



# Self-Assessment of the Status of REDD+ Readiness in the Democratic Republic of Congo (R-Package)

PROGRAMME  
ONU-REDD



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- Strategic vision of REDD+ implementation in DRC
- Key achievements of the REDD+ readiness process
- The participatory self-assessment process
- Summary of the REDD+ readiness progress and work program to complete preparation phase
- Conclusions

# Strategic Vision for REDD+ Implementation in DRC

- ✓ Forests integrated in national development agenda:
  - Green growth vision (President J. Kabila, October 2011)
  - Protecting the environment and combating climate change is one of four pillars of Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - National REDD+ Strategy fully integrated through 7 pillars
  
- ✓ REDD+ as a financial mechanism to support sustainable development, which fosters intersectoral policy dialogue, contributes to rural development and maintains biological diversity
  
- ✓ Huge mitigation potential in the Congo Basin: 155 millions ha of tropical forests in DRC
  
- ✓ DRC active nationally and internationally in UNFCCC process since 2005 including through COMIFAC submissions

# Key Achievements of the REDD+ Readiness Process

- National REDD+ Strategy Framework validated by Council of Ministers in 2012 demonstrates high level ownership and integration;
- REDD+ reforms integrated in Economic Governance Matrix, which confirms high level commitment to implement key reforms;
- National REDD+ Fund established as national funding mechanism;
- Investment Plan of the National REDD+ Fund, endorsed by Ministers of Finance and Environment;
- Validation of REDD+ social and environmental safeguard instruments (ESMF) by WB (January 2015)
- High-quality REDD+ programs under way: Validation of FIP Investment Plan, Letter of Intent with WB for ER Program;
- Successful combination of different funding sources for the 3 phases of REDD+: FCPF, UN-REDD, FIP, bilateral donors
- ***All of this result of a participatory processes which fostered ownership of the REDD+ process by all relevant stakeholders***



- ✓ Facilitated self-assessment with 10 rounds of consultations including CSO and IP sessions
- ✓ Transparent process with advance information through methodological note, timetable of consultations and budget
- ✓ Compilation and dissemination of relevant documents
  
- ✓ **Approach:** Is there sufficient progress (vs. perfect instruments) to implement activities on-the-ground?
- ✓ Assessment responds to issues raised at mid-term review and independent evaluation in 2012
- ✓ National validation workshop in March 2015, opened by Minister of Environment, resulted in national consensus
- ✓ Results of self-assessment process comprehensively documented (synthesis in chapter 4.2, minutes annexed)



# **Summary of REDD+ readiness progress and work program to complete preparation phase**

## **Institutional arrangements and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism:**

- ✓ REDD+ processes spearheaded by Ministry of Environment (MEDD) since 2009
- ✓ Stakeholders confirmed that CN-REDD manages readiness implementation in effective and transparent manner
- ✓ Evidence of multi-sectoral coordination and high-level validation:
  - Seven pillars of national REDD+ strategy framework
  - Key REDD+ related reforms integrated in Economic Governance Matrix and tracked by Ministry of Finance
  - High-level cross-ministerial road map and collaboration framework to integrate REDD+ into sectoral policies
- ❑ However, National and Interministerial Committees inactive today. Review of institutional arrangements required based on lessons learned:
  - One high-level steering committee involving all key stakeholders
  - Define cooperation modalities with National REDD+ Fund



## **Budget and Funds Management Capacity**

- ✓ Fiduciary management capacity acquired through readiness grants since 2009 (total readiness budget: USD 41.66 million)
- ✓ National REDD+ Fund currently being operationalized as long-term national finance mechanism: UNDP as trustee, Manual of Operations approved

## **Decentralization of the REDD+ process**

- ✓ Reduction of provincial REDD+ focal points from 11 to 5 (main forested ones and FIP zones) based on important lessons learned: risk of too high expectations, monitoring problems, dissemination of conflicting REDD+ messages, too costly
- ✓ Focal points deployed since 2014 with COMIFAC support

## **Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism**

- ✓ Opportunities to raise concerns, e.g. through GTCR and independent Moabi platform
- ❑ Experiences to be capitalized in ongoing development of national guidelines
- ❑ FGRM to be operationalized in ER-Program Mai-Ndombe using local institutions





## Stakeholder Participation

- ✓ Mechanisms for regular consultations are institutionalized: e.g. GTCR, REPALEF
- ✓ Finalization of FPIC methodological guideline ongoing
- ✓ Dialogue with private sector, in particular in FIP and ER program zones

## Consultation Process Participation and Outreach

- ✓ Considerable efforts on consultations for each readiness step with consultations leading to review of documents: Intensive participatory SESA process is illustrative example
- ✓ Communication Plan is reference framework for outreach activities, implementation focused on areas with REDD+ activities (expectation management)
- ✓ Very successful International REDD+ Universities, followed now by Provincial REDD+ Universities (2015: Oriental, Kasai)
- ❑ Dissemination of information through online portal: REDD+ registry will be key tool to maximize transparency

# Component 1: Work Program



Key Readiness Elements	Main Activities	Results	Timeline	Budget (USD) and Source
<b>Institutional Arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revision of the decree creating a steering committee for the REDD+ process</li> <li>- Clarification of avenues for cooperation between the steering committee and the National REDD+ Fund</li> </ul>	1 Institutional and financial arrangements are operational	June 2015	20,000 (FCPF)
<b>Grievance redress mechanism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study to develop the mechanism based on lessons learned and preparation of a plan to operationalize the Mai-Ndombe mission</li> <li>- Capacity building of stakeholders</li> </ul>	2 Principles and responsibilities are defined at the national level 3 The mechanism is strengthened for the Mai-Ndombe mission reduction program	July 2015 February 2016	200,000 (FCPF) UNDP
<b>Decentralization of REDD+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and outreach on REDD+ for key stakeholders and provincial governments</li> <li>- Development of provincial REDD+ strategies</li> <li>- Support with formulation of integrated REDD+ programs in Province Orientale and Equateur Province</li> </ul>	4 Provincial strategies are developed 5 Integrated REDD+ programs are developed with the commitment of provincial stakeholders	December 2015 December 2015	200,000 (FCPF) UNDP
<b>Information sharing and access to information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publication of key REDD+ documents on the ministry's website and/or in the national registry</li> <li>- Consolidation of key messages on REDD+ through a broadly participatory process</li> <li>- Design of well-adapted means of communication</li> </ul>	6 All the key documents are available online 7 Key messages are developed 8 Well-adapted means are broadly disseminated	Ongoing	280,000 (FCPF)



## **Analysis of the Drivers of Deforestation**

- ✓ Series of profound studies, broad consultations resulted in national consensus

## **Land Tenure, Governance, and Impact on Forest Policies**

- ✓ Integration of REDD+ reforms, in particular land tenure and land-use planning, into Economic Governance Matrix (May 2013) is key achievement
- ✓ Ministry of Land-use Planning created in 2014, discussion ongoing on appropriate approach for development of national and sub-national land-use plans
- ✓ Prime Minister's Decree of August 2014 on allocation of forest concessions to local communities
- ✓ Synergies with FLEGT process reinforced through provincial REDD+ focal points

## Strategy Options

- ✓ Cross-sectoral national strategy framework with 7 pillars
  - Sectoral: Agriculture, forests, energy
  - Enabling: Governance, demography, land use plan
- ✓ Informed by parallel SESA process
- ✓ Adopted by Council of Ministers in 2012  
→ reference document for multi-sectoral coordination



## Feasibility Assessment

- ✓ Through opportunity to implement activities investment phase
- ✓ Investment Plan linked to capitalization of National REDD+ Fund with priority investment areas in Provinces Mai-Ndombe, Orientale and Equateur
- ✓ Experiences from ongoing pilot projects, FIP and ER program are key to update the national REDD+ strategy
- ✓ Design of a monitoring & evaluation system ongoing
- Update of National REDD+ Strategy based on implementation experiences



### **Legal and Regulatory Framework**

- ✓ Partnership with Globe International to support legislative reform program
- ✓ Legal Support Group is working on land tenure, land-use planning etc.
- ✓ Framework Law on the Environment adopted in 2013
- ✓ DRC moving toward OECD model: state ownership of carbon with accreditation of programs to be complemented by benefit-sharing plans

### **Benefit-sharing Mechanism**

- ✓ Legal guidance provided by study in 2011
- ✓ Ongoing development of benefit-sharing plan and principles in the ER program Mai-Ndombe focused on a pay-for-performance scheme
- ✓ Contractual agreements with communities will be subject to FPIC

## 2c (cont.) National Registry and Accreditation Procedures

- ✓ Revision of accreditation decision to include safeguard aspects and CSO comments; manual of procedures is available
- ✓ National registry as main tool to ensure transparency and accessibility of information on REDD+ activities
- ☐ Architectural design improved based on experiences with first online version (2012), IT programming ongoing, registry to be operational end of 2015

## 2d SESA and ESMF, National Standards

- ✓ Comprehensive, participatory SESA process in 2012-2013 (report available)
- ✓ ESMF comprising 5 specific frameworks approved by WB in April 2015 is a milestone not only for DRC but FCPF
- ✓ National social and environmental standards are currently being tested in REDD+ projects to improve them based on on-the-ground realities

# Component 2: Work Program



Key Readiness Elements	Main Activities	Results	Timeline	Budget (USD) and Source
<b>REDD+ Reforms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to the National Commission for Land Reform (CONAREF) and to its subcommissions to implement land tenure reform</li> <li>Support to the land-use planning support unit (Unité d'Appui à l'Aménagement du Territoire [UAAT]) and preparation of the national land-use plan</li> </ul>	<p>1 Progress is made on reforms associated with land use and natural resource management</p>	Ongoing	100,000 (FCPF) 180,000 (UNDP)
<b>REDD+ Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leveraging of REDD+ project experiences and initiatives (particularly the six pilot projects financed by the CBFF)</li> <li>Organization of a major national forum to disseminate lessons learned</li> <li>Mobilization of funds and alignment of the National Agricultural Investment Program</li> </ul>	<p>2 Catalogs of lessons learned are published and shared</p> <p>3 A monitoring framework for the national REDD+ strategy is defined</p> <p>4 Financial resources to implement the strategy are available</p>	August 2015	110,000 (FCPF) 215,000 (AfDB/CBFF)
<b>Legal and regulatory framework for REDD+ management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of the accreditation decision to incorporate recommendations from the SMF and civil society</li> <li>Monitoring of Forest Code reform and implementation of the law on the environment in order to incorporate REDD+ aspects</li> <li>Strengthening of collaboration with members of Parliament through the partnership with Globe DRC</li> <li>Training of the judiciary to combat corruption in REDD+ activities</li> </ul>	<p>5 The accreditation decision and its annexes are revised and validated</p> <p>6 A training plan to combat corruption in REDD+ activities is prepared</p> <p>7 Progress is made with revision of the legal and regulatory framework, including the Forest Code and the Agricultural Code</p>	June 2015	140,000 (FCPF)
<b>Benefit-sharing mechanism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validation of benefit-sharing options and mechanisms with respect to the Mai-Ndombe Mission Reduction Program</li> <li>National-level validation of guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>8 Guidelines are validated at the subnational and national levels</p>	July 2015	150,000 (FCPF)
<b>National REDD+ registry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programming of the registry based on specifications</li> <li>Capacity building of users</li> </ul>	<p>9 The registry is operational</p>	December 2015	200,000 (FCPF)
<b>Environmental and social management framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the operational approaches for implementation of the safeguards tools</li> <li>Integration of the SMF into the implementing decrees of the framework law on the environment</li> <li>Training of national expert for the environmental and social impact studies (ESIS)</li> </ul>	<p>10 The safeguards instruments are operational</p> <p>11 ESFs are integrated into the legal and regulatory framework</p>	August 2015  December 2016	40,000 (FCPF)



## Component 3: Reference Level including Work Program



- ✓ Stratification standards in place, field inventories underway
- ✓ Key input related to activity data and emission factors are available to develop national RL
- ✓ Roadmap for a national RL defined in February 2015
  
- ☐ Continuing work on RL, objective to submit at COP-21
- ☐ Will build on work related to sub-national RL in ER program area (finalized mid-2015)

### Work Program Component 3

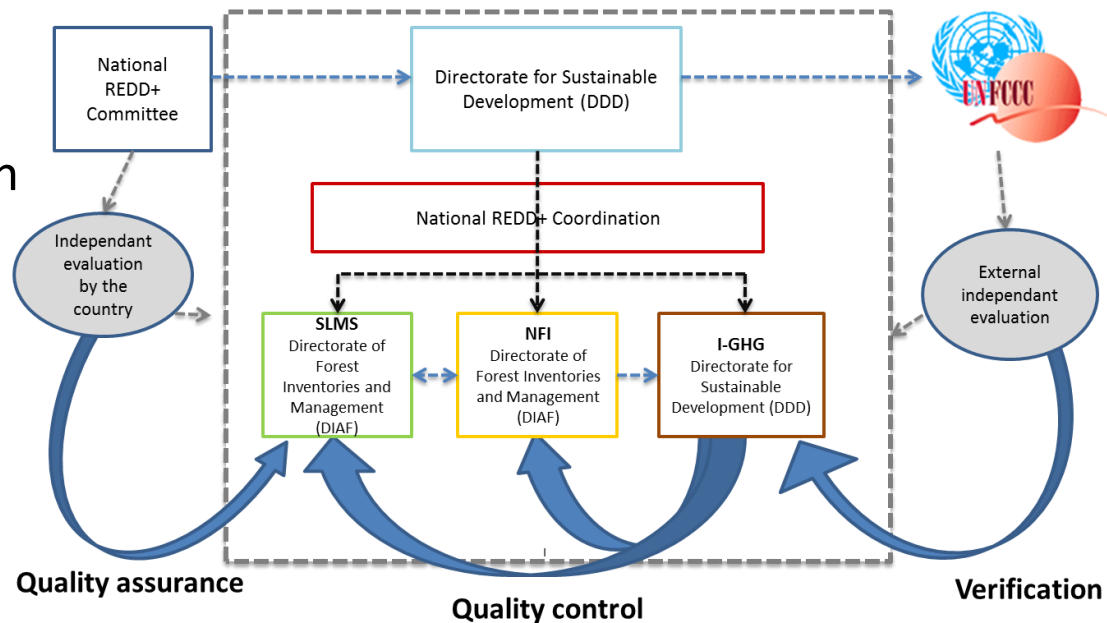
Key Readiness Elements	Main Activities	Results	Timeline	Budget (USD) and Source
Reference Emission Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of the reference level for the Mai-Ndombe Emission Reduction Program</li> <li>• Preparation of a national reference level aligned with the subnational one</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The reference level is validated by the DRC and the Carbon Fund</li> <li>✓ The reference level is presented at COP-21</li> </ul>	December 2015	200,000 (FCPF)

# Component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System



- ✓ Progress on all three pillars of the NFMS:
  - The Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS, TerraCongo)
  - The National Forest Inventory (NFI)
  - The Greenhouse Gas Inventory (I-GHG)
- ✓ First version of the NFMS available at <http://www.rdc-snsf.org/>.
- ✓ Action plan (2015-2018) for nationwide MRV validated in 2014
- ✓ Institutional capacity exists to operationalize MRV for the ER Program Mai-Ndombe by 2016

- ❑ Implementation of MRV action plan and capacity building for national level MRV to be operational in 2018



# Component 4b: Information Systems for Safeguards including Work Program 4a / 4b



- ✓ Mapping of multiple benefits of REDD+ available
- ✓ Management of social and environmental risks defined in the ESMF
- ✓ A national committee to monitor risks and co-benefits is in place
- ☐ Safeguards information system will be connected with the REDD+ Registry, the FGRM and the independent Moabi platform

## Work Program Components 4a and 4b

Key Readiness Elements	Main Activities	Results	Timeline	Budget (USD) and Source
NFMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification and formalization of responsibilities with respect to MRV for the Mai-Ndombe Emissions Reduction Program</li> </ul>	✓ MRV is operational for the Mai-Ndombe Emission Reduction Program	December 2015	CBFF FAO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening of the DIAF to operationalize MRV at the national level</li> </ul>	✓ MRV is operational at the national level	December 2016	
SIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing of monitoring tools</li> <li>• Finalization of institutional arrangements regarding compilation and reporting of information</li> <li>• Development of the Safeguards Information System (SIS), in accordance with UNFCCC provisions</li> <li>• Capacity building of actors involved in the monitoring system</li> </ul>	✓ The information system is operational and incorporated into the registry	December 2015	100,000 (FCPF)  90,000 (UNEP)

## Overview of the participatory self-assessment consensus on the 34 readiness criteria

Substantial progress:  
26 criteria

Satisfactory progress:  
8 criteria

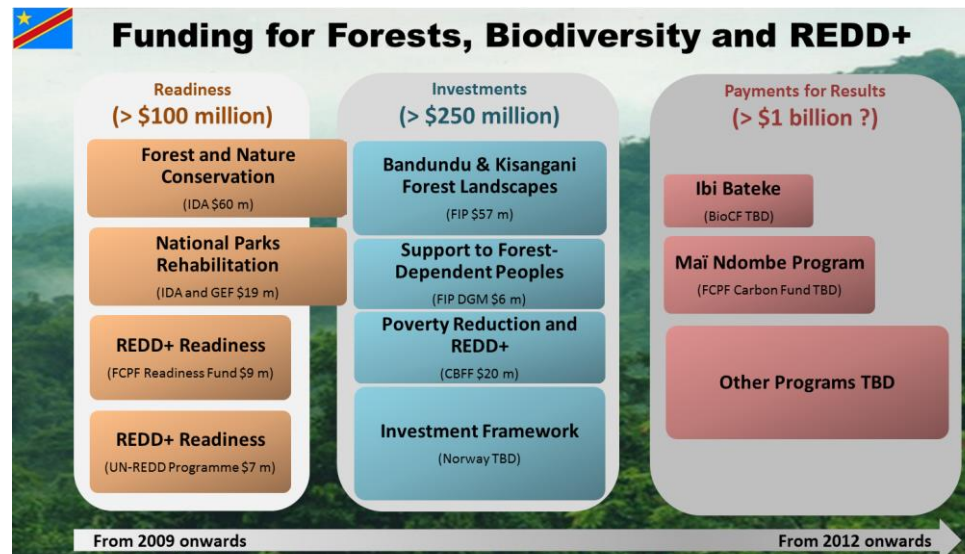
No.	Critères	Evaluation
1	Responsabilité et transparence	
2	Mandat et budget opérationnel	
3	Mécanisme de coordination multisectorielle et collaboration intersectorielle	
4	Capacité de supervision technique	
5	Capacité de gestion des fonds	
6	Mécanisme de remontée d'informations et de recours	
7	Participation et engagement des principales parties prenantes	
8	Processus de consultation	
9	Diffusion de l'information et accès à l'information	
10	Utilisation et divulgation des résultats des consultations	
11	Évaluation et analyse	
12	Hiérarchisation des éléments favorables/défavorables, directs et indirects, à la mise en valeur des forêts	
13	Liens entre ces éléments favorables/défavorables et les activités de REDD+	
14	Plans d'action pour prendre en compte les droits aux ressources naturelles, les régimes fonciers et la gouvernance	
15	Incidence sur les lois et politiques forestières	
16	Sélection et hiérarchisation des options stratégiques de REDD+	
17	Évaluation de la faisabilité	
18	Incidences des options stratégiques sur les politiques sectorielles en vigueur	
19	Adoption et application de lois et de réglementations	
20	Directives de mise en œuvre	
21	Mécanisme de partage des avantages	
22	Registre National REDD+ et système de suivi des activités REDD+	
23	Analyse des questions relatives aux sauvegardes sociales et environnementales	
24	Conception de la stratégie REDD+ en fonction des impacts	
25	Cadre de gestion environnementale et sociale	
26	Démonstration de la méthode	
27	Utilisation des données historiques et adaptation au contexte national	
28	Faisabilité technique de l'approche méthodologique, et conformité aux directives de la CCNUCC et aux recommandations du GIEC	
29	Explication de la méthode de suivi	
30	Démonstration des premières phases d'application	
31	Dispositifs et capacités institutionnels	
32	Identification des aspects non liés au carbone et des problèmes sociaux/ environnementaux	
33	Suivi, notification et échange d'informations	
34	Dispositifs et capacités institutionnels	

# Conclusions



- ✓ DRC engaged on REDD+ for 10 years, active readiness phase since 2009
- ✓ R-Package assessment is result of a participatory process confirming a common vision that DRC is at a point where moving forward into the implementation of emission reduction programs phase is key to delivering benefits for local communities, the country and the world
- ✓ Experiences from testing on the ground will help to finalize / adjust national REDD+ infrastructure and complete the existing gaps
- ✓ Besides the completion of readiness activities, mobilization of investments is very much needed to make REDD+ work and advance reform processes

**DRC calls for PC Members to recognize its hard work and endorse its Readiness-Package to move into implementation phase.**







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**Thank you**