

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, December 13, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)

Review of R-PP of *Cote d'Ivoire*

Reviewers: Trinto Mugangu, Stephen Cobb and six other reviewers

Date of Revised Synthesis Review : 11-13 November 2013

Overview

(from the first submission)

All the reviewers know what a great deal Cote d'Ivoire has had to contend with in recent years, as it strives to reconstruct a functioning and effective state and the productive economy which the country previously enjoyed. The energy and determination which this process requires, shines through in studying the Cote d'Ivoire R-PP.

Reviewers have been generally extremely impressed by the achievements of the editorial team that has put this document together, for they have created an orderly and convincing statement of what is to be done and how it is to be achieved.

But there is no escaping the fact that some areas of the proposal reveal the consequences of the static years through which the country went during the last two decades, and the hard work that will be needed to catch up, in the domains of forest measurement and inventory, remote sensing, ground-truth work and so on; to say nothing of the re-establishment of the structures of civil society. This first is particularly apparent in component 3, which our reviewers feel needs an accelerated approach to compensate for the long years of data gaps.

While the document itself is very good, most components need some additional work, to bring them up to standard. Many of these could be remedied, with good teamwork, over the coming weeks.

What is not so sure is the design of the programme itself, which is billed as a fully-fledged, nation-wide approach. It is not for us to comment on the security aspects of proposing to do this, but it does seem to us that the programme is extremely ambitious, both from the point of view of the radical reforms proposed in the agricultural sector, and the scope of what has to be done, in a few short years. We do not wish to curb Cote d'Ivoire's legitimate ambition, but we have our doubts as to whether those ambitions can be realized in the time, and with the resources, proposed (the majority of which have not yet been identified, to say nothing of secured).

It might be wise to consider extending the period of the preparation phase, from two and

a half to perhaps four years (we say this in Component 5); and to be more specific about reducing the scope of the strategic options (this is acknowledged in section 2b, but it might be wise to do no sooner, not later). It might also be wise to concentrate, in the early years, on setting up systems (for consultation, monitoring, experimentation) in just one or two pilot areas, not the country as a whole.

Cote d'Ivoire, for all the devastation that occurred to its forest resources in previous decades, has enormous REDD+ potential: the challenge is to prepare astutely for harnessing it.

We wish the R-PP team enormous success in their preparations for doing so.

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

In the November 8th resubmission, we see evidence of enormous improvement in the R-PP. The document has been transformed, largely in line with the previous comments of the TAP reviewers. In our view, with these changes now in place, there is very little more to be done to this R-PP, as the table of attainment of standards shows below:

Components	Draft R-PP submitted for PC16 (September 2013) and revised on October 2013	Revised R-PP submitted for PC16 (8 November 2013) and revised on November-2013
1a	Standard largely met	Standard met
1b	Standard largely met	Standard met
1c	Standard partially met	Standard met
2a	Standard largely met	Standard met
2b	Standard not met	Standard met
2c	Standard largely met	Standard met
2d	Standard largely met	Standard met
3	Standard not met	Standard largely met
4a	Standard partially met	Standard largely met
4b	Standard partially met	Standard met
5	Standard partially met	Standard met
6	Standard partially met	Standard met

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6:)

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements:

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process, and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

Commentary

This section provides a thorough presentation of two (CN and SEP) out of the three legally constituted bodies that will take part in the REDD+ readiness process of Côte d'Ivoire at the national level. The third one, the Interministerial Technical Committee (CTI) is only cited in the executive summary. Indeed "The REDD+ National Commission as legally constituted by a presidential decree taken in 2012 will consist of a National REDD+ Committee (CN-REDD+), an Interministerial Technical Committee (CTI) and a Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP)." The R-PP reverses the chairmanship proposed by the decree, proposing it be held by the PM's office for the CN-REDD+ and by the Minister of the Environment for the CTI. The SEP includes two NGO representatives and nine representatives of public "services" at the national level. Important stakeholders have been omitted, however: notably, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and the Ministry in charge of Livestock. Civil society is felt to be underrepresented along with all constituents of farmers, including representatives of land owners and tribal chiefs.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for CN-REDD+ and SEP are provided but not for the CTI. The institutional arrangement at the national level enables three functions by the three respective bodies of REDD+: that is, orientation, coordination and execution. However, the function of overseeing the activities of the Permanent Executive Secretariat is not specified.

The SEP for REDD+ will organize six thematic groups: (i) Information, Education and Communication (IEC), (ii) Regional Coverage (iii) Strategy and Pilot Projects, (iv) Social and Environmental Assessment, (v) Reference Levels; Measurement, Reporting and Verification, and (vi) Monitoring and Evaluation of the programme. Figure 1 on P4 provides an organizational chart for the SEP team, which is composed of 21 individuals.

At the regional level there is intention to establish technical committees to be chaired by the Prefect of the region, with technical backstopping by the regional branches of the Ministry of Environment and 5 regional (agro-ecological zones) focal points to be appointed by the SEP. The focus of the regional committees is implementation of decisions taken by the CN-REDD+, the CTI and SEP, and consultation of local stakeholders. There will be five regional nodes for consulting and involving stakeholders through platforms initiated for FLEGT but to be also used by the REDD+ process. There is not enough funding to support these platforms for consultation and involvement of stakeholders.

Grievance and conflict resolution mechanisms have also been omitted.

Information dissemination by website is not sufficient and cannot reach all stakeholders.

Recommendations

1. The National REDD+ Committee should be chaired by the Prime Minister. Its composition should be enriched by missing sectors of the rural economy and by at least 3 other representatives of civil society (peasant land owners, community leaders); the Interministerial Technical Committee (CTI) is the one to be chaired by the Minister of the Environment.
2. Provide the CTI the function of control and monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP); capacity-building of the SEP staff members is important to further consider.
3. An organizational chart including national (CN-CTI-SEP) and regional (5 prefects and focal points) and the platform (nodes for consultation of NGOs and local communities through FLEGT-REDD) is needed to clarify the proposed arrangements. This should be coupled with clarifying the role of the nodes, and their staffing and skill levels.
4. Provide, in addition to the website, other sources of disclosure of the information available to stakeholders, including rural radio broadcasts, television, newsletters, etc. A programme to ensure appropriate outreach and engagement of grassroots stakeholders needs to be described.

5. Clarifying which stakeholders the civil society committee members will be representing (could they properly represent local communities?) would ensure a better participation in REDD+ readiness decision-making.
6. The description of the mechanism of feedback and grievances, including a dispute resolution mechanism, being part of the consultation and participation in the REDD-process, should be enhanced as a means of ensuring broad civil society and local communities' engagement.

Standard largely met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

This section of the revised R-PP takes into account most of the recommendations provided by the TAP reviewers on 9 October 2013. It provides now a thorough presentation of the three (National Redd+ Committee -CN; the Interministerial Technical Committee - CTI; and the Permanent Executive Secretariat - SEP) legally constituted bodies that will take part in the REDD+ readiness process of Côte d'Ivoire at the national level. It presents the composition and role of each body and the frequency of meetings. The National REDD+ Committee (CN) is now to be chaired by the Prime Minister or his/her representative. Its composition is now enriched by more sectors of the rural economy such as the Ministry of Mining and that of Decentralization. Its frequency of meetings is set to every quarter, which might still be too frequent, as that is the same frequency as the meetings of the second body, the Interministerial Technical Committee (CTI), which is also set to once quarterly. Finally the Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP) will be increased from 9 (from the public sectors) to 13 members with 2 representatives from NGOs and 2 from the private sectors. Seven thematic groups will be organized under the SEP. The SEP will be managed by a Permanent Technical Secretary.

The CTI is now to be chaired by the Minister of the Environment. CTI is to put in place the Regional Committees, which will be chaired by the Regional Prefect with technical (secretariat) assistance by two regional representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and that of Forestry. The role of the Regional Committees will be to execute at the decentralized level the decisions of the CN and the CTI.

An organizational chart including national (CN-CTI-SEP), a National Fund for REDD+, a Scientific Committee, 3 regional (prefects and focal points) and the platform (nodes for consultation of NGOs and local communities through FLEGT-REDD) is provided under Fig. 3, and it clarifies the proposed arrangements. Also an organizational chart is provided for the SEP (Fig.1) and it responds to the need to reinforce capacity with two international experts and at least one national technical assistant. Also, to begin with, following strong TAP recommendations, the R-PP will cover only three regions that will be selected following potential for GHG sequestration and the challenges to meet deforestation and forest degradation in RCI.

The SEP is in charge of disclosure of the information to stakeholders. Further description of this and a grievance mechanism to resolve conflicts among stakeholders are provided in Section 2c.

The description of the mechanism of feedback and grievances, including a dispute resolution mechanism, being part of the consultation and participation in the REDD-process, should be enhanced as a means of ensuring broad civil society and local communities' engagement.

The project is now extended to cover 42months (7semesters), and the budget to cover the functioning of the SEP is provided for the first 28months by AfD/C2D for a sum total of US \$321 750.

Standard now met, but the national REDD+ Committee (CN) should meet only twice a year, as the CTI is to meet 4 times a year

Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups:

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at national and local level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

Commentary

The R-PP demonstrates that its proponents have sought to identify and share information with key stakeholders, although the method used to choose the key stakeholders for REDD-plus is not well explained. The R-PP has thus initiated a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. An analysis of the lists of workshop participants shows a good enough coverage of civil society (40%) and the public services (37%), but a low coverage of traditional authorities (4%) and media (2%), and no specific coverage of marginalised groups. It is essential to involve marginalized groups such as women and youth as well as representatives of the private sector, land owners and forest dependent communities in the preparation of the strategy so that they understand the issues of REDD+, for adequate eventual appropriation. Beyond workshops, other methods should be used for consultation, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement such as bilateral meetings and the use various medias to establish an early and ongoing dialogue framework. That would help to touch, convince and involve a larger number of key relevant stakeholders.

Recommendations

1. The recommendations and outputs from the workshops and individual consultations could be more detailed and structured, to explain how their preoccupations and recommendations will be taken into account and acted upon.
2. Women's federations and organizations could receive greater and more targeted attention as important stakeholders, especially as they were not represented in workshops and formal meetings. The importance, or otherwise, of traditional leadership in Cote d'Ivoire should be explained.
3. The completion of the ongoing construction of an NGO platform and the regional nodes in Côte d'Ivoire will be essential for information and outreach to all stakeholders. The proposed process therefore needs a brief description.

Standard largely met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

The R-PP demonstrates that its proponents have sought to identify and share information with key stakeholders. The method used to choose the key stakeholders for REDD-plus is now well explained. The R-PP has thus initiated a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for a set of three key stakeholders (public administration, technical and financial partners, private sectors, civil society, legal and good governance group through FLEGT nodes; and the media, universities and research centers, local communities and locally elected representatives...). Table 3 presents a breakdown of the participation of stakeholders in workshops, focus groups of discussion and other meetings, including coverage of marginalized groups such as feminine groups and youth along with representatives of the

private sector, land owners and forest dependent communities.

The schedules and outputs from the workshops and individual consultations are now more detailed and structured. They explain stakeholders' preoccupations and recommendations will be taken into account and acted upon. Direct and indirect causes of DD as expressed by stakeholders are depicted in Table 5.

Women's federations and youth as well as land owners and traditional chiefs were consulted in focus groups. Further regional workshops and other meetings for REDD+ will be organized along with the FLEGT ongoing consultation nodes to bring about greater and more targeted attention to marginalized groups as important stakeholders. Use of the media for outreach is underpinned in the revised text, and a plan to consult and engage stakeholders will be made between now and June 2014.

Standard now met

Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³ (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.

Commentary

This section of the R-PP describes the process thus far undertaken in Cote d'Ivoire through workshops and official meetings; these do not necessarily bring about ownership for the full range of stakeholders except for the civil servants of the ministry of forestry and the environment, who are initiating the REDD plus process. It also describes the information and consultations that will be taking place in the R-PP implementation phase using the regional focal points to circulate information in the different agro-ecological zones of the country. The five "focal points" from the Ministry of the Environment will be posted in the agro-ecozones to play a role in organizing the consultation and participation process during R-PP implementation. A consultation and participation plan for the R-PP implementation phase appears in point 3 on page 20 and point 4.2 on page 23 of this section of this R-PP of Côte d'Ivoire.

The concerns expressed by, and the recommendations of relevant stakeholders and a process for their consideration are missing in this section.

Recommendations

1. This section of the R-PP would be enhanced by providing a more detailed and structured description of how the information and recommendations gathered will be used to inform the implementation of the R-PP and the national strategy. While the Permanent Secretariat will have a large role in this, it is suggested that specialists in sampling and rural communication be contracted (such as The

³ Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

Ivorian Center for Economic and Social Research (CIRES) and the Graduate School of Agronomy (ESA / INPHB) for sampling and assessing the degree of adoption of REDD+ stakeholders and the economic valuation of environmental impacts; the Department of Communication and MINAGRI, and INADES Côte d'Ivoire are specialized in the issues related to communication in rural areas).

2. The frequency of workshops and consultation meetings seems a little high (2 times per year in each agro-ecological zone).
3. More specifications about the way that NGOs will be re-enforced to consult local communities (and where appropriate, to represent them) should be provided.
4. The structure and role of the “national platform” should be clearly described in greater detail along with a justification of the (very high) US \$1.2million budget earmarked for the platform. This should be developed with a proper work plan.
5. It might be wise to increase the weight of media representatives in the matrix of stakeholders for better dissemination of REDD actions.
6. The REDD+ process must build on results gathered from the ongoing creation of platforms in the FLEGT process in Cote d’Ivoire, and it should not promote the creation of other structures because the communities involved in the FLEGT process will be the same for the REDD+ process. To avoid 2 parallel processes, the R-PP must be implemented through a unique platform designed (a) to involve fully the civil society and (b) to reinforce the coordination between the 2 processes.
7. In a country that has seen the virtual annihilation of its previously extensive forest estate over the last half century, too little attention in the R-PP is given to the all-important issues of transparency, and how the R-PP process proposes to combat a lack of it.

Standard partially met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. During R-PP implementation, stakeholder engagement and capacity building will be through (a) local experts from CIRES, ENSEA or INADES; and (b) contractual arrangement between SEP and the ongoing UNDP led project termed “Targeted Support”, which is part of the UN-REDD endeavor in Cote d’Ivoire running from 2011to 2015. A stakeholder engagement plan is also being drawn, and it is highlighted in Table 2. Mapping of stakeholders and ways to engage them to bring about ownership of the REDD+ process appear in Figure 7.
2. Meeting frequencies for stakeholders as they appear in the consultation and participatory timeline (Fig 8) and the budget table for this section seem to be now feasible.
3. Civil society and traditional leaders are now targeted as Group 4 of stakeholders and will be reinforced specifically following their capacity needs and role to play in the REDD+ process as depicted in the stakeholder mapping.
4. A work plan for the stakeholders’ engagement through the FLEGT national platform is depicted in Fig. 8, and the civil society will intervene to sensitize local communities and serve as a communication link with the SEP and REDD+ management team.
5. Media representation is increased in the mix of stakeholders, and they constitute now a special group 6 along with other opinion leaders.
6. REDD+ process is now piggy-backing with the ongoing FLEGT process in Cote d’Ivoire to involve NGOs at the regional level.
7. With the FLEGT process, the R-PP plan to divulge information in a transparent way, and the methodology to be used stresses how the R-PP process will rely on a free, prior and informed consent by stakeholders, especially by focusing on informing the people dependent on forests about their rights.

Standard now met

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Uses, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD; and sets the stage for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

Commentary

This section of the R-PP identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and degradation in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD+; and it sets the stage for the development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key drivers of land use change.

The major engine of economic growth since independence has been agriculture up until the recent oil and gas production. Also the annual rate of population growth exceeds 3.5%. The document summarizes historic trends in agricultural expansion, economic and population growth and the policies that drove them. In the light of the dramatic reduction in Cote d'Ivoire's forest cover over four consecutive decades, the document is refreshingly frank about how this came about. The data presentation in this section is thorough and well organized.

The R-PP is not so strong in identifying the drivers that are currently operating and their scope and scale of importance at present. This is no doubt due to a breakdown in data collection (as in very other aspect of civil life in the country) during the recent decade of national conflicts. Figure 6 (p31) indicates a peak in deforestation in the early 1980s and a current level of about 50,000 ha/year that is equivalent to the pre-independence period (before 1960).

Afforestation rates are currently low due in part to weak governance and control of forested lands, both within and outside protected areas.

From the limited and sometimes conflicting data presented it appears that establishing a baseline and reference level for forest-based emissions is going to require a comprehensive analysis and assessment of current rates and drivers of deforestation and degradation. The R-PP identifies gaps and weaknesses in existing data.

Weak governance and the dysfunction of various public institutions are blamed in this section of the R-PP. The R-PP fails to explain that a lack of policy coherence is to blame, which cannot be conducive to instigating the desired change for a sound and sustainable management of natural forests that REDD+ represents.

Recommendations

1. More attention needs to be given to the accuracy of the data presented in this section. An assessment of the relative importance of drivers of deforestation nationally and within specific

regional agro-eco-zones would be very helpful, particularly because of the importance of these zones to the proposed implementation of the REDD+ programme.

2. The section of the R-PP from page 24 to page 59 should be reviewed to show even more clearly the decline of natural forests in Côte d'Ivoire and its known causes. It is important to the global understanding of the challenges of REDD+, that this be very clearly documented.
3. The budget (Page 60) to complete a study on deforestation is not sufficient, and activities are concentrated on firewood and cartography. Subjects such as logging and agriculture should be backed by further appropriate studies.

Standard largely met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. A comprehensive assessment of the relative importance of drivers of deforestation nationally and within specific regional agro-eco-zones is now made. The assessment reflects the importance of these zones to the proposed implementation of the REDD+ programme. These drivers are mainly (a) rapid rate of population increase; and (b) agricultural land expansion over time. Data and their trends are provided for these along with maps of land occupation over time.
2. This section of the R-PP has been revised and shows (on BENTD produced maps [1969 and 2004] and corresponding statistics) the decline of natural forests and the expansion of agricultural lands in Côte d'Ivoire. This version of the R-PP presents the trends of the State of the Forests in RCI. The editorial team of the R-PP pledges to revise in 2014 the text about State of the Forests with a more detailed coverage of different categories and trends, after REDD+ implementation activities.
3. The budget for this section of the RPP (US \$1.3 m) provides enough details and adequate resources for various needed studies such as cartography of deforestation and forest degradation; state of classified forests; analysis of the situation of land use and tenure in RCI; a study of the biomass for energy (from wood); participatory analysis of the governance for REDD+; and an analytical study about the potential for reforestation in the country.

Standard now met

Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.

Commentary

Seven innovative strategic options are developed for REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire, especially to change the paradigm on how development should be handled. The strategic options identified for REDD+ are aligned to the identified drivers of deforestation and degradation of forests especially land-use change by proposing targeted and ambitious reforms for diversifying agriculture and maintain yield without needing to clear

further forest and nor to secure land tenure. It includes *inter alia* the strengthening of protected areas and reforestation.

Both the synergies and inconsistencies between the intersectoral strategies are discussed. Studies on the costs and benefits of the strategic options and feasibility of the proposed options are already being, or will be conducted. However, domestic leakage is not addressed directly. As described in the document, only 5% of the original forest covers remains. The proposal does not target those pristine areas in particular; hence the deforestation of these 5% remaining forests is likely to continue.

Increased control and management of timber extraction, which is a main cause of forest degradation, is not directly addressed.

This section of the R-PP should focus on how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD+ strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits.

Nor does the plan give a convincing argument as to how any REDD+ strategy would counter the high global market prices for the beverage crops (cocoa and coffee), the promotion of which was the driving force behind the loss of the forest in the first place; and although Cote d'Ivoire has a palm oil industry that is over 40 years old, rising global demand for this commodity is shining a new spotlight on West African countries and Cote d'Ivoire will be a target country. What do the R-PP's authors offer in the face of this pressure?

Many of the problems in Cote d'Ivoire, and their solutions, are to be found in the realm of land-use planning, backed by firm political support for the decisions embodied in those plans. The practice of such planning in Cote d'Ivoire has a long pedigree, but implementing the conclusions does not. The R-PP is too silent on the merits and practice of "Schemas d'Aménagement du Territoire", and needs to be clearer about its strategic role in the context of REDD+.

This section does not provide any analysis of costs and benefits of a REDD+ strategy, any discussion of domestic "leakage", consideration of social issues or potential benefits related to rural livelihoods as called for in the guidance (above).

The analytical work identified in the table on p. 60 (section 2a) focusing only on fuel wood is not broad enough to embrace the other drivers of deforestation and degradation.

The text (on P 62-63) outlines a broad vision of the issues to be addressed. The development options study proposed on p 63, the need to address land tenure, agricultural diversification aligned with the PNIA, reinforcement of protected areas, development of a domestic energy strategy and strengthening of institutions are all highly relevant "themes". However, these are all major undertakings and will require a sequenced work plan to accomplish them.

The studies described on p70 are also highly relevant and should be initiated early on in the RPP preparation process.

Including the project financed by AFD (p72), pilot projects represent over 95% of the budget proposed for this section. That amount of investment may be prematurely estimated given the need for strategic analysis, public awareness and consultation, and legal and policy reform to establish a basis for both decision-making and benefit sharing.

Recommendations

1. The proposal would benefit from critical thinking about the data and analyses that will be required to establish a baseline and a robust MRV system as well as investments in building public awareness

and the necessity of policy and regulatory reforms (e.g. land and resource tenure) to establish the basis for benefit sharing.

2. Strategic options 3 and 6 should be revised. Indeed, the strategic option 3, whose theme is "diversify agriculture and maintain yields", should be stated as increasing yield on the same cultivated surface areas. Production techniques using high-yielding varieties and quality agricultural inputs have proved their superiority over the basic system of slash and burn shifting cultivation, so it is important to focus on increasing the efficiency rather than maintaining it.
3. Policy Option 6 on capacity building focuses on targets for reinforcement without addressing the key issues and the process to implement for REDD+. The implementation of the 6th strategic option will require a diagnostic study to identify capacity gaps for every target group of stakeholders and a plan for capacity building with a corresponding budget.
4. It is necessary to perform a long term (50 years or so, to match the well-documented results of the last fifty years) spatial allocation of national land (the ultimate Schema d'Aménagement du Territoire) to meet all needs for forest and agricultural products, biodiversity, fire wood, protected areas, housing, etc. It will be through such an optimal allocation (decentralized and national zoning), that various institutions (ministries in charge of agriculture, forestry, livestock, urbanization) will evolve and develop different projects and programs to achieve REDD+. We recognize that this is a huge undertaking: but a necessary condition for success.
5. Also risk assessment, environmental and socio-economic feasibility of strategic options should be performed by national experts of costing (ESA / INPHB, CIRES) along with international partners.
6. Previous attempts to secure land tenure were recognized as an important source of conflict among rural communities, not helped by inconsistencies between the law and presidential exhortations. It could be wise to elaborate on how this will be achieved in this context and what measures could be taken to ensure that REDD+ policy is backed by security of tenure and that the related issues of forest governance and land (and carbon) ownership, are confronted honestly and directly.
7. Possible actions and synergies between FLEGT/REDD+ to improve management of forests under logging concessions and by illegal logging, mentioned as an important direct cause of degradation, should be mentioned.
8. Much accent is placed in this component on the implementation of pilot projects (46% of this component budget) without creating the conditions for success. Forest governance aspects and benefits sharing aspects are not developed.
9. The importance of synergy between REDD-FLEGT is sufficiently developed in the R-PP. but actions or budget are proposed to promote synergy in the twin process.

Standard not met.

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. The seven initial strategic options have been rethought and written in a different way with two intersectoral strategic options that would serve as a foundation to the remaining 5 sectoral strategic options. The first set of two intersectoral strategic options will make a comparative prospective study for two trajectory scenarios about (a) business as usual and (b) a transition to a greener economy. This would produce analyses of costs/benefits for socio-environmental and economic options. In addition a thorough study on the contribution of the forests on RCI's economy as compared to an agricultural economy encroaching and devastating the forests. These studies will inform a revision of the current national development strategies (DSRP and PND) as well as sectoral strategies (such as PNIA, NPF, and land tenure reform).
2. Strategic options 3 and 6 have been rewritten as (a) decoupling of agricultural production and

deforestation through increasing yield on the same cultivated surface areas; and (b) capacity building for existing protected areas and less degraded forests.

3. For the protected areas system, capacity building will be focused on (a) improving surveillance empowering local communities to participate in the management of protected areas and remnant forests; also the REDD+ process in the strategic option six will help in the delimitation of protected areas; (b) to lessen encroachment from the local communities; and (c) to promote ecotourism to feed into a revenue sharing plan.
4. A long term prospective study will be made to determine the options of land allocation schemes.
5. A process of choosing the priority areas for REDD+ and the finalization of its strategy are also presented in this section of the R-PP. Detailed studies are outlined to evaluate the socio-economic feasibility of strategic options.
6. This revised section of the R-PP discusses how to secure land tenure: this has been recognized as an important source of conflict among rural communities. Strategic option 2 for a secure land allocation system through the formulation of an improved land allocation plan (Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire) and land tenure security to start with areas close to remnant forests are prerequisites for implementation of other REDD+ strategic options. The FLEGT process will be used to achieve enactment of a new land tenure law. High level appropriation (up to cabinet levels) will be sought especially through the ongoing efforts led by the European Union and AFD.
7. Following the FLEGT process the REDD+ policy will be contingent on security of tenure, and that the related issues of forest governance and land (and carbon) ownership will be resolved honestly and directly in the new law of land tenure. Synergies between FLEGT/REDD+ to improve management of forests (under logging concessions and by illegal logging) are now mentioned as being sought.
8. The importance of ongoing pilot projects (and new pilot projects to be implemented upfront) explains why 13% of this component budget (far less than the previous 46% of the total) is allocated there to create the conditions for success through testing of strategic models. Benefit sharing aspects will be developed following studies during R-PP implementation.
9. The importance of synergy between REDD-FLEGT is sufficiently developed in the R-PP (see also point 7), but no budget from the R-PP is proposed to promote synergy in the twin processes. This will rely on externally funded processes.

Standard now met, but a budget to support the twin REDD-FLEGT process should be sought and allocated in the R-PP.

Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

Commentary

This section of the R-PP clearly identifies (pp74-76) the need to address some fundamental issues such as establishment of a financing mechanism, and clarification of ownership rights to revenues from credits of carbon emissions reductions/sequestration.

The principles of effectiveness, efficiency and equity are good but are not accompanied by a specific work plan. Ownership of land and carbon rights are well presented and the prospects to solve the issues are intact.

The R-PP notes (pp77-78) the potential linkage between “clean” production of agricultural commodities and emissions reductions, though the formal mechanisms for this linkage are not yet established.

This section of the R-PP notes (p78-80) the need to establish a national registry for REDD+ projects and the potential linkage and lessons learned from the FLEGT process in developing systems for delivering and monitoring verifiable performance against a clear set of standards. The proposed idea to seek investment options and markets other than carbon through the route of agricultural commodities is positive.

The R-PP notes experience in revenue sharing based on the model of damage compensation from logging operations. Although it is useful to draw lessons from this prior experience it is likely that new models for benefit sharing will need to be introduced that provide positive incentives for actions that contribute to REDD rather than compensation for damage and lost opportunity.

The existing legislation relevant to REDD+ and an evaluation of the legal status of carbon ownership are well discussed. Cote d'Ivoire indicates its desire to clearly define carbon ownership and to plan benefit sharing in a participatory way. A dedicated REDD+ fund exists legally, but it is not yet operational.

Twinning REDD-plus and FLEGT processes comes out in the R-PP, but it is not sufficiently developed in terms of common activities and budget. For the civil society platform for example, it is important to capitalize the experience in both processes. In the FLEGT process, a platform of civil society is under creation; its form has been identified and legalization process is underway. The opportunity for REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire to join these ongoing developments in the FLEGT process is not sufficiently expressed in the R-PP.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that some legal texts, such as the Forest Code, be updated quickly; the land code be implemented; and the text on carbon ownership is drawn up quickly, and it must be added to the existing texts of the provisions on the responsibilities etc. to provide the legal framework necessary for the consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+.
2. Special attention should be given to land-tenure insecurity, which was identified as one of the indirect drivers of deforestation. The R-PP document mentioned that this issue is covered by another project financed by the World Bank, but information is lacking to achieve a complete review.
3. The sustainability of efforts should underpin the implementation of REDD+.
4. The R-PP requires a work plan that prioritizes and sequences the actions discussed in this section.

The standard is largely met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. The new text recognizes the need to update or enact some legal texts. The forest code and rural land tenure are among these texts to be updated or enacted, but this version of the R-PP is evasive on the clarification of carbon ownership. New mechanisms added to the implementation framework are the following: (a) a platform for coordination of institutions over REDD+ will be placed under the office of the Prime Minister; (b) a mechanism for conflict resolution is to be put in place; and (c) establishment and delivery of certificates for land ownership.
2. To resolve land-tenure insecurity, which was identified as one of the indirect drivers of deforestation, a certificate of land ownership will be delivered, and capacity development of customary and decentralised public institutions will be made to allow active management of land tenure conflicts.
3. The sustainability of efforts for the implementation of REDD+ is now recognized as a key element of all undertakings in the R-PP implementation. This is why special funds are being created; and institutions are to be supported by sustainable mechanisms such as special taxes and payment for

environmental services. Revenue sharing schemes over a tax for general interest (TIG) levied on forest related activities is already distributed as follows: (a) 70% for the impacted local populations through the office of the under-prefect; (b) 20% to support local forestry institutions; and (c) 10% for the departmental committee that monitors the surveillance of the forest area. Revenue sharing accrued from forest carbon rights will follow the same structure, and it will ensure the sustainability of efforts.

4. A work plan, which will prioritize and sequence the actions presented in this section 2c, especially reforms to be made along all phases of REDD+, will be drawn in consultation with all stakeholders. It will be available before the submission of Cote d'Ivoire's R-PP to UN-REDD in 2014.

Standard is now met.

Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, and for preparing the ESMF.

Commentary

This section of the R-PP describes the context of social and environmental impact assessment in RCI and also provides the terms of references of the strategic environmental and social impact assessment (SESA). It emphasises the need to engage various sectors under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Environment in guiding and overseeing the process. It also includes activities of capacity building for stakeholders, development of terms of reference, implementation of the SESA, validation of results, and development of an information system and safeguard.

Indeed, a description of safeguard issues specific to Cote d'Ivoire is provided. One of the safeguards to be considered (4.12), the involuntary reinstallation of people is mentioned. In the R-PP document, the authors mentioned the fact that people will have to be moved outside protected areas boundaries. For protected areas, the hostile occupation by immigrants and refugees was already underlined as a problem (in Section 2a). It was also indicated that people living in protected areas had not been compensated appropriately.

The role of civil society in the SESA is limited to 'consultation' rather than 'involvement'. It is important to add details in the R-PP on how stakeholders' participation will be achieved beyond mere consultation.

The budget is generally appropriate but more money should be allocated to dialogue with potentially affected communities to get clear insight into their concerns and expectations.

Recommendations

1. It is important to add details in the R-PP on how stakeholders' participation will be achieved beyond mere consultation.
2. The budget is generally appropriate although less could be spent on consulting firm contracts and more on dialogue with potentially affected communities to get clearer insights into their concerns and expectations.
3. Work plan and implementation schedules are needed as well as some basic details for preparing an appropriate ESMF to account for social and environmental norms and other cross cutting issues.

The standard is largely met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. Details in the R-PP on how stakeholders' participation will be achieved beyond mere consultation are now depicted in section 1c. For instance, a stakeholder engagement plan will be drawn, and it's highlighted in Table 2. Mapping of stakeholders and ways to engage them to bring about ownership of the REDD+ process appears in Figure 7. For the SESA, civil society, consumer's association, tribal chiefs, women and youth not only will be consulted, but also they will participate in the REDD+ management bodies especially the committee designed to coordinate the implementation of SESA and the ensuing ESMF plan.
2. The budget was lowered (from \$610K to \$564K), BENTD and the ANGE will be leading the SESA process, and there are now provisions in the budget to implement the ESMF plan.
3. A SESA implementation schedule articulated in three successive phases is now developed in this section of the R-PP (Phase 1. Preparation of the SESA; Phase 2. REDD+ strategy development; Phase 3. Preparation and implementation of an ESMF), and this is depicted in Figure 3. The budget for the implementation of the ESMF is still low (US \$20K) especially regarding the magnitude of issues (compensations, social and environmental norms) to be resolved.

Standard is now met, although more funding should surely be allocated to implementation of ESMF.

Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Standard 3: a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

Commentary

To define a national forest Reference Emission Level and/or forest Reference Level, Cote d'Ivoire plans to combine two distinct approaches: 1) a bottom up approach based on the sub-national data using local drivers of change; 2) a top-down model based on the Congo-BIOM. The national level would be derived from adjustments between the outputs of these two approaches.

The R-PP discusses gaps in available data on historical land-cover change (particularly over the last 15 years) and the relative absence of national forest inventory for carbon stock estimation. The only data source for estimating emissions and removals from forest is in the Second communication to the UNFCCC where the land-use sector is evaluated as a sink of GHGs.

There are not enough data to feed into this model. Models are as good as the input data; even complex models can hardly compensate for limited/inadequate input variables. In this context, the current proposition is therefore very ambitious.

Furthermore, the forest definition which has to be adopted will have an ubiquitous impact in emissions and removals estimated as both cocoa and coffee plantations and shifting cultivation areas under fallow could possibly be included or excluded in the forest category depending on the definition of forest adopted. It is very positive that Cote d'Ivoire is negotiating with the AFD for the financing of a land-cover project, that

could go some way to resolving these deficiencies. An overview of data availability is provided in Annex.

Recommendations

1. A stepwise approach to determining the REL/RL should be favored: 1) a better estimate of emissions and removals from forest could be performed using land-cover maps derived from pan-tropical analysis (see <http://globalmonitoring.sdstate.edu/projects/gfm/global/gindex.html>) and global biomass/carbon data (See products from Ruesch http://cdiac.ornl.gov/epubs/ndp/global_carbon/carbon_documentation.html), Saatchi (http://carbon.jpl.nasa.gov/data/data_africa.cfm for RCI) or WHRC (http://www.whrc.org/mapping/pantropical/carbon_dataset.html).

This approach would provide a first assessment of emissions and removals from forest and provide an easy available estimate for the country. 2) Develop a simple model (reflecting IPCC rules) based on national historical land-cover maps made of mid-resolution imagery with (field and/or aerial photo) verification and national emission factor (at least for above ground living carbon density).

With this second assessment, compare the results with the first assessment based on global value and evaluate where better information would improve the model. A simple model based on historical projection of deforestation rates could be adequate for RCI since they have not forecasted a decrease or an increase in deforestation rates in the coming years. 3) The approach proposed in the R-PP could be applied, the bottom up and top down approaches could be compared to the historical projection mentioned in 2) and between each other.

However, by comparing the bottom up and top down approach, it is not clear how the REL/RL will be adopted. If there are substantial differences between the two approaches proposed, the document should clarify how these differences will be adjusted or harmonized.

The forest definition should be adopted with measured or monitoring in mind. If cocoa plantations are considered as forest (which seems to not be the case however), the monitoring of forest lands remaining forest lands becomes mandatory for REDD+ if proper estimation of C fluxes is to be performed in RCI.

2. More structured information is necessary to ensure coherence between deforestation drivers, the national REDD+ strategy and monitoring system design. Given the apparent gaps in some recent data that were noted above in section 2a, the development of a "model" needs to address how it will overcome the obstacle of data deficiencies for the most recent (and all-important) time period (say, the last 10-15 years).

3. The weakness of this section is in the failure to involve some national institutions for its development. The following Ivoirian institutions should be involved in re-working this section: ESA, CIRES, ENSEA, INS, statistics departments in charge of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, environment for the following reasons:

- Opportunity of ownership and extension of modeling in these structures, and in the training of future human resources;
- Existence of basic data on production, on prices of agricultural and forest products, on soil fertility, population demography.

4. The text acknowledges the need to establish a historical baseline, recognizes the need for cross-linkage with relevant national projects and programs such as PNIA and PND and to account for demographic factors (internal migration and immigration, population growth) in addition to economic factors (plans for agricultural expansion and intensification) and the influence of external factors such as improved infrastructure for transportation.

5. Finally this component of the RCI R-PP would benefit from an organogram that identifies the roles and relationships among the numerous institutions proposed to contribute to this exercise with a time-bound work plan for its implementation. There is so much to be done, however, that this is one of the places where it is worth mentioning that the two and a half years proposed in this R-PP, seems unrealistically short.

Standard is not met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. A stepwise approach to determining REL/RL is now favoured and explained. Determination of levels of emissions and removals from forest will be performed using land-cover (international and local) maps. The forest definition will be adopted with measures for its monitoring in mind. It will be made following FAO and Kyoto Protocol definitions. Also the RCI's CDM forest definition as well as the definition contained in the Forest code will be considered to make a final call during the second Semester of 2014.
2. Deforestation and forest degradation drivers (2a), the national REDD+ strategy (2b) and monitoring system design (3 and 4a) are given a more coherent approach depicted in sections 2a, 2b, 3 and 4a. Data modeling is no longer the approach taken to obtain estimates for historical missing data: rather, a stepwise approach using available emissions data, three reference years (1990, 2000 and 2010) will be used to estimate trajectories of emissions, the missing points coming from trends toward development goals and projections for population increase.
3. National institutions and FAO were put to use to develop this section of the revised R-PP. The following Ivoirian institutions are now involved in re-working this section and capacity building: SODEFOR, BENTD, ESA, CNTIG, CIRES, ENSEA, IRD, C2D, INS, and statistics departments in charge of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and the environment.
4. To establish a historical baseline, this section of the R-PP will use cross-linkage with relevant national projects and programs (GEOFORAFRI, PNIA and PND) to account for demographic factors (internal migration and immigration, population growth) in addition to economic factors (plans for agricultural expansion and intensification, overall development goals) and the influence of external factors such as improved infrastructure for transport.
5. This component of the R-PP failed to draw an organogram that identifies the roles and relationships among the numerous institutions proposed to contribute to this exercise with a time-bound work plan for its implementation. However, this revised R-PP acknowledges its implementation to span over three and a half years.

Standard is largely met, but an organogram and a workplan should be drawn for the interlinkage and roles of the many institutions to be involved in data collection, maps, modeling and REL and RL determination.

Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:

The R-PP provides a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. It should also address independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.

Commentary

The R-PP recognizes that development of a national forest monitoring system can build accountability and trust among stakeholders. It can help to reduce significantly the emissions of carbon and to impact the availability and distribution of forest resources.

The MRV system planned by RCI will also include the monitoring of environmental, economic and social impacts, governance and evolution of deforestation and forest degradation drivers according to criteria and indicators. In terms of biodiversity, integration with the National strategy on conservation and sustainable development will be overseen by the SEP.

A table illustrating the link between the REDD+ activities to be undertaken and how the forest monitoring system will assess them is needed, and it should be good to make sure that the approach taken, would allow to detect such a linkage. More information should be provided on the national forest inventory, including on the method and participation of stakeholders.

Recommendations

1. Tracking multiple benefits should not be done by the Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP), for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness of a cross-cutting activity. The role of SEP is rather to coordinate focal points and the institutions in charge of the management of natural resources for this purpose.
2. Permanent sampling plots were previously mentioned to be detailed in this section, but those details are missing. Please present those details on how the sampling plots will be made.
3. Ways to determine objectively verifiable indicators (OVI) and means of verification of these indicators (MOV) should be addressed in this section of the R-PP.
4. The proponents should clarify the budget items and activities concerning purchase of LANDSAT imagery and engagement of local communities in monitoring.

5. Beyond carbon benefits, it is important to underline the need for improvement of forest governance and information sharing. Indirect causes of deforestation, such as bad governance of forests, non respect of the ecosystems and lack of transparency around land ownership, etc. need to be addressed in the R-PP; these are drivers of forest degradation. It is therefore important to establish a system to monitor and improve governance.
6. A work plan along with a schedule should be provided.

Standard partially met.

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

Between the earlier version and this November 8th' version, the text of this section of the RCI's R-PP has been revised completely. Indeed, Cote d'Ivoire revised thoroughly section 4a of the R-PP in an innovative, thorough and ambitious way. It sets out to put in place, following decisions 1/CP.16 and 4/CP.15, a comprehensive forest surveillance and MRV system termed SNSF-as a French acronym for "*Système National de Surveillance de Forêts.*" The system will built upon a C2D (Conversion de Dette) project (Euro1.5millions) and IRD (GEOFORAFRI project with Euro250K for the development of the SNSF), and it will be implemented by Ivoirian institutions, namely MINESUDD in partnership with MINEF, CNF and BNEDT/CCT. SNSF will start with capacity building for several national institutions (ministries, technical institutions, universities, research centers, and civil society coupled with local communities) to undertake the forest surveillance countrywide, even if the first two years will start with only a couple of pilot areas (for the inventory of carbon stocks) that will be selected for initial REDD+ R-PP implementation.

Figure 32 depicts the SNSF with 3 components: (a) surveillance function; (b) MRV function; and (c) safeguards information system/REDD+ impacts function. All three components will be hinged on a geo-portal web interface. The surveillance function comprises (a) remote sensing; (b) community led monitoring system, and (c) other forest related surveillance systems. The MRV function will comprise respectively (a) a satellite surveillance system of the earth, (b) a national forest inventory system, and (c) a GHG inventory system. Finally the safeguards information system will cover respectively (a) governance, (b) safeguards and (c) monitoring of other REDD+ impacts.

A plan of action will be drawn for the Ivoirian SNSF upon completion of the R-PP preparation phase. Figure 31 depicts the methodology for measuring GHG emissions and absorption.

Implementation of the SNSF will follow seven steps that will culminate in testing and fine-tuning the SNSF system efficacy.

In addition to these general observations about the newly proposed MRV system, we have the following specific comments:

1. Tracking multiple benefits of REDD+ will no longer be handled by the Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP). The task is now given to several appropriate national institutions.
2. The new approach is no longer sampling by plots. It is rather to follow up historical trends of forested surfaces through satellite, maps, and ground proofing; and to follow carbon stocks and emissions through activity data multiplied by emissions factors.
3. Indicators are not presented in the text except for the national forest inventory.
4. LANDSAT imagery is no longer in the budget (this is correct). The budget is balanced and structured around major activities (a) capacity building; (b) activity data estimation; (c) emission factor estimation; (d) reporting, and (e) verification. Local communities even private sectors and civil society will be involved in forest monitoring.

5. Forest governance and information sharing are now developed in section 4b. A system to monitor governance and safeguards is incorporated in the new SNSF system, and it is further developed in section 4b.
6. Seven steps for the implementation of the SNSF are proposed.

Standard is largely met.

However, there is a need to be ready to draw up an alternative approach if the very ambitious SNSF system cannot be fully implemented. It is recommended to evaluate the degree of accomplishment of each one of its seven implementation steps and to take corrective actions, before moving to the next step.

Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards :

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a workplan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities), for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, e.g., rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

Commentary

The R-PP tackles, for this section 4b, some benefits other than carbon to be included in the MRV of multiple benefits especially for information sharing, monitoring governance, guarantees or safeguards, the underlying factors of deforestation and socio-economic and environmental impacts in the implementation of REDD+. However this section addresses lightly these issues of an appropriate monitoring system for multiple benefits, especially other impacts, governance and guarantees. It fortunately establishes some links with other components. Indicators are not yet well defined especially for monitoring environmental, economic and social impacts. These elements should be further discussed.

The MRV system planned by RCI will also include the monitoring of environmental, economic and social impacts, governance and evolution of deforestation and forest degradation drivers according to criteria and indicators. In terms of biodiversity, integration of benefits from the national strategy on conservation and sustainable development should be sought for the readiness to REDD+ by SEP.

Recommendations

1. The monitoring methodology is not specified in the R-PP. Please take into account the scientific works and their results on biodiversity (inventory of flora and fauna) in Côte d'Ivoire. This is a complex issue involving the participation of many institutions, and this should be given due recognition.
2. Develop collaborations with researchers on natural resources and studies on carbon measurement in the REDD-plus process.
3. The work plan should provide more details and be structured in a way to include which institutions will be in charge of monitoring the indicators, what data will be collected and when as well as how the comparison will be made over time across the multiple benefits and safeguards.
4. The role of SEP is not to directly monitor indicators; it is rather to coordinate regional focal points and the institutions in charge of the management of natural resources along with collecting data to

follow the indicators.

5. Funding for training and capacity building is not scheduled until the last year (2016) of the project. It would seem prudent to start this as soon as needs are known.
6. A time-sequenced work plan is needed for designing an information and MRV system.

Standard partially met.

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. The monitoring methodology is now specified in the R-PP. A safeguards information system (SIS) is to be put in place during the preparatory phase of the SNSF. An institutional arrangement is to be put in place and will build upon existing institutions in Cote d'Ivoire along with their performance success and failure stories across different subject matters.
2. Collaboration is now assured with researchers on natural resources and their studies on carbon measurement in the REDD-plus process.
3. The work plan is not however provided in this section, but an overall work plan in component 5 depicts what will be done for each section of the R-PP. Indicators are said to come from the SESA process. Institutions to be in charge of monitoring the indicators, what data will be collected and when as well as how the comparison will be made over time across the multiple benefits and safeguards are not yet clearly identified.
4. The role of SEP will no longer be to monitor indicators; it will rather coordinate regional focal points and the institutions in charge of the management of natural resources.
5. Funding for training and capacity building is now scheduled from the start especially to cover surveillance and MRV through the SNSF system.
6. A time-sequenced work plan is now provided in the overall work plan component 5 of the R-PP. Also seven steps for the implementation of a full SNSF system (including forest surveillance and MRV) are given in section 4a.

Standard now met.

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

Commentary

The information presented reflects the priorities identified in the R-PP and provides information associated with the costs associated with REDD+ readiness. A major gap in funding is identified as well as potential sources of funding (that have not been confirmed) up to 70.8% of the budget totalling US \$ 21.277.000.

The calendar of activities (on p128) provides a clear overview of the overall implementation schedule proposed. Several of the components, however are lacking work plans that are required to fully meet the review standard.

There are two major shortcomings with this component. The first is that it is far from clear what damage would be done to the concept of the programme as a whole, if only the funds from AFD and FCPF were secured (currently, the only two major donors potentially “in the frame”). And secondly, the time period proposed, of just two and a half years, seems very ambitious, in view of the fact that there is so much to be done.

This is an R-PP that needs to define a fund-raising strategy, which reveals the scope of ongoing discussions with other potential funding partners and the likelihood of a critical mass of funding being secured.

The sooner a strong national REL/RF team (twelve technical institutions, see recommendation for component 3) is operational, the better off the capacity to run this project will be. The fruit of their work could serve undoubtedly to increase the degree of ownership of REDD+ by different stakeholders and to shape a productive REL and RF methodological system. This in turn would have a positive impact on the willingness of funding partners to come to Cote d'Ivoire's assistance.

Further justification is needed for the creation of the ‘REDD+’ fund and further details on how it would be governed and administered.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the budget be reviewed, especially with the expansion of technical partners in components 3 and 4.
2. There is doubt about the pilot projects that would be difficult to be implemented in the time to provide lessons.
3. The overall available budget should be revised to take into account the costs of suggested new activities of the study (for example, on the costs and benefits of REDD+) to determine a sound set of strategic options to be developed for REDD+ readiness.
4. Some consultation activities to bring about involvement of stakeholders and to implement pilot projects need longer project timeframe than 2 and half years. The SEP, which is collegial, will also need to build consensus for the daily management of the R-PP process, and that will also require more time. It is suggested that the Côte d'Ivoire R-PP's be extended.
5. The whole budget needs to be examined in terms of priority actions: what is essential to fund and might be successfully implemented in the absence of other funding sources, in the time foreseen.

Standard partially met

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. The budget has been revised and it covers the expansion of technical partners in components 3 and 4. There are more funding pledges to the overall budget, and it has now been increased from US \$ 21.277.000 in previous version of the RPP to US \$ 22.193.800 in this version.
2. Pilot projects (US \$8million or 36% of the overall budget) are now planned to start from the beginning of the R-PP implementation phase, and they will build on ongoing AFD/C2D projects. With the extended timeframe for the R-PP, prospects are better for their implementation and to provide lessons learned from the pilot projects.

3. Overall budget has been revised to take into account the costs of suggested new activities of the study (for example, on the costs and benefits of REDD+) to determine a sound set of strategic options to be developed for REDD+ readiness.
4. The project has been extended to 3 and half years. This will allow consultation activities to bring about involvement of stakeholders and to implement pilot projects
5. Priority actions are funded in the new budget and more and more funding pledges seem to be coming true.

Standard now met.

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

Commentary

Many of the “rappels des “critères d’évaluation” are not “indicators” in the sense that they cannot be clearly used to follow tangible levels of accomplishment. Some of these should be modified to reflect measurable results and milestones of accomplishment. It would be worth while to define some unambiguous indicators that can be reported to reflect progress against objectives.

The R-PP provides a description of 34 criteria of evaluation that can lead to the development of suitable indicators to monitor the performance of the readiness process and activities by dedicating human resources to the task. Two evaluations are proposed: one at mid-period and one at the end.

This section of the R-PP suffers from the absence of a logical framework for consistency between the objectives, expected results and activities contained in the project components.

The monitoring system is set to a quarterly frequency; it will need good support if focal points and local experts or community leaders are to run them easily, otherwise they may spend too much time on monitoring rather than implementing the strategy for REDD readiness.

Recommendations

1. Details should be provided about how the management will be adapted to new circumstances if problems are identified. It is not clear how the monitoring and evaluation framework proposed will ensure transparency of the SEP management.
2. The R-PP needs to describe the eventual development of a manual for monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ readiness activities and for developing cheap, objectively verifiable indicators from the 34 criteria of evaluation given in the Côte d'Ivoire R-PP.
3. Develop a logical framework for REDD+ readiness objectives, expected results and activities, and add it to a revised document.

Standard partially met.

Review of the revised text following TAP recommendations

1. Details are now provided about how the management will be adapted to new circumstances if

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problems are identified. Quarterly syntheses of monitoring and evaluation self-made by each of the seven SEP cells will be done quarterly by the SEP team member in charge of monitoring and evaluation. A corrective plan of action would then be discussed among all SEP members under the leadership of the SEP manager. Also transparency of SEP management will be ascertained by supervision from CTI and two independent mid-term and final evaluations.

2. The R-PP has now provisions to make a manual for monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ readiness activities and for developing cheap, objectively verifiable indicators from the 34 criteria of evaluation given in the Côte d'Ivoire R-PP.
3. A logical framework for REDD+ readiness objectives, expected results and activities, and indicators are now incorporated in this component 6 of the R-PP revised document.

Standard now met.