

FCPF Technical Advisory Panel Presentation

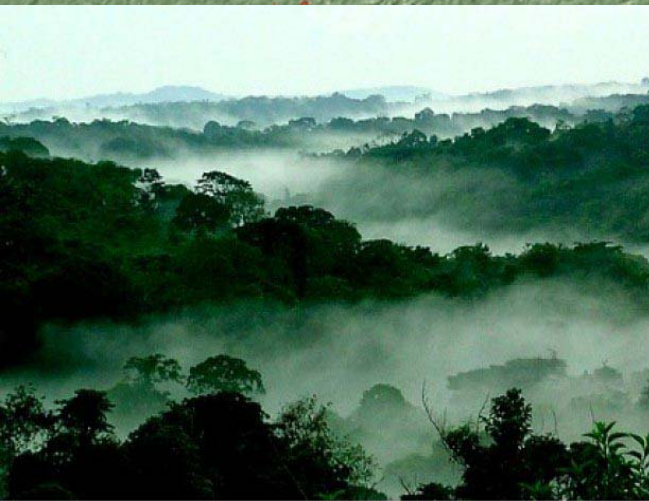
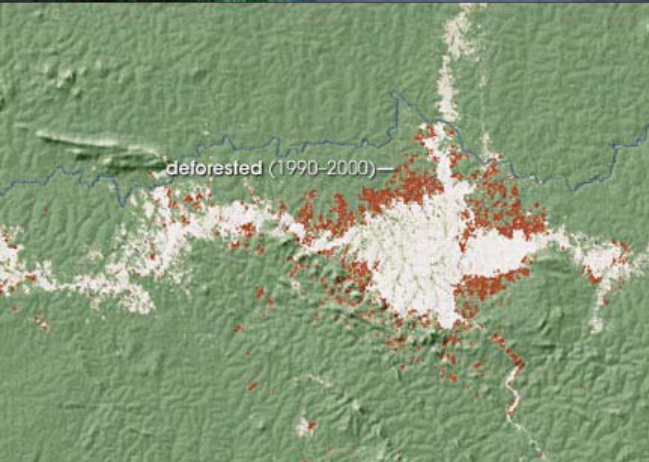
Republic of Congo Draft R-PP

Initial comments by the TAP

June 28-30, 2010

FCPF Participants' Committee
Georgetown, Guyana

For TAP review team for Congo: Stephen Cobb



Congo – Strengths of the R-PP

- This is an impressive R-PP, a credit to its authors, and worthy of a country that is such an important part of the Congo Basin forest
- The REDD+ strategy options are appropriate (highly forested, low-deforestation country) and realistically show its REDD+ potential
- Existing high standards of private sector forest management can become a strong platform for REDD+ development
- Role of production forestry is emphasised as part of the national thinking about REDD+
- Excellent analysis of legal and regulatory issues, highlighting unresolved status of customary tenure rights
- There are good proposals for testing different models for calculation of reference scenarios

Congo – Areas that needed further work

- Think of repositioning the MRV unit to guard its independence from the Government agencies it will be watching (DONE IN V.2)
- Considering the importance of the logging industry in the thinking about REDD, there is too little factual information (or maps) about the concessions and their performance (PARTLY DONE IN V.2)
- The proposal should say more about how carbon ownership and benefit sharing issues & the protection of indigenous peoples' rights will be resolved (ADDRESSED IN V.2)
- The section on SEIA (social and environmental impact assessment) could usefully have said how these equity issues would be treated (SECTION IMPROVED IN V.2)
- There seems to be too large and unwieldy a number of pilot projects. This needs rationalisation (DONE IN V.2)

Congo – Areas that still need further work

- Not enough information about data (availability, quality, periodicity) nor about human capacity, for TAP to feel totally comfortable about work on reference levels; proposal to set sub-national RELs increases these concerns
- Provide further reassurance about how forest sector governance issues, and forest dweller equity issues, will be treated
- The proposal should say more about how Congo's REDD+ preparatory work will be integrated into the broader Congo Basin context, through existing structures such as COMIFAC
- The description of the monitoring system does not say enough about remote sensing, GIS and carbon inventory capacity; it indicates (surprisingly) that there is capacity for ground inventory
- Monitoring needs to be broadened to include: a wider spread of stakeholders, at a range of degrees of sophistication, and drivers of DD⁴

Congo – Recommendations

- The principal recommendation is to address the outstanding concerns listed above
- The approach to reference scenarios, data and monitoring was the area causing most concern to reviewers, but which has changed least in V.2
- Emphasise strategic option 2, which highlights Congo's strong record in developing, controlling and monitoring its forest concessions, while saying more about the realities of forest governance
- In V.2 the budget has increased substantially (\$11.4 m), and exposes a very heavy investment in pilot projects, and very little in Reference Scenarios (2.5%) and MRV (7%), the areas judged weakest by TAP. This needs further thought.