

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: REPUBLIC OF CONGO

September, 2012

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The grant agreement for USD3.4 million was signed in January, between the World Bank and the country's Ministry of Finance. The funds are managed by the Management Unit of the PRCTG project, at the Ministry of Planning due to their fiduciary capacity.
- In addition to the National Coordinator, 3 national experts have been recruited: IEC specialist, lawyer, project manager. 2 other consultants should be hired shortly to lead the following tasks: MRV and socio-environmental evaluation.
- Two key studies (i. Causes of deforestation / strategic options to address these causes and ii. Feasibility study for an emission reduction program in the Sangha Department) are under procurement.
- The FCPF and UN-REDD Program held a joint mission in August to discuss ongoing FCPF-funded activities, allow the finalization of the UN-REDD National Program document and meet with civil society representatives.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The formal institutional arrangements for managing the REDD+ process in the Republic of Congo have not been created yet. The decree for the creation of these structures has been sent to the *Pôle Économique*, which should discuss the document before it is sent to the *Conseil des Ministres* for final signature by the President.
- Various members of the Committee already have informal meetings to discuss REDD-related issues, including representatives from other Ministries.
- The National REDD Coordination is not formally created, but is operational. Staffing is ongoing (see 1.).

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- National civil society organizations created a permanent platform to coordinate their engagement in the REDD+ process (*Cadre de Concertation des Organisations de la Société Civile Congolaise et des Peuples Autochtones sur la REDD+, CACO-REDD*). Some conflicts arose a few months ago but after internal discussions and a mission by Haddy Sey (Social expert) CACO-REDD decided to adopt both a Charte and a Règlement Intérieur.
- The FCPF Capacity Building Program for CSOs and IP groups has provided a USD70,000 grant to CACO-REDD to support department-level consultations and capacity building on REDD. WCS manages the funds. A first tranche has been disbursed to allow for the production of material on REDD+ in French and local languages. Second tranche should be disbursed soon.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- In-depth analysis of causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and REDD+ options are under procurement. The National Coordination has refined the ToRs for these studies, which can be found in the final R-PP.

5. Implementation Framework

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- Analytical studies (funds management, benefit sharing, carbon ownership, REDD+ regulations) to be launched. ToRs for these studies have been refined and can be found in the final R-PP version.

6. SESA

- Terms of Reference for the SESA have been prepared as part of the R-PP.
- Safeguards for REDD+. Environmental and social sustainability standards for REDD+ in RoC were reviewed at the January joint mission, including the SESA/ESMF approach of the FCPF and the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) of UN-REDD. The CACO-REDD expressed interest in creating a working group on "Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits", and produced notional ToRs for the functioning of this group.
- The recruitment process of an international firm to facilitate the SESA process will be launched, once preliminary results of the studies being launched (see above) become available.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- No activity to report at this stage.

8. MRV

- A National expert is in the process of being recruited.

9. Other

The FCPF PC meeting in October 2012 (20-24) will take place in Brazzaville. At the same time a World Bank mission will also visit Brazzaville to support the REDD readiness implementation process.