

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: DRC

February, 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- \$200K FCPF Formulation Grant fully disbursed
- R-PP Implementation Grant (US\$3.4 million) expected to be signed in March
- Country currently preparing Investment Strategy for Forest Investment Program (FIP), building on the six 'early programs' prepared by the National REDD Coordination and presented at COP 16 (December 2010).

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Coordination operational, with over 15 technical staff
- National REDD Committee and Interministerial Committee operational. They had their first meeting in August, 2010; and a second meeting in February 2011.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- The National REDD Coordination organized the 'International REDD University' in August 2010, a large capacity building event with the participation of over 250 participants (from ten different countries) over 10 days of intense discussion sessions.
- Continued support to the *Groupe de Travail Climat REDD (GTCR)*, including efforts towards formal institutionalization.
- Four workshops in provinces were organised to specifically train and mobilise journalists from the press, television and radio.
- 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.
- Preparation of a synthesis brochure "Inventing REDD+" (summarizing the REDD Readiness process in DRC) in French and English along with brochures on each early action REDD+ programmes, for distribution at the COP 16 in Cancun.
- An integrated "Province-level dynamics" process was kicked-off in Kindu, Maniema province in January 2011.
- Consultations continue around every activity led by the National Coordination (studies, preparation of pilot project, early programs, investment strategy, etc.)
- Targeted consultations with private sector and civil society on the FIP Investment Strategy started in February 2011 and a jointly agreed consultation process is being shaped.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- The study on causes of deforestation and forest degradation is ongoing and expected to be completed by mid 2011.
- An Assessment of past efforts in reducing deforestation and forest degradation in DRC has been completed.
- The Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) currently being prepared in DRC has incorporated climate change as a pillar.

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- **Thematic Coordination Groups” (TCG) covering 30 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.**
- **Seven pilot projects prepared for CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) approved by CBFF Governing Body in November, 2011. Due diligence by the African Development Bank continues before funding is available.**
- **Six early REDD+ programs have been prepared and presented at the COP 16 in Cancun. These programs include: i) three sector-based programs: reduction of the impact of agriculture on forests, afforestation and reforestation around large cities, and improvement of energy efficiency through the diffusion of improved cooking stoves; ii) two enabling programmes: modernisation and enhanced tenure security and establishment of a national policy for land planning; iii) A REDD+ geographically-integrated programme at scale of Mai Ndombe district (30.000sq.km).**

5. Implementation Framework

- **A first analysis of options for a national institutional architecture to manage REDD+ funds in DRC took place through a workshop in October 2010. As a result, ToRs for a detailed analysis of options for the creation of a national REDD+ funds was prepared. The procurement process for this assessment started in February 2011.**
- **An initial workshop on benefit sharing took place in January 2011. Discussions on the topic are to be continued.**
- **A national registry for REDD+ projects and initiatives was launched at the COP 16 in Cancun. The registry will serve as a database of all REDD finance and activities ongoing in the country, including those projects targeting carbon transactions in the voluntary market.**
- **The accreditation and validation process for REDD+ projects in DRC is being designed in close consultation with the legal counsels of the Ministry of the Environment. A decree from the Prime Minister should provide the early ‘rules of the game’ for REDD+ projects in DRC.**

6. SESA

- **The SESA ToRs have been validated by stakeholders in DRC. The assessment will be launched as soon as FCPF funds are available.**
- **The National SESA Overseeing Committee is operational. The Decree for its formal establishment should be signed in February.**
- **National civil society will lead a consultative process to establish social and environmental standards for REDD+ in DRC (with UNEP funds). ToR are completed**

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 Statistics Institute. 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 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.**
- **The study on the drivers of deforestation will also contribute to the development of a reference scenario**

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(outputs expected by mid-2011).

8. MRV

- **A strategic document on the MRV vision for the DRC was prepared by FAO in November 2010. The joint operational planning is expected to take place early March.**

9. Other

- **DRC representatives from government and civil society have participated in a South-South collaboration with Brazil on the role of community forestry in REDD+.**
- **A political economy analysis of REDD+ in DRC was launched in February 2011 (under WB leadership)**