

Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

Country: Cameroon

Revision date: January 2013



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (**UN-REDD**)

Disclaimer: The World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme do not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in the Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) submitted by REDD Country Participants and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence of their use. The boundaries, colors, denominations, and other information shown on any map in the R-PPs do not imply on the part of the World Bank any judgment on the legal status of any territory or the endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

Executive summary

Cameroon is a forested country. However, these forests are suffering severe degradation and in certain locations are tending to disappear. The direct causes of this degradation and disappearance are the expansion of non-sustainable farming practices, the use of fuel wood as source of energy, logging operations and the development of activities linked with mining operations. To these direct causes, we can add the indirect causes of deforestation such as demographic pressure, economic pressure and the weakness of certain governance-related aspect.

Aware of these problems and of the potential negative impacts of deforestation and forest degradation, Cameroon has been engaged in the REDD+ process since its emergence at the international level. A number of steps have been taken up until now. The first step was the validation of the country's R-PIN in 2008 and the implementation of the REDD pilot project. Since then, REDD+ initiatives and projects have emerged in Cameroon. To these initiatives and projects we can add the development of activities aimed at sharing information, raising awareness and training all the stakeholders in the process. Drafting of the R-PP began in June 2011.

This R-PP is therefore the result of editorial work that began in June 2011. It is the fruit of a number of consultations carried out at all levels (national, regional and local) and in all the agro-ecological zones. The consultations allowed the participation, to various degrees, of all categories of stakeholders, namely civil society, the central and decentralized administrations, the decentralized territorial communities, the media, the research and higher education institutions, the private sector, elected representatives, etc. More than 3,000 people were informed and consulted during these different workshops organized by civil society, by the technical partners for development and by the government. During these workshops, the participation of civil society was very strong (estimated at over 60%). The participation of women is estimated at 25%, that of Indigenous Peoples at 7% and that of the private sector at 1%. Admittedly, this representation is inadequate, but it is being corrected. Various activities during the preparation phase will make it possible to improve the representation of the different categories of stakeholders: they are scheduled in the communication plan and in the consultation plan. The results achieved during these consultations are included in this document. They constitute the initial orientations slated for further development during the preparation phase.

For Cameroon, REDD+ is a development tool that must help the country achieve the sustainable development objective that the government set for itself in the Document de Stratégie pour la Croissance et l'Emploi [Growth and Employment Strategy Paper](DSCE) and Cameroon Vision 2035.

Cameroon's REDD mechanisms will adopt a multi-sector in integrated and partnership approach emphasizing all the sectors of development and based on a participatory and inclusive process that encourages the involvement of all the stakeholders during construction and implementation of the REDD+ strategy. In fact, for Cameroon, the Government will take the place of facilitator so that the implementation takes place through and to the benefit of all the stakeholders, including primarily the most vulnerable groups – the local communities and the indigenous peoples, women, etc.

The REDD+ process will be managed by an established decision-making body (the Steering Committee). This committee includes several categories of stakeholders, namely government services, civil society, indigenous peoples, the private sector and elected representatives. An operational body has been identified: this is the Technical Secretariat. This Technical Secretariat will be decentralized (the regional coordination structures) and deconcentrated (the departmental technical committees).

To put in place a participatory and inclusive process, Cameroon proposes to establish a strong consultation and participation plan. This plan will be supported by a communication plan identifying the objectives, the targets and the actions to be carried out for each category of stakeholder. The scheduled consultations will be coupled with the dissemination of information. They are scheduled during the entire preparation phase. These consultations are theme-based and will touch on all the elements making up the future strategy. They will thus concern, among other things, the identification of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation and the identification of the

actions necessary to effectively reduce them, the identification of the potential pilot projects that will give concrete expression to the REDD+ mechanism, the governance issues (all sectors included), the benefit-sharing mechanisms, the construction of the reference scenario, of the MRV, etc.

A preliminary analysis of the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation led to the identification of the strategy options making it possible to reduce them. The national strategy will thus seek to provide responses to these causes of deforestation, which differ depending on the agro-ecological zones considered. Studies will be conducted to better define the categories of causes of deforestation and degradation in the agro-ecological zones.

The additional studies to be conducted and the reflection to be done to construct the REDD+ strategy will involve the active participation of the stakeholders. These stakeholders, will be called on throughout the process depending on their relevance. Added to this will be the establishment of REDD+ pilot projects that aim to reduce GHG emissions, the development of concrete activities and experience capitalization that will offer food for thought concerning the construction of the strategy. The establishment of these projects responds to Cameroon's choice to adopt an infranational approach.

Tools such as the Evaluation Environnementale et Sociale Stratégique [Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment] (EESS) and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) will be used. The EESS, along with the CGES that will result from it, is an approach that allows Cameroon to reduce the potential negative impacts of the process and enhance the positive impacts. The EESS will reflect the national context and will respect the international guidelines in force.

The construction of Cameroon's national strategy requires 28.911 million dollars, and the establishment of pilot projects in all the agro-ecological zones requires 60 million dollars. In addition to the 3.4 million requested from the FCPF, Cameroon will have to find other sources of funding. The common fund of the PSFE and the IUCN (through the initiatives funded by DANIDA, the Fonds Forestiers du Bassin du Congo, OIBT, ACIDI, etc.) have already declared their support for the implementation of the R-PP. The same is true for the Government, even if the amount dedicated to the process is not yet known. There are also funding opportunities in the COMIFAC Regional REDD Project, which has just been launched.