning)

Support for this program is from the partnership for forest under the project "Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL).

- The Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for conflict resolution on REDD+ issues have been fully developed.
- Safeguards architecture fully decentralized to the district level with the necessary capacity for implementation built.
- MRV pilot run to assess the extent of national capacity for future measurement and reporting of carbon fluxes from deforestation fully undertaken leading to the development of 2017 land-use map by December, 2018.
- The launch of the Joint Framework of Action for the Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Bonn Germany November 2017. The CFI is a global commitment by the cocoa and chocolate industry players as well as the Governments of Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire to promote deforestation free cocoa production systems.
- Safeguards Information System (SIS) online page infrastructure, version 1 developed for data population to enable a fully functional SIS for reporting social and environmental impacts.

### 3. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

- For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

- Inadequate Staffing numbers for the REDD+ Secretariat.
- Limited Office Space constraining the recruitment of key thematic area specialists for REDD+ implementation.
- Inadequate Funding to undertake all Readiness sensitization and engagement activities.
- Difficulty in accessing livelihood sex-disaggregated data or statistics on farmers and other indicators in the various HIAs.
- Inadequate project vehicles to enhance regular field activities

### 4. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

- Development of the other ER programmes in the REDD+ strategy namely the Coastal Mangroves, Togo Plateau and Transition zone Emission Reduction programs;
- Procurement of some hardware and software for MRV;
- Operationalization of Safeguards Information System (SIS) with Principles, Criteria and Indicators populated;
- Operationalization of Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) with team of national level Arbitrators inaugurated;
- Operationalization of REDD+ Registry;
- Continued Sensitization and Capacity building in the Hotspot Intervention Areas on Climate Smart Cocoa Production and Forest Management;
- Establishment of Online National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for real time forest monitoring;
- Development of Ghana's REDD+ Investment Plan (GRIP);
- Continued engagement for Policy and Legislative Reforms on REDD+ policy as well as Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights Issues.

## SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

## 5. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:

(Indicator OV.1. B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

## Progress rating key:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
<b>R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation</b>			
<b>Sub-component 1a:</b> National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete	The Management Arrangements which include institutional arrangements for implementation for Ghana's REDD+ process have been robustly designed from national level to the landscape level. The National REDD+ Working Group and the 7 technical sub-working groups are all in place and meet on a regular basis. For the Implementation of the GCFRP, the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) consisting Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board and the Program Management Unit have also been set up. Other institutional arrangements for the GCFRP which include the HIA Governance Board, Safeguards Teams and HIA Consortium have all been designed and being piloted under the project 3PRCL.	
			X
	N/A		
<b>Sub-component 1b:</b> Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Complete	Extensive stakeholder consultations, outreach and participation have been distinctive features of Ghana's REDD+ readiness process. Relevant stakeholders have been fully consulted and engaged in the design of Readiness structures towards implementation based on a Communication strategy and Consultation and Participation Plan developed during the first phase of Readiness. Outreach activities for Consultation and Participation have been through round table discussions, High level REDD+ Forum, community durbars and "REDDeye" Campaign for the youth	
			X
	N/A		
<b>R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation</b>			
<b>Sub-component 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Complete	The development of Ghana's R-PP and both Phases of Readiness provided baseline information based on extensive analytical work with further review and refinement on land use change drivers and policy related issues. Further analysis and field work on key drivers of deforestation and degradation historically have been done with the estimation of the draft national and sub-national FRL. Further work is being done to review the accuracy assessment of the change maps for deforestation and review the	
			X
	N/A		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
		methodology for the assessment of forest degradation drivers.
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete	X
	N/A	
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete	X
	N/A	
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete	X
	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</b>		
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards</b>		
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete	
		X

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	N/A	Discussions underway with Private sector to partner in developing an online platform for real time monitoring of forest fluxes.
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete	Safeguards Information System Web Platform designed Safeguards principles criteria and indicators are being collected to populate the web platform. REDD+ Registry and Information System developed
	X	
	N/A	

## SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants who's REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

Ghana's REDD+ Strategy outlines five commodity-based emission reduction programs designed to reduce carbon emissions but also to enhance rural economies through alternative and additional livelihood schemes particularly for farmers. The GCFRP and GSLRP which are the most advanced programs out of the Strategy have strong livelihoods components. The GCFRP aims to improve the livelihoods of Cocoa Farmers by increasing the yields of cocoa trees per hectare by 50% of current produce. The program also makes room for alternative farming such as vegetable farming to diversify the income sources of rural dwellers. The GSLRP also has components that would increase the number of Shea trees to engineer large scale shea processing. Both programs also have enrichment planting with indigenous tree species to increase biological diversity. References: GCFRP, GSLRP, Draft Benefit Sharing Plan

7. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

Goal 2 of the Ghana REDD+ Strategy is "to preserve Ghana's forest in order to sustain their ecosystem services, conserve biological diversity, and maintain a cultural heritage for generations to come" Based on this goal, output 1 of the GSLRP and pillars 1 and 2 of the GCFRP programmes have elaborate plans for biodiversity conservation. The Ghana Togo Plateau Program is to a large extent targeted at biodiversity conservation. Similarly, the Coastal



Mangrove program aims at enhancing wetlands biodiversity conservation there by sustaining ecosystem services and improved quality of life.

## SECTION D: FINANCE

8. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included: (Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$ 3,400,000	FCPF	2011	Public	Grant
\$ 5,200,000	FCPF	2015	Public	Grant
\$ 30,000,000	FIP	2016	Public	Grant
\$145,000.00	CfRN	2017	Public	Grant
\$5,500,000	DGM	2017	Public	Grant

9. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$300,000.00	FAO	Public	Grant
\$300,000.00	CfRN	Public	Grant

## SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

10. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: (Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a <b>central influence</b> on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

The FCPF's support has <b>improved the quality</b> of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has <b>improved national capacities</b> to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has <b>helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders</b> (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

11. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:  
 (Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We <b>regularly access</b> FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information				X	
FCPF knowledge products are <b>relevant</b> to our REDD+ related information requirements					X
FCPF knowledge products are <b>sufficient</b> to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
The FCPF <b>website</b> is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

## SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

12. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year:

The FCPF process continues to be a very useful platform for continued engagement and has provided a lot of technical back-stopping. As Ghana transitions into implementation of RBP for Actions it would still be great to have the a FCPF continue to support the system both technically and financially.

ANNEXES

Figure 1: Overall institutional structure of Ghana's MRV mechanism

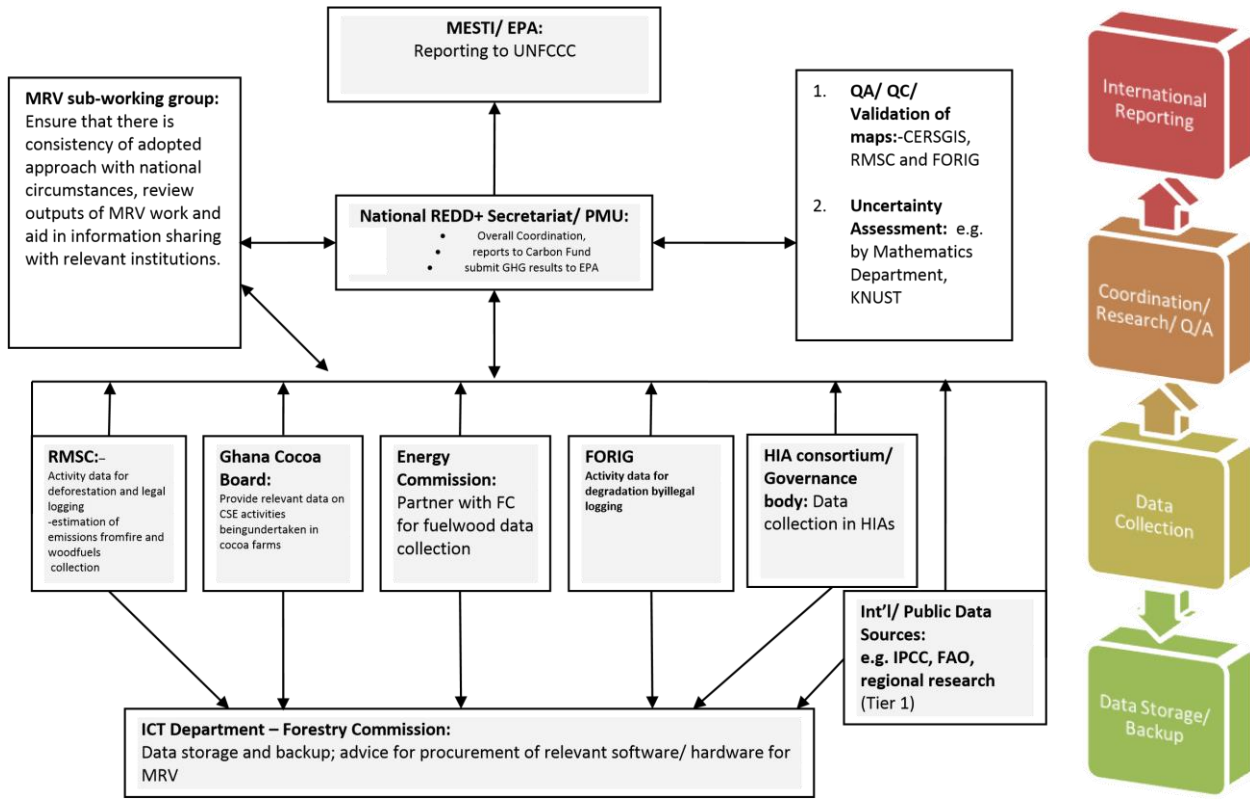


Figure 2: Institutional Arrangements

# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

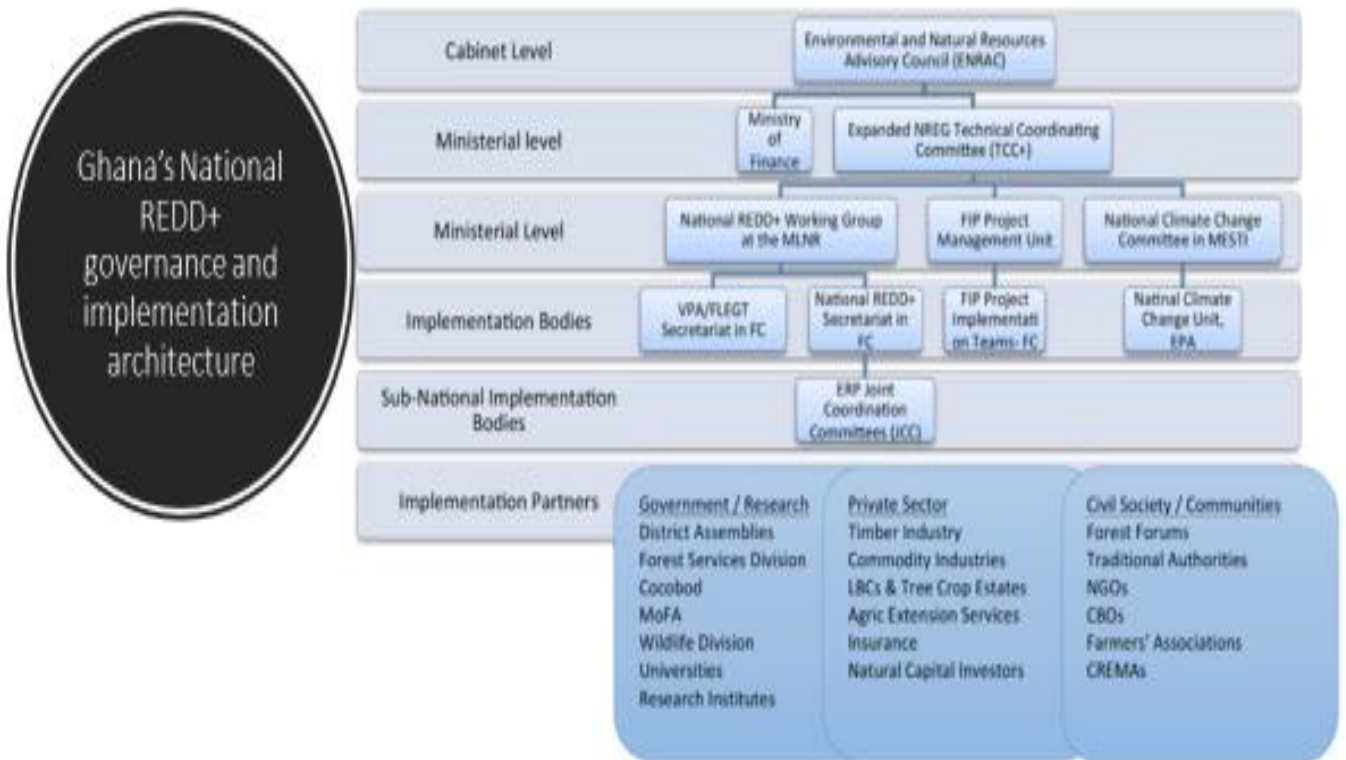


Figure 3: Ghana's Safeguards Reporting structure

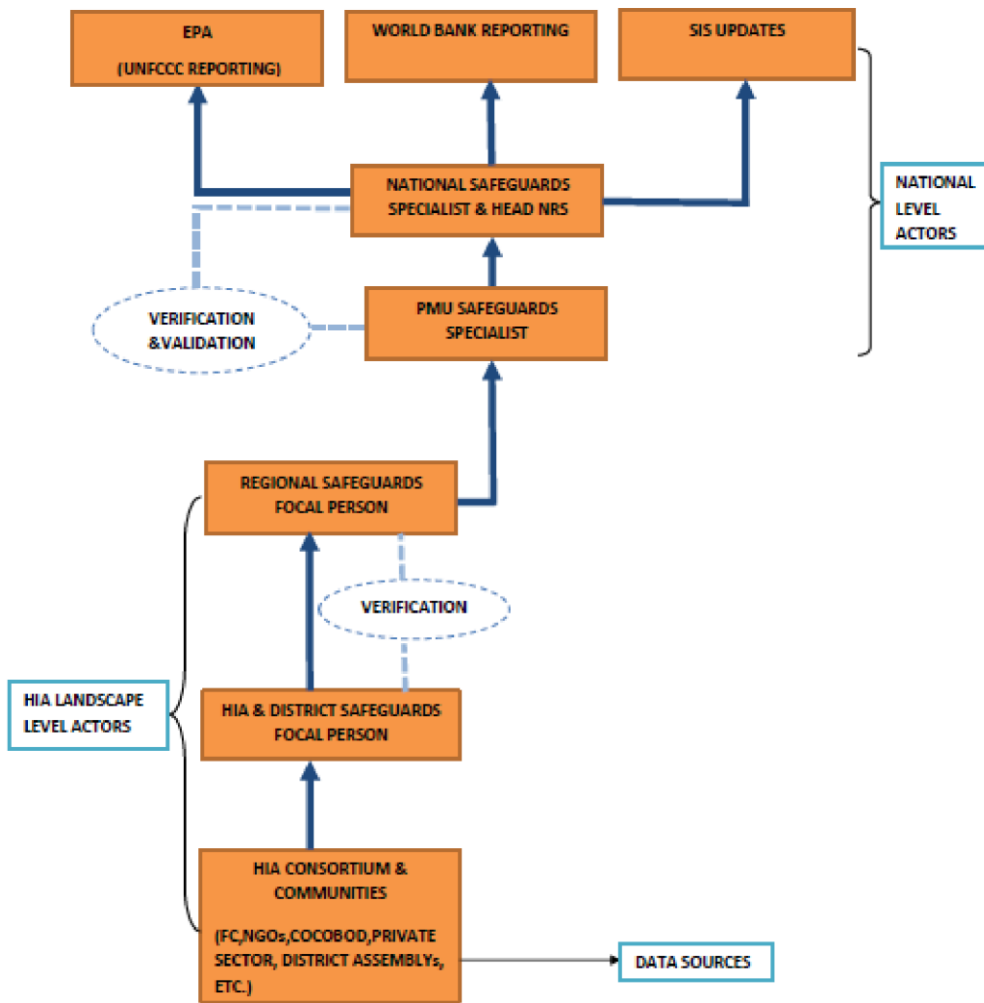


Figure 4: FGRM structure and operational bodies

