

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: DRC

March, 2012

1. R-PP Implementation and FCPF Readiness grant

- Around USD700,000 of the FCPF grant has been disbursed to date. The country expects to have at least 50% of the FCPF funds committed by June 2012.
- DRC held a high-level dialogue on Climate Change and Forests in September 2011, under the auspices of the President and with the participation of various ministries, donors and CSOs.
- The National REDD Coordination has prepared a USD 9 million project proposal to raise additional funds for the implementation of the R-PP. Contacts with donors are ongoing.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Coordination operational, with over 15 technical staff
- National REDD Committee and Interministerial Committee operational. By February, they had met 10 times.
- Provincial REDD Focal Points are being hired in all 11 provinces to spearhead the province-level REDD dynamics.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- The 'Information, Education and Communication' Cell at the National REDD Coordination is currently being renovated with new personnel. The expert should be hired in March.
- The Second REDD+ University was organized in Kinshasa in September 2011, bringing together over 800 participants for 10 days of intense discussions on REDD+ topics.
- Preparation of radio and TV awareness-raising spots through performance with professional actors. Five TV and radio short plays (sketches) were conceptualized and developed in Lingala and translated into Tschiluba, Kikongo, Kiswahili and French. TV and radio first broadcasts started in January 2011 and continue to day.
- Various communication activities at COP 17 in Durban.
- In-depth consultations on the design of REDD+ Strategy continues through the Thematic Coordination groups (*see below*).
- First version of the website on REDD+ in DRC available, but not online yet.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Thirty (30) "Thematic Coordination Groups" (TCG) covering sector-based and cross-cutting options to fight deforestation and forest degradation in DRC were constituted. They are led by a representative from the public administration, facilitated by the REDD Coordination, and supported by various stakeholders. The TCGs have started their work gathering 350 people and will feed into the REDD+ Strategy. Recently, some of TCGs have been merged to ensure more effective work.
- A workshop and consensus report on the study on causes of deforestation and forest degradation in DRC was held in November 2011. This report integrates the results of the quantitative study led by the Catholic University of Louvain and the qualitative study led by FAO with inputs from national CSOs.
- The seven pilot projects financed by CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) have not started yet, although the

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grant agreements have been signed.

- The FIP investments are under preparation by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, following the Investment Plan approved by the FIP Steering Committee in July 2012.

5. Implementation Framework

- An initial workshop on benefit sharing took place in January 2011. A second workshop took place in July 2011, where the basic concepts around benefit sharing were discussed (notion of benefit, actors entitled to receive benefits, rights, models of benefit sharing) and international experiences were presented. As a result, a roadmap for the preparation of an options paper for a benefit sharing mechanism in DRC was prepared. Two national consultants should be recruited to prepare the options paper, along with an international consultant to provide overall guidance. A first version of the options paper is available and a workshop for discussions is scheduled for March.
- The in-depth analytical study on options for REDD+ funds management in DRC is delayed. The study should start in April. Meanwhile, the UNDP is discussing with the Government and CSOs the possibility of creating a Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the UNDP, to attract early investment financing for DRC.
- The accreditation and validation process for REDD+ projects in DRC was adopted formally by the Government in the form of a Decree issued on February 15. It institutionalizes the process whereby actors interested in initiating a REDD+ project in DRC have to comply with before getting an authorization from the Ministry of Environment. It also formally established the national REDD+ registry.
- The national registry for REDD+ projects is operational. The registry serves as a database of all REDD finance and activities ongoing in the country, including those projects targeting carbon transactions in the voluntary market.

6. SESA

- The firm hired to lead the preparation of the SESA and ESMF in DRC (AGRECO) has started its work. The proposed methodology will be presented to the National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for adoption.
- The National Committee for Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits for REDD has been formally created and all members nominated. The Committee is operational.
- CSOs have prepared the National Social and Environmental Standards for REDD+. A procedure manual for the application of these standards is currently under preparation.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- The Ministry of Environment, through its National REDD Coordination, will be supporting the National Household Survey to be launched in 2011, under the leadership of the Ministry of Plan and the National Institute of Statistics. The REDD Coordination worked with the Survey team to make sure the surveys covered issues relevant to REDD+ (such as wood consumption in rural zones, areas under agriculture

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cultivation, etc.). This exercise will provide a wealth of data for the establishment of the national reference scenario, contributing to the 'national circumstances' aspect of reference scenario.

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8. MRV

- **The National System for Forest Monitoring in DRC has been prepared and is online.**
- **Capacity building efforts (mainly targeted at DIAF, at MECNT) continue.**
- **GIS/Remote sensing-lab equipment purchased.**

9. Other