

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**  
**Fourth Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC4)**  
**October 27-28, 2009 — Washington, DC**  
**Summary of Discussions of Ghana's Draft R-PP**

The Government of Ghana presented a draft Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the FCPF Participants Committee at the PC4 meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, for informal discussion and feedback. The following is a summary of the discussions prepared by the Facility Management Team (FMT).

**Recommendations made by the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).** Participants supported the recommendations presented by the TAP (while noting that the TAP recommendations were unwieldy and that the TAP should prioritize recommendations in the future). Ghana stated it will request the National REDD+ Steering Committee to revise the R-PP taking into account the TAP recommendations.

**Ownership across government agencies, sectors, and stakeholders.** Participants noted that a key challenge in REDD is that of ownership across government agencies, sectors, and stakeholders (namely traditional owners and local communities), and asked for clarification on who sits on the National REDD+ Steering Committee and how Ghana intends to address this challenge of ownership. Ghana responded that:

- The National REDD+ Steering Committee includes representatives of local communities and traditional owners, the National House of Chiefs, the National Forest Forum, CSOs, the private sector, small and medium-sized forest enterprises, several Government ministries, and other institutions.
- Cross-government and cross-sectoral ownership of the R-PP has been achieved at national, regional and cabinet levels through capacity building initiatives at all levels (e.g., policy briefs, workshops), the work of the National Climate Change Committee, and the consideration of REDD issues in a number of national development initiatives. These efforts have created several platforms for managing REDD issues.
- The Government proposes to form a national cabinet-level committee chaired by the Vice President, to further facilitate ownership across agencies and sectors.
- At the local community level, the Government utilizes forest forums in the districts. Traditional landowners, farmers and local communities serve on these forums to provide inputs to policy reform.

**Consultation and participation.** Participants requested further detail on the planned consultation and participation process during R-PP formulation and Readiness preparation. It was recommended that the REDD consultation process be strengthened along the lines of the process used under Ghana's FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), which is considered by many to be an effective model. Ghana stated that:

- As noted above, a wide array of stakeholders are represented on the National REDD+ Steering Committee.
- Stakeholder workshops and other training activities are conducted at national and sub-national levels.

- Forest Forums and District Assemblies will be used to reach out to local communities and disseminate information to the local level. A website was also created to share information, and to reach those at the local level without access to the website, information will be translated into local languages and sent to communities.
- There is close collaboration with the VPA Steering Committee. Useful inputs on consultation have been received from the VPA secretariat in the development of the R-PP, and efforts will be made to further synergize the REDD consultation process with the VPA consultation process.
- Civil society has been involved in the development of the REDD consultation plan, and will be involved in the consultation process itself. In addition, the civil society representatives on the REDD Steering Committee also sit on the VPA Steering Committee, which has enabled knowledge sharing.
- Consultation is ongoing, and will continue throughout R-PP formulation and Readiness preparation. The R-PP will be refined based on feedback received at the PC meeting and from consultations.

**Addressing multi and cross-sectoral issues.** Some Participants suggested that the R-PP should clarify the relationship between FLEG and REDD, and should focus more on carbon issues, the outputs of reducing deforestation and forest degradation, the contributions of REDD to the country's social situation, and the role of other related areas (e.g., cocoa production, food and agriculture, conservation, sustainable forest management).

Regarding the role of FLEG, Ghana noted that institutional arrangement issues need to be discussed at the national level, and will require time for discussions with various ministries. To facilitate these discussions and also address multi and cross-sectoral issues, the National Development Planning Commission and various ministries (including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture) are participating in the national REDD discussions, policy briefs are being developed for dissemination to Parliament members and cabinet ministers, and strong endorsement of the REDD agenda by all actors at the highest political level is being sought.

Ghana noted that outputs should be clearer and should become clearer in the longer-term, and also pointed out ongoing efforts to address carbon issues (e.g., work with the Katoomba Group, Moore Foundation, Forest Trends, Nature Conservation and Research Center which will provide inputs into the R-PP).

**Methodological issues.** Some Participants asked for more detail on methodological issues, in large part to share insights that may be useful for other REDD Country Participants in their R-PP formulation. In response to the questions raised, Ghana noted that:

- FAO is regularly consulted on issues of methodology and defining forests and carbon stock changes, so that the R-PP evolves based on the results of evaluations and changing measurements. A methodological challenge is that Ghana does not have sufficient data to make estimates, and requires technical assistance in this area.
- Ghana is not yet clear on how to define forest degradation methodologically, and plans to re-align the R-PP after methodologies on degradation are defined in UNFCCC negotiations.
- Regarding the process of undertaking a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment at this stage in R-PP formulation, Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency is already undertaking an

environmental assessment, so would need to begin conducting a social assessment at this stage. Ghana stated that it is best to conduct these assessments upfront in the R-PP formulation phase, and then to build on the assessments as the country progresses towards and through the Readiness preparation phase.