

REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING

COUNTRY: [GHANA]

PERIOD: [AUGUST 2015 – JULY 2017]

Background: This country reporting framework has been developed following the structure of the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, its logical framework and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), so as to facilitate and systematize the data analysis. The semi-annual country reporting should provide the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) with indications of REDD+ countries' progress towards the achievement of their readiness activities and the implementation of their Emission Reductions programs overtime, in a way that data are easily consolidated and provide indications on the level of achievement of the FCPF output, outcome and impact indicators as defined in the FCPF M&E Framework.

Report preparation: Submitted country reports should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD + (component 6 of R-PP) and should be prepared in consultation with members of REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated into national reporting, and divergent views indicative of lack of consensus on specific issues should be recorded in the country report.

Reporting schedule: It is expected that the annual progress country reporting will be submitted to the FMT by August 15th each year. The reporting should be based on a self-assessment of progress. An update of this country reporting will also be submitted by March 15th each year.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This section should provide a short description of FCPF support in country (bullets on FCPF-financed activities only). Information should summarize progress, key achievements with a focus on higher level results and important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period. Highlights of next steps in following period should also be provided (key bullets only).

SUMMARY:

The additional funding phase of Ghana's REDD+ readiness which commenced early 2015 has seen a marked improvement in progress made with respect to REDD+ readiness and has built upon most of the outputs that resulted from the work done in the first phase. Outputs under the additional phase are:

- Draft REDD+ Benefit Sharing Plan;
- Operational Modalities for Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM);
- Self Assessment of REDD+ Readiness (R-Package)
- Analysis of Environmental and Social Impacts of the Emissions Reduction Program and the

- Development of a REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards Information System (SIS);
- Draft sub-national forest reference level for the GCFRP and a national forest reference level as well as the modalities for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Emission Reductions;
- Development of a beta version of Ghana's REDD+ information database. The information database will serve as a repository of data and outputs of Ghana's FRL/ MRV processes and other relevant information.
- Final version of Ghana's Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program Document (GCFRPD);
- Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Program (GSLRP) concept note;
- REDD+ Strategy

Of all these outputs, the key milestones are the Ghana REDD+ Strategy and GCFRP document.

Ghana's REDD+ strategy outlines six intervention areas for REDD+ implementation in Ghana; a national and two sub-national programmes have emerged as the priority REDD+ programmes for Ghana:

1. The Emission Reductions Programme for the Cocoa Forest Mosaic Landscape (The Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme).
2. The Emission Reductions Programme for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savanna Woodland (The Shea Savanna Woodland Programme)
3. Ghana's Programme for Policy and Legislative Reforms on Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights (Policy and Legislative Reform Programme).

And also identifies three other programmes that require further analysis and consideration for REDD+ implementation in Ghana:

1. Emission Reductions Programme for the Transitional Forest Landscape;
2. Emission Reductions Programme for the Coastal Mangroves;
3. Emission Reductions for the Togo Plateau

Ghana's ERPD dubbed the 'Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP)' has been approved for inclusion into the Carbon Fund Portfolio per decision CFM/16/2017/1. The vision of Ghana's ER programme (ERP) is to reduce carbon emissions driven by cocoa farming practices and other agricultural drivers within the High Forest Zone, whilst enhancing farmers' productivity and fostering a multi-stakeholder, public-private sector, collaborative effort across the programme area. The inclusion of the ERPD into the Carbon Fund Portfolio means that Ghana has reached a stage where full implementation of this innovative programme is imminent.

During the reporting period, the NRS conducted a series of sensitization events which enhanced public awareness of Ghana's REDD+ process. For example, in the last quarter of 2015 and 2016 respectively, the

NRS launched and successfully completed the National and Regional REDDEYE campaign which aimed at enhancing awareness amongst the youth of Ghana on the need to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Other key achievements during the reporting period include capacity strengthening of the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) and other key stakeholders; enhanced synergy and collaboration with other initiatives and actors such as FIP, VPA/ FLEGT and FAO; and engagement and monitoring of the work undertaken by various consultancies engaged to support various thematic components of Ghana's ERPD.

Notwithstanding these notable achievements, some challenges and operational difficulties were faced during the reporting period. One of these issues is tree tenure reforms for outside forest reserves. This has been fueled by misinformation and misunderstanding of the global REDD+ mechanism and what it seeks to achieve through incentivizing performance based mitigation actions in the land-use sector. In addition, lack of adequate office space for the NRS as well as meeting the increasing demands associated with coordinating the Ghana's REDD+ process.

Another key issue that Ghana considers as a potential operational challenge is the lack of predictable and sustainable funding to support the operations of key institutional structures identified to support the implementation of the GCFRP.

Despite these challenges, Ghana's REDD+ process is firmly on track and continues to attract international support and interest.

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

The section below should provide qualitative and quantitative data on the progress towards expected results along the following subsections. Information is to be provided cumulatively. If the information requested is not available or not relevant at the time of the reporting, mention "does not apply – n/a".

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (<i>FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.2.B.i.</i>):	
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of activities relevant to ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant (<i>FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.2.B.i.</i>):	
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>

Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.3.A):

Provide examples of how IPs and CSOs are represented in institutional arrangements for REDD at the national level.

Civil society groups continue to serve as key partners of the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS). CSOs are well-represented on the National REDD+ Working Group and the various sub-working groups and are thereby well integrated in the provision of technical direction for the REDD+ readiness process. In addition, several of the CSOs are engaged in various initiatives which are complementary to REDD+ and thereby are continually offering useful lessons and insights to guide and strengthen the REDD+ readiness process. For example, IUCN is continually partnering the NRS towards mainstreaming gender considerations into the REDD+ process in Ghana and also supporting efforts towards the design of an equitable benefit sharing framework for REDD+. SNV is also partnering the NRS in the development of a Country Approach to Safeguards.

It also must be emphasized that CSOs have actively participated in all the awareness and consultative programmes organized by the NRS. This development has resulted in enhanced collaboration between government bodies and the CSOs and has made it easier for exchange of information between these two entities. For example, during the development of the FRL, Solidaridad, NCRC and SNV provided useful field-level data that were relevant for estimating historical emissions. These data included shape files of tree crop plantations and GPS coordinates of ground level data.

Also, it is worthy of mention the involvement of Traditional Authority in the processes and activities of REDD+ where they play important roles as facilitators of information dissemination and provision of human resources for on-the ground REDD+ implementation among others. It suffices to mention that the Co-Chair for the National REDD+ Working Group is a Paramount Chief of the Agona Traditional Council and he represent the views and needs of local communities.

Examples of stakeholder engagement platforms in country which meet regularly to discuss and provide inputs to the REDD+ readiness process (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.a.):

<u>Frequency:</u> Biennial Quarterly Monthly Quarterly Quarterly Annually Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Forest Forum (NFF) - Climate Smart Cocoa Working Group hosted by NCRC - Community REDD+ multi-stakeholder platform hosted by IUCN - National REDD+ Working Group hosted by the MLNR - REDD+ Technical sub-working groups hosted by the NRS - Ghana Cocoa Platform hosted by COCOBOD - Regular multi-stakeholder platforms convened by the NRS for consultative discussions and validation of consultant's outputs
Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs , CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financing of selected NFF activities; 2. Communication materials e.g. brochures, posters, flyers etc. 3. Capacity strengthening through training programmes and community sensitisation. 4. Mass sensitization programme on Ghana's REDD+ process through the maiden REDD+ Forum (outreach activities embarked on included a mini fair REDD+ seminars at secondary schools etc.) 	

Number and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.B.):

Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:

Underway:

1. GH-NDC Implementation Plan

Completed:

1. The Framework on Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Scheme
2. Ghana National Spatial Development Framework
3. Ghana REDD+ Strategy
4. Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy
5. Forestry Development Master Plan

Please describe these policy reforms:

GH-NDC Implementation Plan seeks to adopt development choices that aim to deliver multiple outcomes (growth-focus, people-centered and climate-proof) to be able to achieve the long-term sustainable development goals. Ghana recognizes that climate change is most likely to further exacerbate the development challenges Ghana is already facing if immediate action is not taken. This is because, the negative impacts of climate change have the potential to: erode the development gains made in the past; (b) hamper attainment of our development objectives (on time, fully and reach the intended target groups be it gender, ecological zone, poverty and social vulnerabilities) if decisive action is not taken to address it. The urgency to tackle climate change head-on led Ghana to take bold and far reaching steps. Ghana is convinced that pursuing a climate compatible development has the

potential to unlock economic opportunities for the greater benefits of its sustainable development agenda. Some of the steps include policy and regulatory reforms with the aim to diversify electricity generation; scale-up adoption of renewable energy; promote sustainable transport, stopping deforestation, (f) mobilizing finance and facilitating engagement and outreach.

The Framework on Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Scheme seeks to design options for tree tenure regimes with accompanying benefit sharing mechanisms in Ghana in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. the results of this policy framework is expected to contribute significantly to Ghana's drive to halting deforestation, enhancing its forest estate and promoting good forest governance.

The Ghana National Spatial Development Framework is expected to provide a spatial strategy for achieving defined social, economic and environmental policies of Ghana and address the spatial development implications of development interventions related to economic development, employment, housing, infrastructure services (water and sanitation, energy, telecom, transportation etc.), education, health care, tourism and leisure, culture and nature and the environment.

Ghana's REDD+ Strategy has been designed to meet the requirements of the Warsaw Framework on REDD+ and other decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In developing the national REDD+ strategy, significant attention has been paid to national circumstances and developmental aspirations and the process also took due cognizance of major national policies including the national climate change policy (2013) and the revised forest and wildlife policy of Ghana (2012). REDD+ denotes the suite of interventions that seek to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation whilst incorporating the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. Countries that intend to undertake REDD+ activities are required to develop a national strategy that clearly articulates measures aimed at addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and other associated issues including land and tree tenure, forest governance, gender and safeguards.

Work towards development of a national REDD+ strategy for Ghana effectively commenced in 2008 when Ghana enlisted on the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ Readiness Programme. The submission of A Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) and subsequent approval of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in 2010 enabled Ghana to

secure funding from the FCPF to support implementation of readiness activities commencing from 2012. The R-PP serves as a blueprint for REDD+ readiness implementation and outlines the key processes, systems and frameworks which Ghana needs to complete in order to enable the country effectively implement the REDD+ mechanism. In preparation of Ghana's R-PP, a thorough assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was undertaken to guide the selection of 13 strategic options which were deemed suitable for addressing the identified drivers. These strategic options were further analyzed during the strategy development process and resulted in the selection of the priority national and sub-national REDD+ programmes.

The Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (GFPS) identifies challenges to past efforts and consequently outlines the strategic direction, actions and resources required to promote the development of productive and sustainable planted forests. It indicates the technical and financial resources required and performance indicators necessary to track progress over the period (2016 to 2040). The goal of GFPS is therefore to achieve sustainable supply of planted forest goods and services to deliver a range of economic, social and environmental benefits over and beyond the planned period. This goal will be achieved through specific strategic actions directed towards the establishment and management of 625,000 ha of forest plantations, enrichment planting of 100,000 ha of poorly-stocked and degraded forest reserve compartments, facilitating the incorporation of trees within farming systems (trees on- farms) covering 3.75 million (ha) of agricultural landscapes, maintaining and management of small, medium and large scale forest plantations, create employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities through forest plantation development, increase investments in research and development, extension, training and capacity building for forest plantation development, timber utilization and marketing and improving governance in the regulation and management of forest plantations using best practice principles.

Forestry Development Master Plan has been prepared as a sound basis for attainment of the aims of the Forest and Wildlife Policy, and its successful implementation is intended to maximize the rate of social and economic development of the country and secure optimum welfare and adequate means of livelihood for all Ghanaians. The Plan recognizes that success in management and sustainable development of renewable resources is dependent on effective institutions as well as an enabling environment in which all players can operate optimally. It also recognizes the dynamic interaction of socio-economic activities and environmental effects, within and impinging on the sector. As an action plan, it then sketches a series of scenarios which would ultimately arrive at the projected aim of the Forest and Wildlife Policy and proposes a schedule of programmes, project profiles and activities by which the scenarios can be realized.

Design of national REDD+ Strategies addresses indicators for enhancement of livelihoods of local communities and for biodiversity conservation (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.):

Provide examples of how national REDD Strategies address livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation.

Through an extensive consultative process and focus group discussions, Ghana's REDD+ strategy outlines six intervention areas for REDD+ implementation in Ghana; a national and two sub-national programmes have emerged as the priority REDD+ programmes for Ghana:

4. The Emission Reductions Programme for the Cocoa Forest Mosaic Landscape (The Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme).
5. The Emission Reductions Programme for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savanna Woodland (The Shea Savanna Woodland Programme)
6. Ghana's Programme for Policy and Legislative Reforms on Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights (Policy and Legislative Reform Programme).

The strategy also identifies three other programmes that require further analysis and consideration for REDD+ implementation in Ghana:

4. Emission Reductions Programme for the Transitional Forest Landscape;
5. Emission Reductions Programme for the Coastal Mangroves;
6. Emission Reductions for the Togo Plateau

A distinctive feature of the Strategy is its focus on large scale sub-national programmes which are defined by ecological zones, major (agricultural) commodities and drivers. The inclusion of commodities as a key area of focus in the strategic interventions highlights the importance of promoting and sustaining rural livelihoods as a pathway for the attainment of Ghana's REDD+ objectives. For example, one of the key pillars of the cocoa-forest ER programme is to promote yield enhancement approaches coupled with other activities to reduce pressure on forest resources. Additionally, by addressing the various drivers of deforestation, it is envisaged that one of the co-benefits to be attained from REDD+ implementation is biodiversity conservation.

It suffices to mention that Ghana's premier REDD+ Program dubbed the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program have been accepted into the FCPF Pipeline for Result Based payments for Emission Reduction from the Carbon Fund Participants. Also a concept note for the second priority program dubbed the Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme (GSLRP) has been submitted to the Carbon Fund in collaboration with UNDP and a full proposal is being developed.

3. PROGRESS AT R-PP sub component level

3.1. REDD Readiness Progress

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A.): up to 300 words, if applicable

Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

REDD+ Readiness in Ghana is at an advanced stage, and Ghana has submitted the participatory self-assessment of its REDD+ Readiness Package (otherwise known as the R-Package) in fulfilment of one of the key requirements for REDD+ countries engaged in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) process. This report integrates both parts of the Readiness Package i.e. (i) readiness preparation summary by component, and assessment results and (ii) the report of multi-stakeholder self-assessment process.

Table 1: Results of the Self-Assessment

COMPONENT	SUB-COMPONENT	PROGRESS
Readiness Organisation and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Generally, there is good progress in terms of the institutional arrangements, accountability and transparency, cross-sectoral co-ordination, technical supervision, staffing and funds management. More work is needed to ensure that funding in the medium to long term is assured and that relevant ministries are fully engaged. Attention is also needed towards the operationalization of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism.
	1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Excellent progress has been made in delivering a thorough communication campaign through a range of channels and ensuring widespread consultation and participation in the design of key aspects of REDD+ readiness. Information has


		been shared widely and the inputs of consultative exercises are used to inform and strengthen the development of plans and proposals being developed at the national level.
REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Overall assessment of land use and land use change drivers was thorough and built extensively on earlier efforts. The process of developing the REDD+ Strategy encountered some initial setbacks, which have been addressed following concerted inputs from other stakeholders, which have led to a more robust version of the document. The linkages between drivers and strategy options are clear and logical. Work remains to be done to develop clear action plans on how some of the unresolved issues relating to tree tenure, benefit sharing, livelihoods etc. will be addressed in a concrete manner.
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Ghana's REDD+ Strategy is well-aligned with key national developmental strategies and policies. These include the National Climate Change Policy, Forest and Wildlife Policy, Ghana's Shared Growth and Development Agenda GSGDA and Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to UNFCCC.;
	2c. Implementation Framework	Good progress has been made in influencing key national policy development processes but these are yet to be translated into legally binding laws. More work is needed to clarify carbon and tree tenure, to agree on a final model for benefit sharing as well as REDD+ financing arrangements. Benefit sharing systems, while operating in the forest and wildlife sectors, are yet to be tested for REDD+

	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	A thorough process was used for identifying potential impacts and risks associated with REDD+ related activities. Where significant negative impacts were identified, activities were either modified, removed or mitigation actions prescribed to reduce potential downstream impacts. The ESMF developed through the SESA process will be adapted to the ER program area and implemented to test its applicability.
Reference Emission Level (REL)/ Reference Level (RL)	REL/ RL	REL work has been completed at both national and sub-national level (covering the accounting area for the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme) which meets the requirements under IPCC and UNFCCC methodological guidance. The National FRL is currently being technically assessed by the UNFCCC and is expected to be finalised by November, 2017.
Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	The NFMS is yet to become fully operational, and is closely linked to the construction of the FRL. The design of the system, which is in line with latest international thinking and meets IPCC/UNFCCC standards will be able to measure deforestation, degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Clear roles and responsibilities have been agreed regarding the operationalization of the NFMS. However, the system will require significant running budget, institutional support and capacity and none of these parameters have yet been fully tested.

	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards	Good progress has been made with regard to SESA in the design of REDD Strategy. The ESMF is finalized, but it has not been operationalized as the REDD+ implementation is yet to start. A consultancy service has been engaged to develop a SIS with a view to comply fully with UNFCCC requirements.
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Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and sub-components have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)		
Components	Sub-components	Support from FCPF (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yes
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yes
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Yes
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Yes
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yes
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yes
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		Yes
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Yes
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Yes

Level of overall achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD) (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.):

Planned Milestones:	Level of Achievement ¹ :	Tracking ² :
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; Design of a National Reference Level and MRV System; and Development of an Emission Reduction Programme Document for submission to the Carbon Fund 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The National Institutional Architecture for REDD+ has been set up and is fully functional. Extensive consultations and capacity building sessions have been undertaken for all key stakeholders; Ghana REDD+ Strategy has been fully developed and validated by key national stakeholders National and Sub-National Reference Level established and MRV System developed. The GCFRP document has been submitted to CF and accepted into the Carbon Fund pipeline for Result Based Emission Reduction Payment 	<div>  <div>Significant progress</div> </div> <p>Please explain why:</p> <p>All key deliverables of Ghana's REDD+ Readiness were successfully completed and the development of a premier Emissions Reduction Programme document have been completed and submitted to Carbon Fund.</p>

Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).

¹ Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, on their Supplementary Grant Agreement for an additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.4 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+




² The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant will be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.




This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework




Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 15th each year




	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Achievements	







³ The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework, The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.



	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
		Planned milestones	Achievements				
R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation	Sub-Component 1a – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <i>Purpose: setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD-plus readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD-plus into broader strategies</i> <i>Country Self-Assessment Criteria: (i) accountability and transparency; (ii) operating mandate and budget; (iii) multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration; (iv) technical supervision capacity; (v) funds management capacity; (vi) feedback and grievance redress mechanism</i>	1. Capacity strengthening of the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) and other implementation structures for effective coordination and supervision of the REDD+ Readiness process.	1a. Continual capacity building for staff of the NRS.1b. Functional Project Oversight Committee at the Forestry Commission to ensure effective implementation. 1c. Effective coordination of the REDD+ Readiness process by the NRS and disbursement rate of 70% of Additional fund achieved.	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p>Please explain why: The Management Arrangement for Ghana’s REDD+ Readiness process is fully functional. The various institutions and agencies which make up the institutional framework for the readiness process performed creditably in REDD+ readiness and during the finalization of GCFRP document. In addition, the NRS is effectively undertaking its role of coordinating Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process and development and successful submission of an Emissions Reduction Programme document (GCFRP).</p>			Significant progress
			Significant progress				
	2. Effective operations of the National REDD+ Working Group, sub-working groups and other bodies that make up the REDD+ readiness institutional framework to ensure accountable, transparent and cross-sector collaboration in Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process;	2a. Regular meetings of sub-working groups for finalization of key activities under the Additional fund. 2b. Consultative meetings with REDD+ sub-working groups for the development of TORs for consultancy services for the ERPD development.					
	3. Development of Operational Modalities for a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for Ghana’s REDD+ Process; and	3. Through a consultancy service Operational Modalities for FGRM have been designed whereas policy level discussions have been initiated for the review of the Forestry Commission Act to provide specific guidance for the resolution of REDD+ disputes..					
	4. Consultancy services for the development of a REDD+ Data base and Information Syetem	4. Consultancy Commissioned and work is underway to develop Ghana’s REDD+ registry.					




Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
	Planned milestones	Achievements				
<p>Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach</p> <p><i>Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making</i></p> <p><i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes</i></p>	<p>1. Broad information sharing to stakeholders on Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process.</p> <p>2. Expert and focused consultations on key thematic areas of REDD+;</p> <p>3. Stakeholder consultations on proposed legal/ institutional changes to support REDD+ implementation in Ghana;</p> <p>4. Validation of National REDD+ Strategy.</p>	<p>1. Ghana successfully launched a sensitization campaign dubbed “REDDEye” which targeted the youth and academic institutions to galvanized support and enthusiasm for REDD+ as well as share information on Ghana’s REDD+ Readiness process.</p> <p>2. Expert and focused consultations have consistently been utilized as a supplementary pathway (aside the engagement of consultants and the working/ sub-working groups) for the provision of technical advice/ inputs to guide the development of frameworks and systems for Ghana’s REDD+ process.</p> <p>3. Stakeholder consultations were utilized as a basis for the definition and function of the institutional structures proposed for the operationalization of key thematic areas of REDD+ including Safeguards Information Systems (SIS), Benefit Sharing, FGRM, and MRV.</p> <p>4. Ghana’s REDD+ Strategy was validated in November 2016.</p>	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p>Please explain why: Extensive stakeholder consultations, outreach and participation have been distinctive features of Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process. All stakeholders are fully consulted and engaged in decision-making and the implementation of decisions made.</p>			Significant progress
		Significant progress				




	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
		Planned milestones	Achievements				
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance <i>Purpose: identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment</u> <u>Criteria:</u> (i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications for forest law and policy	Undertake research on the dynamics of land use change in Ghana’s mosaic landscape and related policy, law and governance issues to guide REDD+ implementation in Ghana	Further analytical work on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation has been undertaken in the development of Ghana’s sub-national and national FRL.	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p>Please explain why: Good baseline information was already available from the extensive analytical work undertaken on land use change drivers and policy related issues during the development of Ghana’s R-PP. Further work was also undertaken during the first phase of readiness to review and refine the baseline information. In addition quantitative measures of key drivers of deforestation and degradation historically are currently available from the work completed in developing the national and sub-national FRL.</p>			Significant progress
			Significant progress				
















	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
		Planned milestones	Achievements				
	Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options <i>Purpose:</i> Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria:</i> (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies.	To develop an integrated strategy which shall provide the roadmap to guide the implementation of REDD+ in Ghana	Ghana REDD+ Strategy developed and successfully launched.	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p><i>Please explain why:</i> Three priority options selected for REDD+ implementation with another three options identified to ensure REDD+ implementation across the entire country.</p> <p>First three priority options have already been well developed with the first being accepted into the Carbon Fund Pipeline in June 2017.</p>			Significant progress
		Significant progress					

Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)					
	Planned milestones	Achievements						
Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework <i>Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment</u> <i>Criteria: (i) adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations; (ii) guidelines for implementation; (iii) benefit sharing mechanism; (iv) national REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities</i>	To set out the framework and arrangements for implementation of Ghana’s REDD+ strategic interventions in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.	Consultancy services have been commissioned for the development of the following frameworks : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Operational modalities for Implementation of FGRM- Benefit Sharing Mechanism- REDD+ Database and Information Systems	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p><i>Please explain why:</i></p> <p>Extensive consultation and development of these frameworks have been undertaken with draft reports for FGRM, REDD+ Registry received.</p>					Significant progress
		Significant progress						
Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts <i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment</u> <i>Criteria: (i) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework</i>	To develop a Safeguards Information System and ensure that environmental and social considerations into Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process can be tracked in a manner consistent with Ghana’s environmental laws and regulations and the World Bank’s environmental and social safeguard policies.	Draft consultancy report on the Analysis of Environmental and Social Impacts of Emission Reduction Program and the Development of a REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards Information System (SIS) have been submitted by SAL consults (the consulting firm) Training on Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been undertaken for FSD staff.	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p><i>Please explain why:</i></p> <p>The outputs of the consultancy commissioned for this task are of very high standard and consistent with national and international requirements.</p>					Significant progress
		Significant progress						

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	<p>R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</p> <p><i>Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL</i></p> <p><i>Country Self- Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Criteria: (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines</i></p>	<p>1. Capacity building, staffing and technological upgrades to improve the ability of the Forestry Commission and other key stakeholders to develop a reference scenario for Ghana;</p> <p>2. Development of a Reference Emission Level for Ghana</p> <p>3. Assess the uncertainty level of the computed Reference level.</p>	<p>1. Staff of the Forestry Commission and other stakeholders have benefited from local and international training on REDD+ REL/ forest monitoring.</p> <p>2. The Forest Reference Level for Ghana developed and being technically assessed by UNFCCC.</p> <p>3. The uncertainty level of the computed Reference level assessed.</p>			Significant progress
And explain why:						
Significant progress has been made with REL for REDD+ in Ghana fully develop.						
In addition, the capacity of the Forestry Commission to estimate REL and operationalize an MRV system has been well strengthened.						
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	<p>Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System</p> <p><i>Purpose: Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time</i></p> <p><i>Country Self- Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i></p>	<p>Establish an approach for national forest monitoring system</p>	<p>1. Institutional arrangement for national forest monitoring developed</p> <p>2. Guidelines in the form of Standard Operating Procedures developed (indicated above) and development of a REDD+ MRV system.</p>			Significant progress
And explain why:						
The frameworks and guidelines (i.e. SOPs) for the development of a forest monitoring system was field-tested to develop Ghana's REL and MRV System. Operationalization of an MRV system is however yet to be undertaken .						

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
		Planned milestones	Achievements				
	Subcomponent 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards <i>Purpose: Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment</i> <i>Criteria: (i) identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues; (ii) monitoring, reporting and information sharing; (iii) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Safeguards</i>	Development of a Safeguards Information System to report on how safeguards are being addressed and respected. This will include tracking of REDD+ co-benefits taking into account national circumstances and relevant international obligations and agreements.	SAL Consult, a consulting firm has been commissioned to undertake the development of an SIS.	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr></table> <p>And explain why:</p> <p>Draft consultancy report has been submitted with a test run of the web-based information system yet to be done.</p>			Significant progress
		Significant progress					


Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):					
	Rate	Tracking			
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements	70%	<p>Please select your rating:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Between 25-40% variance with plans</td></tr> </table>			Between 25-40% variance with plans
		Between 25-40% variance with plans			
Planned disbursement of Grant (cumulative) – USD 5.2 million					
Actual disbursement (total) – USD 3.8 million					

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):																	
	Rate	Tracking															
Total Budget in R-PP - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (including other funding sources and FCPF Readiness Grant)		<p>Please select your rating:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Up to 10% variance with plans</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Between 10-25% variance with plans</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Between 25-40% variance with plans</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>More than 40% variance</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Non Applicable</td></tr> </table>			Up to 10% variance with plans			Between 10-25% variance with plans			Between 25-40% variance with plans			More than 40% variance			Non Applicable
		Up to 10% variance with plans															
		Between 10-25% variance with plans															
		Between 25-40% variance with plans															
		More than 40% variance															
		Non Applicable															

3.2. Engagement of stakeholders within the approach to REDD +

Examples of actions/activities where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a.):	
Action/activity:	Describe IP, CSO, and local community participation:
1. REDDEYE Campaign Launch	1. The “REDD EYE” campaign was to enhance awareness amongst the youth of Ghana on the need to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana as part of national efforts aimed at addressing climate change impacts. The event targeted second cycle institutions, church youth groups and CSOs. Second cycle schools from local communities were represented very well at the launch of the campaign. Individuals from CSOs were chosen to be resource persons for the event. The REDDEYE Campaign took place on Saturday, 21 st November, 2015 at the FC Headquarters Accra.
2. Community Sensitization on Ghana's Emissions	2. As part of preparing Ghana's maiden Emission Reduction Programme Document (ERPD), series of community stakeholder consultations were organized to solicit inputs from forest fringe communities. During the community sensitizing visits were made to Community Resource

Reduction Programme	<p>Management Areas (CREMAs) around the Western region for interactions with the communities on REDD+ and the need for sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources as well as landscape management. In addition, CSOs were adequately represented and in some cases served as resource persons at some of the REDD+ sensitization events such as seminars, public durbars and radio panel discussions. The Community Sensitization was held in 4 administrative regions of Ghana (Eastern, Brong-Ahafo, Western and Ashanti) in the last quarter of 2015.</p>
3. The Maiden National REDD+ Forum	<p>3. Ghana's maiden REDD+ Forum served as an important platform for the engagement of all stakeholders including CSOs and local communities. CSOs and local communities helped in the planning of the National Forum. In addition, as part of activities leading to the forum, public durbars and radio panel discussions were held and CSO and local communities were used as resource persons.</p>
4. High Level Engagement with private sector and state actors on the emissions reduction programme	<p>4. High level support for the REDD+ initiatives is critical to drive the needed national buy-in and ownership in Ghana and is expected to bolster the drive to reduce carbon emissions in the country. The High-Level engagements solicited support from the Private Sector which will be important in the first few years of the implementation of the initiatives even before Ghana receives any performance based payments. The Private Sector will also be critical for driving sustainable investment which is imperative for the long-term viability of REDD+ over the next 20 years. The high-level engagement was designed to engage stakeholders across all levels in the Ghanaian society including the Civil Society groups, Traditional Communities, the Media, Policy Makers, and Private Sector Operators to ensure the widest possible national buy-in. High Level engagement with traditional authorities was held in Kumasi in August 2016. The traditional authorities represent communities from the high forest zone of Ghana where the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme will be implemented. CSOs were adequately represented in the high-level engagement and in some cases served as resource persons at some of the REDD+ consultative events. The high-level engagement was held in the last quarter of 2015 and throughout 2016.</p>
5. Consultative workshops for completion of all consultancy assignments	<p>5. Local communities and CSOs also actively participated in consultative meetings for all consultancies commissioned during the second phase of REDD+ readiness to make inputs that informed the finalisation of the consultancy outputs.</p>
6. Selection of Safeguards Focal Person	<p>6. Local communities and CSOs also actively participated in consultative meetings which were organized in Kumasi and in Sunyani to finalize ToRs to help in the selection of national, regional and district focal persons.</p>

Number of IP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.):				
<u>Please list the training conducted:</u>	<u>Duration (# of days)</u>	<u># of participants # of men / # of women</u>		<i>Targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined</i>
1. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the establishment of a Ghana's REDD+ Forest Reference Level	11	3 participants from CSOs: 2 women and 1 man		
2. Training Workshop on the Development of Ghana's Reference Level	5	3 participants from CSOs: 2 women and 1 man		
3. 2 day training workshop for the members of the Safeguard Sub-Working Group on FGRM and CAS	2	2 women and 2 men from CSO		
4. Training for FC staff and other stakeholders on ESMF implementation	3	1 women and 1 man from CSO		

3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
<u>Yes/No:</u>	<u>Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :</u>
Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REDD+ Digest (Biennial newsletter on REDD+ readiness in Ghana) 2. REDD+ Fact Sheet 3. Ghana REDD+ Process document (A document highlighting the REDD+ process in Ghana)

	<p>4. The GCFRP Document (A document highlighting Ghana's maiden Emission Reduction Programme dubbed Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme)</p> <p>5. The REDD+ Strategy Document (A document highlighting the</p>
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<p>How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:</p> <p><u>Overall number by product:</u></p> <p>4000 (REDD+ Digest);</p> <p>1000 (REDD+ Fact Sheet);</p> <p>300 (Ghana REDD+ Process document); and</p> <p>300 (The GCFRP Document)</p> <p>1000 (The REDD+ Strategy Document)</p> <p><u># of Men:</u></p> <p>1511 (REDD+ Digest);</p> <p>655(REDD+ Fact Sheet);</p> <p>146 (Ghana REDD+ Process Document); and</p> <p>134 (The GCFRP Document)</p> <p>450 (The REDD+ Strategy Document)</p> <p><u># of Women:</u></p> <p>2489 (REDD+ Digest);</p> <p>345 (REDD+ Fact Sheet);</p> <p>154 (Ghana REDD+ Process Document) ; and</p> <p>166 (The GCFRP Document)</p> <p>375 (The REDD+ Strategy Document)</p>
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<p>Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?</p>

4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

This section should present any problems, difficulties or constraints faced by the country in making progress towards the intended REDD+ results (outputs, outcomes and possible impacts), the main causes and their expected effect on the work plan. Actions that have been taken to overcome or manage these constraints/flaws/problems identified should be stated. Each problem/constraint should be stated as a separate point, along with associated proposed changes in work planning for the next six month/year to address it, as relevant.

It is expected that the country monitors any changes in the assumptions that underpin the logic of intervention of FCPF at the national level and other significant risks that may arise. This section should explain through a narrative any changes in the level of risk associated with the different assumptions, or describe new risks that may have emerged and have a significant bearing on the national work-planning with respect to FCPF support for the next year and beyond, along with the associated measures required to address this change.

1. Operational Difficulties for the National REDD+ Secretariat

The NRS has effectively led the REDD+ process in Ghana over the years which is evidenced by the various REDD+ initiatives being implemented in Ghana currently – FCPF Readiness, FIP, ERP and several REDD+ projects by CSOs and other stakeholders. However, the expanded coordinating role has raised some key operational difficulties for the NRS. Inadequate office space and a related issue of staffing constraints are challenges that place significant strain on the Secretariat. The NRS intends to engage with government and bilateral partners in the coming months on the possibility of securing funding for the development of a dedicated office complex. The NRS will also seek support from various sources including government, to sustain the operations of key multi-stakeholder bodies i.e. the National REDD+ Working Group and Sub-working groups and also undertake periodic REDD+ outreach activities beyond the readiness phase.

2. Tree Tenure reforms

Most analyses of the underlying challenges to achieving legality in the management of off-reserve forest resources in Ghana and sustainable forest management in general conclude that ‘existing tree tenure regimes is largely regarded as a disincentive to sustainable forest management’ and inadequacies in the legislation and/or misinterpretations of the very complex texts relating to tree tenure and benefit sharing. However, it is worth mentioning that work is being done to reform tree tenure regime by Government.

3. Need for Careful Management of Expectations

REDD+ has been communicated globally as a mechanism which seeks to incentivise activities targeted at reducing emissions from the land-use sector. This line of communication has somewhat created high and often unrealistic expectations amongst some sections of stakeholder groups of huge financial inflow for REDD+. In order to ensure the effective management of these exaggerated and unrealistic expectations, the NRS in implementing Ghana’s Communication Strategy makes deliberate effort to emphasize the various co-benefits which will arise from REDD+ implementation, and that any payments for implementation of REDD+ will be performance-based and will consequently require continual support and commitment from all stakeholders.

5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

This section should be used to provide information on important lessons learned since the beginning of the readiness process. It is expected that this section will be fairly substantial, making reference to different lessons learned, analysis documents developed, and/or experiences made in dealing with issues of particular interest to REDD+.

1. Building and sustaining partnerships between public and private sectors, NGO and civil society takes time and resources but the dividends are valuable and long-lasting.
2. It is important to build synergies across various sector initiatives to ensure efficient use of resources and effective results. Continued public-private engagement is particularly important for achieving greater and sustainable impact in the environmental sector.
3. Experience gained from the process of developing Ghana's ERP reveals that it is important to identify, build upon and consolidate existing successes rather than starting afresh.
4. Communication on the REDD+ programme should emphasize other important benefits aside from carbon e.g. yield increases, ecosystem services, access to information and agronomic resources etc.
5. Alignment with national development programmes and sector priorities is crucial for cross-sector buy in and engagement.
6. Benefit Sharing could be ecological zone specific and therefore we need very robust and consultative processes to design them.