

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC6672

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 18-Nov-2013

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 27-Nov-2013

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

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|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Country: | Cameroon | Project ID: | P124293 |
| Project Name: | CM -- FCPF REDD READINESS (P124293) | | |
| Task Team Leader: | Emeran Serge M. Menang Ev | | |
| Estimated Board Date: | 30-Jun-2017 | | |
| Managing Unit: | AFTN1 | | |
| Sector(s): | Forestry (100%) | | |
| Theme(s): | Climate change (100%) | | |
| Financing (In USD Million) | | | |
| Total Project Cost: | 0.20 | Total Bank Financing: | 0.00 |
| Financing Gap: | 0.00 | | |
| Financing Source | | | Amount |
| Borrower | | | 0.00 |
| Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility | | | 0.20 |
| Total | | | 0.20 |
| Environmental Category: | B - Partial Assessment | | |
| Is this a Repeater project? | No | | |

B. Project Objectives

The development objective of this grant is to reinforce Cameroon's capacities to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to develop a national reference scenario of emissions from deforestation and degradation that takes into account national circumstances

C. Project Description

This REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant will provide funding to support Cameroon in the amount

of US\$ 3.6 million in carrying out a subset of activities outlined in its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). The full R-PP includes all activities necessary for Cameroon to become ready for REDD+. However, the FCPF grant will fund only a portion of the US\$ 28.9 million needed to cover all R-PP planned activities.

FCPF will finance major components of the R-PP that have been prioritized by the REDD+ Technical Secretariat. This support is limited to technical assistance, analytical studies, capacity building, goods, operating costs, and consultation processes and does not include the implementation of site-specific REDD+ programs (carbon deals) on the ground. The activities have been prioritized keeping in view the comparative advantages of the FCPF and the likelihood of follow up work by others actors active in the REDD+ space in Cameroon.

COMPONENT 1: SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL READINESS MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (US\$1.6 million)

COMPONENT 1.1 - COORDINATION OF THE REDD+ READINESS PROCESS:

This component will support the structures that will lead the coordination and implementation of the REDD+ Readiness process in Cameroon, including the Steering committee, the Technical Secretariat, and the decentralized structures at regional and departmental levels by providing them with the adequate human, technical and operational resources. FCPF Grant funds will finance the following:

Streamlining the utilization of REDD+ funds by setting up a fiduciary team
Recruitment of Technical Expert on REDD+ to support the National REDD+ Coordinator and help strengthen the National REDD+ Technical Secretariat within the MINEPDED so as to ensure it can deliver the activities planned as part of the REDD+ readiness process. In addition, a fiduciary team, consisting of a financial management specialist, a procurement specialist, and an accountant will be recruited to support streamlining the utilization of all the funds, whatever their origin, allocated to the REDD+ readiness process, with an interest in optimizing their impacts in terms of outputs, in accordance with sound governance. There is a possibility that the Basket Fund, established within the MINFOF, will support the fiduciary team, thereby freeing up FCPF resources. Operational budget will be provided to procure office supplies, one vehicle, pay office rental, support annual financial audits and purchase if needed financial management software.

Investments to make the REDD+ Technical Secretariat operational and effective
The REDD+ Technical Secretariat will ensure that REDD+ is integrated in the national and sectoral policies and strategies, as well as other development and planned initiatives. To succeed, this will require a close cooperation with countless governmental and non-governmental entities. Such cooperation will entail numerous nationwide meetings and workshops, including field trips. This is why the FCPF will support the acquisition of equipment, such as computers and vehicle(s).

Supporting operating costs to secure the functioning of REDD+ National and Sub-national structures
This sub-component will contribute to cover some operating costs of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat, such as the annual financial audit, but the main target will remain the functioning of the sub-national structures to promote a bottom up approach, making sure that regions and stakeholders on the ground can voice their views.

COMPONENT 1.2 – SUPPORT FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Consultation and participation for activities to be implemented under the FCPF grant

This subcomponent will fund consultation and participation of key activities implemented using FCPF funding. This includes the consultations on: i) the drivers and underlying causes of D&D, ii) the draft strategy options, iii) SESA, preparation of the national implementation framework for REDD+, iv) study on benefit sharing and, v) assessing and setting up effective feedback and grievance redress mechanisms.

Specific and targeted consultations will be organized through a diversified set of events (meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.). Various groups will be targeted: the media, civil society, opinion makers, forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, the private sector, as well as state representatives and relevant administrations. The CSO platform would be used as a conduit for dissemination of information and consultation with CSOs, IPs and local communities throughout the decentralized structures in the five agro-ecological zones. t. A consultation plan will be revised upstream to ensure consistency and efficiency at the country level while avoiding overlaps with other initiatives.

Strengthening sub-national REDD+ structures

In Cameroon, the R-PP has identified serious capacity constraints and lack of adequate knowledge and awareness on what is REDD+. Critical Sectors both at national and sub-national levels engaged in land use do not have adequate knowledge or even basic understanding of REDD+, furthermore other relevant stakeholders such as the private sector, forest dependent communities etc. face similar situations. Therefore, this sub-component will fund institutional strengthening targeted at the sub-national levels. Existing structures at regional and departmental levels (Environmental Department, Forestry Department, Farmers Associations, Traditional Chiefs Associations, Women's Associations/ Networks, IP groups, community forest committees, private sector associations, etc.) will benefit from capacity building to enhance their engagement in the REDD+ process.

Additional resources from the Basket Fund might be allocated to this sub-component with an interest in expanding awareness and sensitization on REDD+.

COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT TO THE DESIGN OF A NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY (US \$1.350 million)

COMPONENT 2.1 - PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY

This component aims to support a series of analytic work that would contribute to the refinement of the deforestation and forest degradation in order to help the country come up with the right strategy options for Cameroon. This component has two sub-components as follows:

Sub-component 1: Based on existing data and consultations during the formulation of the R-PP, a preliminary analysis of the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Cameroon exists. During the readiness process, deepening the analytic work on the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation will be conducted. The funds will also support the recruitment of consultants to conduct the analytic work as well as support the dissemination of these studies.

Subcomponent 2: Initial REDD+ strategy options have been identified during R-PP formulation.

Funds will be provided to assess and conduct analytic work on these options in order to align with the more detailed assessment of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. A REDD+ strategy will be developed during Readiness. It is expected that the REDD+ Strategy in Cameroon will be multi-sectoral, in nature with special emphasis on agriculture, logging and energy sectors given the relevance of these sectors to deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, the REDD+ strategy will need to address governance and law enforcement issues. The ongoing pilot REDD+ projects will provide lessons for the development of the REDD+ strategy.

COMPONENT 2.2 – STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

This component aims to support Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) which will be able to inform the national REDD+ strategy. The SESA will contribute to the REDD+ readiness process in Cameroon by assessing how REDD+ strategy options address environmental and social priorities associated with current patterns of land use and forest management. Gaps identified through this assessment would lead to adjustments in the REDD+ strategy options to close the gaps. Also, the SESA will provide an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will outline the procedures to be followed for managing potential environmental and social impacts of specific policies, actions and projects during the implementation of the REDD+.

The grant will support the following activities:

- Financing the payroll of the SESA Unit in the Technical Secretariat: A SESA Unit will be established as part of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat and it will consist of at least 2 senior experts (an environmentalist and a social development expert). In addition, the Technical Secretariat if needed would hire additional expertise. This team will supervise the SESA process (see activities below) that will allow Cameroon to reduce as much as possible the possible social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ strategy options, in particular relative to at-risk groups. FCPF will support the payroll of this team over the 3 year grant agreement.

SESA and development of Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF): this sub-component will support the following activities among others:

- o National validation workshop on the SESA Terms of Reference
- o Recruitment of a consultant(s)/firm to conduct SESA.
- o Analytical work on social and environmental considerations on D&D and strategy options and the institution arrangement for SESA
- o Institutional legal and policy review
- o Consultations on SESA
- o Preparation of a draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

COMPONENT 2.3 FEEDBACK AND GREVIANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Given the broad range of stakeholders involved, and the potential complexity of REDD+ processes, a functional and easily accessible national feedback and grievance redress mechanism is critical from the earliest stages of R-PP implementation. In this regard, particular attention will be paid to geographically, culturally or economically isolated or excluded groups. The grant will support the design and early implementation of this mechanism. The FCPF Grant funds will be used to:

- An assessment of existing national institutional capacity for feedback and grievance redress mechanism;
- Staffing to implement the identified redress mechanism during the REDD+ readiness

process.

COMPONENT 2.4 - PREPARATION OF THE REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The FCPF grant will support an in-depth analysis of legal and institutional issues around REDD+, including: i) analysis of the existing national legislation on forests and other sectors pertaining to the REDD+ goals; ii) analysis of the governance for a national fund to manage REDD+; iii) fiscal and economic incentives to promote REDD+ activities; iv) options for benefit sharing; v) analysis of the opportunity to prepare specific legal text for the REDD+ dealing also with the legal nature of emission reductions.

COMPONENT 3: INFORMING THE NATIONAL REFERENCE SCENARIO FOR REDD+ (US\$ 0.65 million)

The FCPF Grant will finance activities, which will inform the development of the National Reference Scenario for REDD+, including sub-national reference levels as well, by highlighting its (their) prospective (forward-looking) elements. These activities will be based on an analysis of future pressure on forests. A consultant firm will be contracted to model potential future pressures on the forests in Cameroon by assessing future development trends in various sectors, such as agriculture, logging, energy, mining and infrastructure in each agro-ecological zone. The consultant firm will adapt the IIASA partial-equilibrium model produced at the regional scale (Congo Basin) to the national level, taking into account the most updated information available.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

Activities to be financed by the FCPF in support of the REDD+ Readiness process in Cameroon do not include the implementation of REDD+ programs on the ground. The FCPF support is limited to analytical studies, capacity building, and consultation processes at the national and sub-national levels.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The project is implemented by the Technical Secretariat under the National REDD+ Coordination Unit. The REDD+ Coordination is under the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development. An experienced team exists inside this ministry that deals with the national environmental issues in their daily work. In addition to the existing staff, the Technical Secretariat will be strengthened by a Senior Environmental Assessment Specialist, and Senior Social Development Scientist familiar with the World Bank safeguards procedures. This staff will be responsible for the SESA process. Furthermore, the World Bank team will also work closely with the SESA Unit team.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Lucienne M. M'Baipor (AFTCS)

Maman-Sani Issa (AFTN2)

Roger Muchuba Buhereko (AFTN1)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

| Safeguard Policies | Triggered? | Explanation (Optional) |
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| Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01 | Yes | <p>The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to be carried out under the project will serve to identify, avoid, and mitigate the potential negative environmental and social impacts associated with the final REDD+ Strategy. It will also serve to identify and promote potentially positive impacts and benefit sharing opportunities in connection with the Strategy. The SESA will influence the final national REDD+ Strategy, by ensuring that the consideration of social and environmental risks and potential impacts is a factor in its preparation. It will also provide guidance and key elements for the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).</p> <p>The future investments and carbon finance transactions will require specific environmental and social assessments (ESAs) but these will benefit from the strategy context created by the SESA and ESMF. The ESMF will include standing methods and procedures, along with appropriate institutional arrangements for screening, reviewing, implementing, and monitoring specific ESAs to prevent adverse impacts, as well as cumulative impacts.</p> |
| Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04 | Yes | <p>The application of this policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD + Strategy take into account the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the numerous environmental services and products that natural habitats provide to human society. Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on natural habitats, as the country puts in place an effective strategy to reduce loss of natural forests. The SESA will address issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts of the National REDD+ Strategy, which will later be included in the ESMF.</p> |
| Forests OP/BP 4.36 | Yes | <p>Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities. Potential impact of the National REDD+ Strategy on natural forests</p> |

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| | | will be assessed through the SESA and included in the ESMF. The SESA and associated ESMF will reflect the requirements of the Bank's Operational Policy regarding forest management in particular, as these relate to the establishment of plantations. |
| Pest Management OP 4.09 | TBD | This policy could be triggered depending on the final scope of the National REDD+ Strategy. Agricultural intensification and reforestation activities, for instance, could trigger the policy, depending on the methods employed by concrete activities on the ground to manage pests. The SESA will address critical issues related to pest management, as necessary, and these will also be included in the key elements for the ESMF. |
| Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11 | TBD | This policy could be triggered if REDD+ activities promote actions in areas containing sites deemed physical cultural resources (e.g. holy sites such as sacred groves, sacred forests, etc.). Though it is not anticipated that the project will have negative impacts on any such sites, the existence of any such sites and the corresponding need to trigger this policy will be determined once the National REDD+ Strategy is completed. |
| Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 | Yes | It is likely that some of the activities to be implemented as part of the National REDD+ Strategy would take place in areas inhabited by Indigenous Peoples (pygmies). This policy underscores the need for the government of the Republic of Cameroon to identify Indigenous Peoples in the project area, consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of project preparation and implementation, and ensure that they participate in, and benefit from, REDD+ activities. Adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be avoided. Drawing on the SESA, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be prepared, and integrated into the ESMF. |
| Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12 | Yes | REDD+ activities will trigger Involuntary Resettlement in situations involving involuntary land acquisition and/or involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks, protected areas, or forest management / reforestation |

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| | | areas. The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent feasible, or to minimize and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts in cases where resettlement or other involuntary restrictions cannot be avoided. Through the SESA process, any issues related to land acquisition or restriction of access to resources will be identified, and a Resettlement Policy Framework will be prepared as part of the ESMF. To help identify and mitigate restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas, a Process Framework will be prepared as part of the ESMF. |
| Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37 | No | The REDD+ activities do not involve the construction of new or use of existing dams. |
| Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50 | No | The REDD+ activities do not involve international waterways. |
| Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60 | No | The REDD+ activities under this project do not involve disputed areas. |

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 24-Feb-2014

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

The SESA should be launched four months after Grant Signature.

The Project will not finance at this stage any concrete investment activities on the ground and is thus not expected to have any direct environmental and social impact on the ground. However, it is considered that the Project might have indirect impacts in the sense that the findings from analytical work carried out under the Project may influence the design of the national REDD+ Strategy. Draft Terms of Reference of the SESA have been prepared by the National Coordination. The SESA will address the key environmental and social issues associated with the analysis and preparation of REDD+ strategy options as well as REDD+ projects, activities (including investments), policies and regulations. In this manner SESA can ensure compliance with World Bank's environmental and social safeguards.

The main safeguard instrument to be applied is an ESMF, to be prepared as part of the SESA. The ESMF may evolve and be updated over time when new REDD + strategy options and projects or activities (including investments), or policies/regulations are identified during implementation of REDD+.

The SESA process requires that the selection of REDD+ strategy options should take into account the country's institutional and capacity constraints for managing environmental and social risks and the potential environmental and social impacts associated with these strategy options. Any identified gaps to manage these risks and potential impacts in relation to relevant World Bank's

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

safeguard policies should be identified along with the strategy options to feed into the preparation of the ESMF. The ESMF should provide a framework to manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts related to specific projects and activities (including investments and carbon finance transactions), in the context of the future implementation of REDD+.

IV. APPROVALS

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| Task Team Leader: | Name: Emeran Serge M. Menang Ev | |
| <i>Approved By:</i> | | |
| Regional Safeguards Coordinator: | Name: Alexandra C. Bezeredi (RSA) | Date: 26-Nov-2013 |
| Sector Manager: | Name: Benoit Bosquet (SM) | Date: 27-Nov-2013 |